

**EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 2020
2:00 PM
VIDEOCONFERENCE**

Members Present: Board Member Elaine Mendoza, Chair, *Mayoral*
Board Member Dr. Richard Middleton, *District 1*
Board Member Brandon Logan, *District 2*
Board Member Joe De La Garza, *District 3*
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*

Members Absent: Board Member Vacant, *District 10*

Staff Present: Sarah Baray, Ph.D., *Pre-K 4 SA Chief Executive Officer*; Shreya Shah, *City Attorney's Office*; Joe De La Rosa, *Pre-K 4 SA*

Also Present: Eryanne Taft, *Pre-K 4 SA*; Brad Davenport, *Pre-K 4 SA*; Daisy Castillo, *Pre-K 4 SA*; Paul Chapman, *Pre-K 4 SA*; Larrisa Wilkinson, *Pre-K 4 SA*; Michelle Montemayor, *Pre-K 4 SA*; Jill Byrd, *Creative Noggin*; Chelsea Mikulencak, *City Attorney's Office*

Call To Order

Chairwoman Mendoza called the meeting to order via video conferencing.

1. Public Comments [Interested speakers will have 3 minutes to address the Pre-K 4 SA Board on Pre-K related matters]

There were no public comments to be heard.

2. Approval of minutes of the May 19, 2020 Early Childhood Education Municipal Development Corporation Board of Directors Meeting

Board member Perez moved to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2020 Early Childhood Education Municipal Development Corporation Board of Directors Meeting. Board Member Guzman seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

Board Member Albright entered the meeting at this time.

CEO Update

3. CEO Update to include FY 2021 Board Meeting Calendar, Gracias auction results, end of year activities, partnership updates, and promotion & outreach [Sarah Baray, Ph.D., Pre-K 4 SA CEO]

Dr. Baray began her CEO update by recapping end of year activities, which included parades at each of the four centers. Over 1,300 families attended the drive thru parades. Additionally, the Gracias art auction, which concluded on June 7, raised a total of \$6,289 for the selected beneficiary, St. PJ's Children's Home.

Next, she provided an overview of plans for summer activities. Weekly food distributions are expected to continue through the summer months. The Family Engagement team will host Come Play with Pre-K at parks and other outdoor areas for children and their families to connect with Pre-K 4 SA staff and other Pre-K 4 SA families. The team is also looking for opportunities to partner with the San Antonio Public Library Foundation's Literacy Caravan to provide Wi-Fi access and other literacy resources for families. The "It's Bedtime Somewhere" read-along challenge is also underway. This initiative invites local leaders, members of the community, and families to record bedtime stories and post to social media for families to access anytime. Board members that haven't already joined the challenge can still do so. Former City Manager Sheryl Sculley, David Robinson and his son have accepted the challenge and posted their recordings on social media.

Dr. Baray also shared that, thanks to a personal gift from Charles Butt to the children of Bexar County, Pre-K 4 SA has partnered with VOOKs, Bibliotech and the San Antonio Public Library Foundation Literacy Caravan to offer a free 1-year subscription to the VOOKs children's books streaming platform to all 4-6 year olds in Bexar County. . A short video was presented.

Dr. Baray moved on to discuss preparations for the Fall Semester. Registration began April 20, and has since moved to completely contactless. The enrollment hotline is staffed with up to 8 personnel at all times, including bilingual employees, to eliminate wait times for future families. As of June 15, 2,476 applications have been received. 2,013 applicants have accepted and been offered registration appointments, with 1,477 still pending registration. Dr. Baray provided an overview of accepted applications by district.

She continued her CEO update with the retrofitting of buildings process. To reduce high-touch surfaces, classrooms will be retrofitted with contactless sinks, toilets and towel dispensers. Outdoor spaces will be updated to add hand sanitizing stations and outdoor teacher breakrooms. Office and lobby areas will have plexiglass and walkthrough temperature scanners. Adult restrooms will also be retrofitted with contactless sinks and towel dispenser. A request to receive funding for these retrofits has been sent through to the city. However, city sales tax came in higher than projected, so these funds will be used until approved. A Remote Learning option is under development, as well as a Safe Reopening Plan, which will align with the CoSA Return to Work Plan and based on the guidance of CDC, NAEYC, Texas Childcare Plan.

Board Members went into discussion regarding capacity for centers, access to good public health access.

Individual Briefings

4. Staff briefing and possible Board action to approve an application by South San Antonio Independent School District (SSAISD) to become a participating district in the Pre-K 4 SA Program contingent upon approval of the Program Memorandum of Understanding by the SSAISD Board of Trustees [Sarah Baray, Ph.D., Pre-K 4 SA CEO]

Dr. Baray began with background of South San ISD as a founding partner in our initial year 2013-2014 but then withdrew from the partnership. Pre-K 4 SA has seven participating Independent School Districts, and South San Antonio ISD would become the eighth. There are, on average, 80 applications from SSAISD received by Pre-K 4 SA annually and an average enrollment of 25. SSAISD had a new Superintendent begin in June, Marc Puig, and the interim Dolores Sendejo will remain on-board as Assistant Superintendent. Dr. Baray gave a brief timeline of the steps taken to reinstate SSAISD as a partner district. She a summary of the MOU, which is identical to the other seven participating districts with a clarification that interprets “City of San Antonio” to include San Antonio ETJ. She finished the briefing with a recommendation that the Board approve the MOU between Pre-K 4 SA and South San Antonio ISD.

Board member Perez moved to approve an application by South San Independent School District (SSAISD) to become a participating district in the Pre-K 4 SA Program contingent upon approval of the Program Memorandum of Understanding by the SSAISD Board of Trustees. Board Member Albright seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

5. Briefing and Board action to approve entities receiving awards from the Pre-K 4 SA Competitive Grants Program with a total value of up to \$2.7 million [Joe De La Rosa, Pre-K 4 SA Grants Manager]

Mr. De La Rosa began his briefing on the Competitive Grants RFP with an overview of the 2020-2021 Grants Program design for next year, reiterating that it will be for a one-year term. All entities will receive funds through reimbursement-based system. Increasing quality components is a main requirement with this year’s awardees. Staff is working with Shared Services Alliance to provide monthly meetings led by the providers to identify their successes and challenges they have at their child development centers. The needs assessment is based on Texas Rising Star requirements, which is the state’s quality rating system.

Mr. De La Rosa reviewed each district’s recommended grant award with a grand total of \$2,634,495 in recommended award funds. He requested an approval from the Board for Pre-K 4 SA to award Competitive Education Grants contracts to nine grant awardees from RFP20-032 for one year (2020-2021 grant cycle) with an overall value not to exceed \$2,700,000, which includes \$2,384,495 in Competitive Grants awards and \$250,000 for goods and services for child development centers in the Shared Services Alliance; In kind professional learning for all awardees with a value of \$675,000 and \$212,500 for Reading Academies for school districts.

Board Members went into discussion regarding the requested award amount and recommended award amount distinguishing the increased amount versus the decrease amount. Mr. De La Rosa explained the difference was based on their need for special materials or equipment.

Board member Guzman moved to approve entities receiving awards from the Pre-K 4 SA Competitive Grants Program with a total value of up to \$2.7 million. Board Member Ramirez seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

6. Staff briefing and possible Board action to approve a proposed process for reviewing and approving external partnership requests received by Pre-K 4 SA [Sarah Baray, Ph.D., Pre-K 4 SA CEO]

Dr. Baray reviewed that as Pre-K 4 SA program matures, the organization has received increased partnership requests. The City of San Antonio's policy regarding marketing partnerships and the internal vetting procedures developed for research requests with Pre-K 4 SA were used develop the process for external partnership requests. She reviewed the process, which will include input and participation from a variety of representatives. Dr. Baray recommended approval of the proposed partnership review and approval process beginning July 1.

Board Members went into discussion regarding committee process.

Board member Logan moved to approve proposed process for reviewing and approving external partnership requests received by Pre-K 4 SA. Board Member Albright seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

Consideration of Future Meetings

7. The next meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, August 11, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:13 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine Mendoza, Chairperson

Vickie W. Garza, Pre-K 4 SA