

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

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2017
2:00 PM
CITY HALL MEDIA BRIEFING ROOM**

Members Present: Board Member Elaine Mendoza, Chair, *Mayoral*
Board Member Dr. Richard Middleton, *District 1*
Board Member Major General Joe Robles, *District 3*
Board Member Richard Perez, *District 4*
Board Member Gloria Ramirez, *District 5*
Board Member Dr. Shari Albright, Secretary, *District 8*
Board Member Dr. Gogi Dickson, *District 9*

Members Absent: Board Member Pamela Ray, *District 2*
Board Member Lucy Hall, *District 6*
Board Member Frances Guzman, *District 7*
Board Member Phillip Thomson, *District 10*

Staff Present: Peter Zaroni, *Deputy City Manager*; Edward Guzman, *City Attorney's Office*; Kristine Duff, *City Attorney's Office*; Sarah Baray, Ph.D., *Pre-K 4 SA Chief Executive Officer*

Also Present: Brad Davenport, *Pre-K 4 SA*; Alfredo Martinez, *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 SA*; Veronica Malagon, *Pre-K 4 SA*; Lillian McFarlin, *Pre-K 4 SA*; Brooke Haley, *Creative Noggin*; Jill Byrd, *Creative Noggin*

Call To Order

Chairwoman Mendoza called the meeting to order.

Board Member Perez entered into the meeting at this time.

1. Citizens to be Heard [Interested speakers will have 3 minutes to address Pre-K 4 SA Board on Pre-K related matters]

No citizens were present at this time.

2. Approval of minutes of the August 15, 2017 Early Childhood Education Municipal Development Corporation Board of Directors Meeting

Board Member Middleton moved to approve the minutes of the August 15, 2017 Early Childhood Education Municipal Development Corporation Board of Directors Meeting. Board Member Dickson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

Consent Agenda

- 4. Possible Board action to approve the construction services from the City of San Antonio contracted vendor Con-Cor Inc. for building space reconfigurations at the South Education Center in an amount not to exceed \$70,000 [Sarah Baray, Ph.D., Pre-K 4 SA CEO]**

Board Member Perez moved to approve the construction services from the City of San Antonio contracted vendor Con-Cor Inc. for configurations at the South Education Center. Board Member Middleton seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

Individual Briefings

- 5. Staff briefing and possible Board action to approve an amendment to increase the Westat independent evaluation contract value by approximately \$157,000 to support direct assessment of Pre-K 4 SA student alumni [Sarah Baray, Ph.D., Pre-K 4 SA CEO]**

Dr. Baray briefed the Board on the amendment to increase the Westat independent evaluation contract. She explained the additional section requesting district data. With the struggle of obtaining data, Westat developed an alternative to sample the graduates of Pre-K 4 SA and families that applied for Pre-K 4 SA but did not attend. She proceeded to describe the Woodcock Johnson Test. This will be used to test literacy and measure how the students are doing, and then will allow for an analysis. Dr. Baray mentioned this aligns with GOLD and is a direct assessment of student achievement. The current request is only for one year, but could be implemented in subsequent years with Board approval.

There was discussion between Board Members and Dr. Baray as she explained the subtests for letter recognition, confirmed that bilingual students are tested with the Spanish version, and acknowledged a possible meeting to take place with Superintendents and Board Members.

Board Member Perez moved to approve the amendment to increase the Westat independent evaluation contract. Board Member Robles seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

Executive Session

- 7. At any time during the meeting, the Board may recess into executive session to deliberate or discuss legal issues related to Pre-K 4 SA center staffing and operations pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney)**

Chairwoman Mendoza recessed the Early Childhood Education Municipal Development Corporation Board of Directors Meeting into Executive Session at 2:10 PM. She reconvened the meeting at 2:44 PM.

CEO Update

- 3. CEO update to include the first month of school, enrollment, family engagement, transportation, internal city audit, competitive grants, “Change in One Generation”**

partnership platform, demographics data, and Pre-K in the media [Sarah Baray, Ph.D., Pre-K 4 SA CEO]

Dr. Baray updated the Board on recent events that took place since the last Board meeting. She mentioned the school year reached its sixth week of school. The program had 2,000 students enrolled on day one and was at full capacity. She provided a briefing of students by school district and Education Center, as well as scholarship and tuition students. Dr. Baray mentioned she is working with Judson ISD and South San ISD to discuss a partnership.

Dr. Baray briefed on the transportation system and how well staff developed this system using GIS to pinpoint best locations that are convenient for families. East Meadows, in the Promise Zone, is currently a depot. Ridership has been more consistent with the students.

Dr. Baray introduced Veronica Malagon, who joined the new Family Engagement team. Veronica will help build the family engagement model for both Pre-K 4 SA and the school districts. Dr. Baray went on to mention that Veronica led the Parents as Partners meeting that took place at the South Education Center. Attendees totaled 100 parents and six of those were alumni parents. She also mentioned Veronica and her team have worked with the community to move beyond the traditional parent involvement activities to authentic engagement activities.

Dr. Baray moved on to the area of curriculum and mentioned adopting the HighScope Curriculum. HighScope is a well-known instructional framework for early childhood and research shows the long-term benefits from this program. HighScope requires the highest level of instruction. Teachers are involved in intensive training to ensure precise instruction.

Dr. Baray mentioned the Politico article and noted that this makes Pre-K 4 SA stand out with highly skilled teachers. She also mentioned districts are interested in using HighScope. Some districts are already using the curriculum and Pre-K 4 SA helps them implement with fidelity. The goal for Pre-K 4 SA is to partner with educators to have model class rooms in Kindergarten, first, second, and third grade.

Dr. Baray transitioned to introducing Lillian McFarlin who was hired to build out the partnership classroom model and visits for the program's lab school model. Lillian will take the lead in the upcoming visits to the Education Centers. Dr. Baray went on to mention all the upcoming visits that will take place at the centers to include East Central ISD, Fort Sam ISD, Department of Army Child and Youth Services, and Carroll Early Childhood Elementary with San Antonio ISD. She concluded by that mentioning Region 20 will use Pre-K 4 SA as a demonstration site for their HighScope training.

Dr. Baray continued her CEO update with Competitive Grants mentioning that the audit that took place during the summer had no findings. She went on to mention the pre-meeting for the upcoming Request for Proposals for Competitive Grants in 2018-2020 were conducted to provide support for districts and child development centers. There were 91 agencies represented and 48 agencies represented for the two pre-submittal meetings. Dr. Baray mentioned the RFP opened on the September 18 and closes on October 27. She then mentioned that in March 2018, staff will present recommendations. Contracts will begin in July 2018.

Dr. Baray noted that the program would soon roll out a partnership platform to help develop the identity of Pre-K 4 SA and district partnerships. She discussed the changing landscape around education and the importance of adjusting to consumer demand for more options. She noted that

the recent demographic study with UTSA will help determine where four-year-olds attend schools after Pre-K 4 SA. Dr. Baray also mentioned the demographic study was shared with the superintendents. This demographic study will help understand the trends of what is happening and how to share the information.

Board Member Middleton questioned if PEIMS is being used by Pre-K 4 SA. Dr. Baray answered that the program does not use it, but students are in the system because they are district students.

Dr. Baray continued with the discussion on being successful as a community and knowing where students are moving throughout the city. She continued with marketing the partnership platform and changing the way people think about brands and associate the school system and Pre-K 4 SA. Dr. Baray discussed advocating for Pre-K 4 SA and public schools, the *Change in One Generation* branding, collaborating with educators through professional learning opportunities, and moving the educational community forward. Dr. Baray mentioned that Pre-K 4 SA can help to develop a highly skilled workforce. Dr. Baray mentioned the handout given to the board on James Hackman's work which demonstrates the economic benefits of prekindergarten.

Dr. Baray noted that the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce would visit the South Center for an Open House. They would hear a presentation about the program, and benefits for the wider community including school districts. She mentioned there will be meetings with the superintendents to work on collaborating to champion the good things that are happening in the districts and mentioned a board retreat to be set up soon.

Dr. Baray moved on to Pre-K in the media. She mentioned all the media pieces where Pre-K 4 SA has been featured including the Politico article. An NPR piece led to a podcast from Australia, Inga Cotton, a Blogger Mom for options for families in San Antonio, plans on returning two more times. She mentioned Paul Chapman has taken another job and Jill Byrd from Creative Noggin fill in to help continue relationships with the media.

Dr. Baray concluded her CEO update by mentioning a staff retreat day at Mission County Park which was planned because Pre-K 4 SA reached 100% of the participation goal for the City of San Antonio Charitable United Way Campaign. Staff met in the afternoon for group activities which included kickball, water balloons, and team building games. She also mentioned Vickie Garza was the lead coordinator for United Way.

Chairwoman Mendoza opened the floor to the Board for comments or questions as this was the end of the agenda.

Consideration of Future Meetings

4. The next meeting of the Board of Directors meeting is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, November 7, 2017 at 2:00 pm.

She mentioned item number six, our next board meeting is on Tuesday, November 7. She also lets them know December meeting a poll will be sent out with a couple of new dates either the 8th or 14th.

Board Member Dickson mentioned her visit to the East Center to read to the children. She was appreciative for the opportunity and encouraged other Board members to do the same.

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:11 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine Mendoza, Chairperson

Vickie W. Garza, Pre-K 4 SA

DRAFT