

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

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2018  
2:00 PM  
MUNICIPAL PLAZA BUILDING, ROOM B**

**Members Present:** Board Member Elaine Mendoza, Chair, *Mayoral*  
Board Member Richard Perez, *District 4*  
Board Member Gloria Ramirez, *District 5*  
Board Member Dr. Tracy Hurley, *District 6*  
Board Member Frances Guzman, *District 7*  
Board Member Dr. Shari Albright, Secretary, *District 8*  
Board Member Dr. Gogi Dickson, *District 9*

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**Members Absent:** Board Member Dr. Richard Middleton, *District 1*  
Board Member Pamela Ray, *District 2*  
Board Member Major General Joe Robles, *District 3*  
Board Member Vacant, *District 10*

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**Staff Present:** Sarah Baray, Ph.D., *Pre-K 4 SA Chief Executive Officer*; Peter Zaroni, *Deputy City Manager*; Sheryl Sculley, *City Manager*; Ed Guzman, *City Attorney's Office*; Larrisa Wilkinson, *Pre-K 4 SA*

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**Also Present:** Brad Davenport, *Pre-K 4 SA*; Andie Rodriguez, *Pre-K 4 SA*; Alfredo Martinez, *Pre-K 4 SA*; Erin Burnett, *Pre-K 4 SA*; Vickie Garza, *Pre-K 4 SA*; Sarah Perez, *Pre-K 4 SA*; Lillian McFarlin, *Pre-K 4 SA*; Amber French, *Pre-K 4 SA*; Lety Espinoza, *Pre-K 4 SA*; Jill Byrd, *Creative Noggin*; Naomi Ferrell, *Tempe, Arizona*; Marie Raymond, *Tempe, Arizona*

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**Call To Order**

Chairwoman Mendoza called the meeting to order.

Chairwoman Mendoza welcomed visitors from Tempe, Arizona and gave them an opportunity to speak on their observations of the program.

Naomi Farrow and Marie Raymond were thankful for the opportunity to visit a second time and observe and benefit from lessons learned from Pre-K 4 SA.

Chairwoman Mendoza mentioned Pre-K 4 SA is working on becoming a national model and that this is the right start.

**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 December 14, 2017 Early Childhood Education Municipal Development Corporation Board of Directors Meeting**

Board Member Ramirez moved to approve the minutes of the December 14, 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**

### **CEO Update**

#### **3. CEO Update to include student enrollment, competitive grants, research, upcoming events, and contracts [Sarah Baray, Ph.D., Pre-K 4 SA CEO]**

Dr. Baray began her CEO update with alumni enrollment. The sibling registration period began in January and Pre-K 4 SA received 300 applications. The program received 1,300 applications on the first day of open registration. As of February 6, the program received 1,600 applications which is a 46% increase from the previous year due to efforts to engage the public earlier. The North and West Centers are filling up first, as they always have. Additional efforts will be focused at the East and South Centers.

Dr. Baray moved on to discuss competitive grants. Staff have been reviewing the grant proposals received and working with the different entities. The committees have selected entities that staff intend to recommend for funding. Staff noted that grant partners are focused on key factors for high quality services. Dr. Baray stated that Larrisa would present a high quality impact pyramid in greater detail during the upcoming Board work session.

Dr. Baray mentioned that and Board Member Albright met with the Superintendent of SAISD the previous week to discuss maximizing the existing partnership and change the model of delivery in San Antonio.

Board Members discussed the prior grant recipients and inquired how the agencies would manage to sustain improvements resulting from the grant funding. Dr. Baray explained how staff are helping agencies to include changes into their budgets over time so they are able to pick up the cost and continue to expand.

Dr. Baray continued her update and briefed the board on the upcoming Public Education Forum scheduled for March 6. This year's focus is on early childhood education and she is on the planning committee.

Dr. Baray briefly mentioned the Grants Showcase that will take place on March 7. Staff will request Board approval of recommended grant recipients during the March 6 Board Meeting. The Showcase will provide an opportunity to recognize the work that has been done and acknowledge recipients for the next grant cycle.

Dr. Baray moved on to Research including the Ray Marshall Study Report which is a longitudinal comparison of Pre-K 4 SA students in other programs. The report is slightly behind schedule due to unexpected issues that were later resolved, and staff hope to present to the Board at an upcoming meeting. The UTSA Demographic Study is in the final stages. Staff is reviewing to ensure that numbers are accurate. Early findings show that although San Antonio made progress in terms of

creating more full-day seats for pre-k, there are more four-year-olds who need them.

Dr. Baray informed the Board of the Literacy Festival that will take place in April. The Literacy Festival will be hosted in collaboration with Westat in an effort to identify a minimum of 300 students who are now in 1<sup>st</sup> grade and either attended Pre-K 4 SA or were on the program's waitlist. Students will have the opportunity to take the Woodcock-Johnson Assessment. Results will factor into the program's independent evaluation.

Dr. Baray moved on to her recent and upcoming events. She mentioned her SA to DC 2018 trip with the Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce. She made contact with leaders within our community. She also had many opportunities to speak about Pre-K 4 SA in terms of Workforce Development which peaked the interest of federal organizations that focus on this issue. She mentioned that Fort Sam Houston ISD is interested in becoming a partner of Pre-K 4 SA. Visiting teachers were impressed with the quality of the program. Dr. Baray mentioned recent presentations and visits with groups including the South San Antonio Chamber of Commerce, West San Antonio Chamber of Commerce, Alamo City Black Chamber of Commerce, and various public schools. Dr. Baray noted the importance of building strong partnerships and ensuring that leaders understand what high quality early childhood education looks like.

Board Members discussed the importance of Dr. Baray's ongoing communication with San Antonio about early childhood education. Dr. Baray mentioned that staff will continue to keep the Board informed of the ongoing communication. She went on to mention cities and universities who are visiting the Education Centers. She noted that municipal organizations working on early childhood are trying to learn from each other's experiences. Finally, Dr. Baray provided an update on the status of proposals for nutrition services and transportation. Staff will present more information during the upcoming Board work session.

Chairwoman Mendoza asked about the delay in obtaining information for the Ray Marshall study. Dr. Baray noted that the delay was due to negotiations with the parties involved. Board Members discussed general questions about data collection and the independent evaluation. Board Member Hurley requested if it is possible to obtain information by City Council District. Dr. Baray responded that staff is creating information dashboards for each City Council District. Board Members further discussed grants, partnerships with education providers both in San Antonio and from other cities, and contracts.

## **Individual Briefings**

### **4. Retreat Follow-Up [Sarah Baray, Ph.D., Pre-K 4 SA]**

Dr. Baray shared with the Board Members an overview of what was discussed at the January Board retreat at the Botanical Gardens and where the program needs to be in the next three years. She described the retreat activities and noted that they were helpful.

### **5. Briefing of Professional Learning endeavors in 2017-18 school year [Larrisa Wilkinson, Pre-K 4 SA Director of Professional Learning and Program Innovation]**

Ms. Wilkinson briefed the Board on Professional Learning. Ms. Wilkinson's presentation began by introducing the department's vision and goals. She noted that the program has realigned and redefined internal and external efforts to create a seamless professional learning and Pre-K – 3<sup>rd</sup> alignment through core Education Center services and partner districts in the program. Ms.

Wilkinson went on to discuss national research efforts that include partnering with a research foundation in Michigan to conduct a multi-year study of the efficacy of the Pre-K 4 SA coaching model. The goal of the study is to use results to impact work with instructional teams throughout the city. Pre-K 4 SA has created a set of unique quality indicators that set this professional learning program apart from any professional learning that is already taking place in San Antonio.

Ms. Wilkinson went on to brief the Board about six goals the department has identified for this year, and that align with the new competitive grants RFP. The six goals focus on: demonstration sites, workforce development, Pre-K – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade alignment, equitable access, data sharing, and child development centers. The Board had a discussion about the Pre-K 4 SA Child Development Associates (CDA) Degree program. Ms. Wilkinson provided feedback about the structure of the program and how it compares with other CDA opportunities.

Further, Ms. Wilkinson mentioned new programs that Professional Learning has launched this year to meet said goals. The department has built out specific professional learning that is targeted at instructional teams and leaders. Additionally, the department has developed tools and systems to help programs shift the mindset around planning comprehensive content that is aligned throughout early years. The Professional Learning Department works with educators to create recommendation plans based on gaps and meet on strategic planning throughout the year with a focus on a High Quality Impact Pyramid.

Board Member Hurley inquired as to how this fits with the Pre-K 4 SA strategic planning process. Dr. Baray responded that the professional learning component was an early part of the previous strategic plan. She noted that this aligns with the goal recently identified to serve as an early childhood resource. The Board continued to discuss professional learning in relation to strategic planning, marketing efforts, and partnerships.

### **Consideration of Future Meetings**

- 6. The next meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, February 28, 2018.**

Chairwoman Mendoza announced that the next meeting of the Board will take place on Wednesday, February 28 at the North Education Center at 2:00 p.m. This meeting is a work session to discuss the budget adjustment, 2019 budget, and grant awards. The Board will vote on the grants during the Tuesday, March 6 meeting.

### **Adjournment**

**There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:29 pm.**

*Respectfully Submitted,*

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*Elaine Mendoza, Chairperson*

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*Vickie W. Garza, Pre-K 4 SA*