

**EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING MINUTES**

TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 2017

2:00 PM

CITY HALL BASEMENT CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL COMPLEX

Members Present: Board Member Elaine Mendoza, Chair, *Mayoral*
Board Member Dr. Richard Middleton, *District 1*
Board Member Pamela Ray, *District 2*
Board Member Major General Joe Robles, *District 3*
Board Member Gloria Ramirez, *District 5*
Board Member Lucy Hall, *District 6*
Board Member Dr. Shari Albright, Secretary, *District 8*
Board Member Dr. Gogi Dickson, *District 9*

Members Absent: Board Member Richard Perez, *District 4*
Board Member Frances Guzman, *District 7*
Board Member Phillip Thomson, *District 10*

Staff Present: Peter Zanonì, *Deputy City Manager*; Edward Guzman, *City Attorney's Office*; Caroline Cho, *City Attorney's Office*; Sarah Baray, Ph.D., *Pre-K 4 SA Chief Executive Officer*; Alfredo Martinez, *Pre-K 4 SA*; Philip Laney, *Office of Management & Budget*; Simon Nicholson, *Office of Management & Budget*

Also Present: Brad Davenport, *Pre-K 4 SA*; Paul Chapman, *Pre-K 4 SA* Larrisa Wilkinson, *Pre-K 4 SA*; Andrea Rodriguez, *Pre-K 4 SA*; Vickie Garza, *Pre-K 4 SA*; Sarah Perez, *Pre-K 4 SA*;

Call To Order

Chairwoman Mendoza called the meeting to order.

1. Approval of minutes of the March 7, 2017 Early Childhood Education Municipal Development Corporation Board of Directors Meeting

Board Member Albright moved to approve the minutes of the March 7, 2017 Early Childhood Education Municipal Development Corporation Board of Directors Meeting. Board Member Middleton seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

Individual Briefings

2. Briefing and Board work session/discussion on proposed Pre-K 4 SA FY 2018 annual operating budget [Sarah Baray, Ph.D., Pre-K 4 SA CEO]

Dr. Baray and Mr. Martinez briefed the Board on the proposed Fiscal Year 2018 annual operating budget. The presentation included a summary of accomplishments throughout Fiscal Year 2017.

In regard to student enrollment, Dr. Baray indicated Pre-K 4 SA reached the goal of having 2,000 students enrolled from the start of the 2016-17 school year.

Dr. Baray noted Pre-K 4 SA staff is focused on improving quality throughout all components of the program. These components include the Education Centers, Family Engagement, Professional Learning, Competitive Grants, and Research and Innovation. Dr. Baray noted that the effectiveness of the program is externally evaluated each year by Westat.

Dr. Baray also mentioned innovative efforts the program has undertaken in FY 2017. Curriculum innovations for outdoor learning, civic engagement, and arts infusion were fully implemented in the current fiscal year. Staff hosted an outdoor learning symposium for experts to discuss the importance of outdoor education and the public were invited to attend. For civic engagement, Pre-K 4 SA hosted the 4th annual Gracias San Antonio student art exhibit. Arts infusion efforts involved hosting 20 artists in residence through a partnership with the Arts Fund and Wolf Trap. The program submitted applications for NAEYC accreditation for all four centers. Pre-K 4 SA was selected as a finalist for H-E-B Excellence in Education Award.

Dr. Baray described the restructuring of Professional Learning division to support Pre-K-3 alignment. This structure includes providing networking opportunities and revamping education opportunities to feature science and mathematics sessions in the summer. Pre-K 4 SA received TEA accreditation as a Continuing Professional Education (CPE) provider. In FY 2017, Professional Learning served over 2,000 teachers and educators through workshops. In the spring, staff developed a Child Development Associate (CDA) program providing services free of charge to educators throughout San Antonio.

Dr. Baray presented on the Family Engagement and Outreach Division. The division has been restructured to improve performance. The engagement and outreach component will focus on building relationships with current, past, and future families. A second component will focus on developing a model social and emotional support program. Play therapists and school psychologists will now be on staff to work with families and encourage strong parent/child and teacher/child interactions. Through outreach efforts, Pre-K 4 SA has established partnerships with East Meadows and Promise Zone, child development centers, the Education Forum, Ready Kid SA, and P-16 Plus.

Board Member Robles referred to the Brainpower Task Force goals and recommendations and whether the program had conducted audits against those recommendations.

Dr. Baray referenced the program's annual external evaluation conducted by Westat. An additional external evaluation was conducted for the family engagement component and spurred the recent reorganization.

Dr. Baray continued with updates on Competitive Grants. In FY 2017, Pre-K 4 SA partnered with 22 education entities. The program exceeded the original target of 1,700 students served, with a total of 2,080 served this fiscal year. The Grants Division developed a performance monitoring system to ensure that awarded funds impact quality access. The 1st Community Evidence Based Showcase of Grant recipients. Over 160 attendees viewed the work showcased by grant awardees. Baray noted that the Grants Division has successfully supported grantees.

Dr. Baray followed with Research and Innovation, noting strong results on the year 3 external evaluation, which provides evidence that students exceed the national norm and are ready for kindergarten. An additional citywide demographic study with the University of Texas at San

Antonio will research the number of four-year-olds in San Antonio, helping to better demonstrate access to prekindergarten services in the community and answer questions regarding enrollment patterns for school districts and other education providers. The study will identify where children between the ages of one and four reside and whether they qualify for state Pre-K. Results will be available in July.

Pre-K 4 SA has partnered with the Ray Marshall Center to participate in a study of the long-term impact of Pre-K 4 SA and other early childhood initiatives in the community. The study will include Pre-K 4 SA is coordinating with the Ray Marshall Center

Board members asked for an update on early childhood education legislation in Texas. Dr. Baray confirmed that Pre-K 4 SA does not lobby for legislation. Staff coordinates with the City of San Antonio Government and Public Affairs Department to provide expert testimonies when appropriate.

Dr. Baray then briefed the Board on accomplishments for Program Support. Activities have included a market research study, outreach and enrollment efforts, a refined student enrollment system to increase efficiency and responsiveness to families. Additional accomplishments included identifying and realizing efficiencies in transportation through use of a demand-based approach, initiating a process to mitigate shrinkage in food services, and reorganizing administrative structures to better support Education Centers and other program components.

Mr. Martinez briefed the board on the proposed budget for FY 2018. The proposed budget includes total appropriations of \$48.3 million, a 2.7% increase from the FY 2017 estimate. FY 2018 proposed total revenues are \$41.7 million, a 3.1% increase from the FY 2017 estimate. Mr. Martinez explained the FY 2017 fund balance was used for appropriations equaling \$6.6 million which is consistent with the business model. This use of funds causes the fund balance to decrease to \$6.7 million. The personnel complement includes 415 authorized positions. Of those positions, 390 are full-time.

Dr. Baray briefed the Board on the reorganization of program improvements. Support services were restructured to increase the efficiency and effectiveness and result in a cost savings of \$1.0 million. This also reflects increasing the quality of instruction by replacing part-time teacher assistant positions with full-time positions. Another budget improvement involved Pre-K 4 SA directly managing facilities maintenance.

Mr. Martinez completed his presentation with the proposed personnel complement. He demonstrated the breakdown of current FY 2017 and proposed FY 2018 positions.

Dr. Baray concluded the presentation and mentioned that staff will request final review and approval from the Board during the next meeting on Tuesday, April 18 at 2:00 PM.

Consideration of Future Meetings

- 3. The next meeting of the Board of Directors meeting is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, April 18, 2017 at 2:00 pm.**

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:36 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine Mendoza, Chairperson

Vickie W. Garza, Pre-K 4 SA

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