

EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF SARASOTA COUNTY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

School Board of Sarasota County, Brown Awning Building, Rooms A-B
The Landings, 1960 Landings Boulevard, Sarasota
17 MAY 2006

MINUTES

1. ATTENDANCE.

a. Voting Members Present:

Kim Binkley-Seyer (Chair)	Nora Patterson	Jill Jacoby	Lois Natiello
Chris Kofler	Janice Mee		

b. Non-Voting Members Present:

Ken Modzelewski	Lori White	Hope Kinney	Sue Loncaric
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c. Absent:

Steve Spangler	Laura Benson	Tami Conetta	Lisa Glenn
Dr. Norman Goldstein	David Hicks	Raymond Kaiser	Bill Little
Cyndi Reynolds	Tony Newton (<i>resign</i>)	Ray Dougherty (<i>resign</i>)	

d. Staff:

Janet Kahn	Mike Miller	Linda Mason
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e. Visitors:

Eva Balcar	Jackie Fountaine
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2. CALL TO ORDER and CHAIR UPDATE. The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:09 pm (*without a quorum*) and announced that Susan Paregis had been replaced as Secretary of AWI. The new director is Linda South from Workforce. The Chair also updated the Board that our effort to arrange funding for the STAR Project had been unsuccessful in this year's Legislative Session.

3. CONSENT AGENDA. Without a quorum, the consent agenda was passed onto the June Board Meeting's schedule.

4. ED REPORT.

- Janet reported that the Legislative Session had ended with a small VPK funding increase, approximately \$60/child/year. The 5% cap on Administrative/Non-direct spending was not raised as many Coalitions had hoped. The SR "Funding Formula" issue is still pending. AWI was directed to come back to the Legislature this December 2006 with its proposal. Therefore, we can plan on the same level of SR funding in FY2007 as we had this year.
- A new bill was passed that will place greater emphasis on state monitoring of Gold Seal sites once their accreditation is achieved. Jill pointed out that this will mainly involve the processing of information already available into a different database for tracking and reporting. If a GS site receives a certain number and type of licensing violations, they can lose their GS status. This will help ensure that GS accreditation is a meaningful designation.
- A recent article in the Venice Gondolier incorrectly reported the number of children being served in VPK in Sarasota County. The reporter stated that only 110 of an expected total of 1700 were enrolled. The 110 number was specifically the count for summer VPK only. Janet sent a written response and requested a correction be printed. Nora suggested that Janet send a letter to the Editor of the newspaper with not only the correct information but also emphasizing the positive aspects of VPK. (*Note: Letter was subsequently submitted*) Lori White also offered to contact the writer of the article as She has dealt with him on school board issues.
- Janet reported that USF had reviewed the activity needs surveys from the various 17th Street Human Service agencies and provided a written summary. They have proposed to offer some

training on certain topics, and merge the needs of a couple of projects into one joint research endeavor. More information is expected later in the summer.

- e. The Coalition's annual Financial Audit from the state is in progress. It started Monday and should end tomorrow, Thursday. AWI contracted with a large private CPA firm to work with all of the Coalitions. There are no findings to report as of today.
- f. The new Quality Child Care Council is moving forward and will be chaired by Bill Little.
- g. Janet explained that the SAMSHA grant effort planning is underway and will help local children 0-8 with mental health issues. It is our hope and expectation that this will be complementary to the range of services offered now to child care providers through the Coalition's current Inclusion Program that we operate on a contract basis through FCCFD.

5. OLD BUSINESS.

- a. Review of FY2006 Budget Status. Kim asked Mike to review the SR Spending Plan for the Board.
 - The Spending Plan was in a table originally designed to enable AWI to determine our current status, and was requested by them in February this year. Mike will redesign the table to be more "Board friendly" for the next meeting by eliminating the various OCA designations and combining several of the lines into category subtotals.
 - Basically, after taking a variety of aggressive conservation actions in April to reduce our spending, we were successful in lowering a projected \$300,000 deficit to near zero. The \$300,000 received from the state at the end of April (*one time allotment which will not carry over into next year*) has since given us some significant breathing room. Staff will alert AWI that we may not need all of these allotted additional funds due to the efforts already taken.
 - Mike's projection for the Provider Rate Increase showed that if implemented effective 1 May, we would incur approximately \$15,000 in costs per month above our current spending levels for all of the provider requests we now have on hand, and the projected surplus of \$296,000 would be reduced to \$266,000 by the end of June.
 - In view of this situation, and the fact that Coalitions are not allowed to keep any left over funds in reserve for the following year, both Kim and Nora suggested that we "reopen for business" and begin processing families from our Waiting List.
 - Mike pointed out that the projected Slot expenditures for June of \$361,600 are very close to what we want to average per month for FY2007. So, as we add new children in we need to be mindful of the situation three years ago when we began the new year (FY2004) at 1,600 enrolled because we had been too aggressive in trying to spend all the FY2003 dollars available and added hundreds of kids late in the year.
 - Janet summarized the discussion and detailed the following actions for staff:
 - (1) implement the Provider Rate Increase effective 1 May and process all requests on hand;
 - (2) notify providers that the Coalition will now be able to support currently enrolled school aged children at the Full-Time rate when Summer begins; and
 - (3) prioritize the Waiting List based on specific family situations and begin bringing in new children after 1 June, to be adjusted based on May utilization statistics available the first week of June.

6. **ACTION ITEMS.** No specific action items were addressed because of the lack of a quorum.

7. **DISCUSSION ITEMS.** Addressed earlier in Executive Director's report.

(THERE WERE NO REQUESTS TO MAKE PUBLIC COMMENTS)

8. PROGRAM UPDATES.

- a. VPK. 113 are enrolled for the VPK Summer Program, 91 in School Board sites, and the rest at four private providers. We have contracted with *Parkway 8 Cinemas* to advertise VPK before each of their movies, and we will have a mobile billboard truck cruising through the county for one week in June with VPK ads on each side. Additional plans to specifically outreach for the Fall are being developed, although just with the Summer outreach, we already have over 400 children enrolled for Fall VPK.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS.

- a. The Coalition is having a 1st Year VPK Celebration for providers next week (25 May) at Twin Lakes Park to thank them for such a successful first year as well as to evaluate the program and to hear feedback and suggestions for the coming year. About 35 VPK directors and/or teachers are expected to attend (many other competing activities are going on, so we will not have our usual large crowd). Board members are of course welcome.
- b. Hope announced that Children First had been recently recognized as a Head Start “Program of Excellence Award” winner (only 25 in the entire United States), but that the Head Start budget nationally had been cut by 1%, so some small changes are coming.

- 10. ADJOURNMENT.** The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm. The next meeting will be 21 June 2006 and is the time to review the year, approve the annual budget and the new contract with the state. A strong turnout is required for this meeting to be effective. After the June meeting, the Coalition will go on Summer Break with no meetings in July or August.

Kim Binkley-Seyer, Chair