

**Early Learning Coalition of Escambia County  
Board Meeting Minutes  
August 12, 2021 10:00 a.m.  
Chair: Van Mansker**

**Members in Attendance**

Van Mansker	Roger Thompson	Mary Ann Bickerstaff
Marcus McBride	Brian Wyer	Richard Wright
Judy Dickinson	Melody Meier	Edna Williams
Angela Strumeyer	Paul Fetsko	

**Members Absent**

Shannon Nickinson	Beate Bolton	Drew Hardgrave
Cindy Kirk	Steven Sanchez	Mona Jackson
Shanna Robinson		

**Public in Attendance**

Michael Juhas	Raymond Concannon	Craig Jones
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**Staff in Attendance**

Bruce Watson	Dawn Engel	Paula Rollins
Vicki Pugh	Fred Perkins	Nina Daniels

**I. Welcome and Introduction**

Notification of this meeting of the Board of Directors was posted to the Coalition Public Calendar Board on August 1, 2021, and sent to the Pensacola News Journal for publication on July 26, 2021. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Mansker.

**II. Public Comments**

- a. None

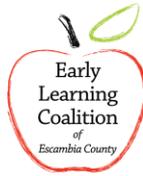
**III. Chair Comments**

- a. **Approval of Consent Agenda: Meeting Agenda, Minutes of the June 10, 2021, Board Meeting, and Financial Statement for May 2021.**

Upon a motion made by Mr. Wright and seconded by Mr. McBride, approval of the Consent Agenda, consisting of the Meeting Agenda, Minutes of June 10, 2021, meeting, and Financial Statement May 2021 were approved without objection.

**IV. Executive Committee Report:**

- a. **New School Board Designee**



The Escambia County School Board has chosen a new statutory designee for the Coalition Board, Mr. Paul Fetsko. Upon a motion made by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Ms. Strumeyer, appointment of Mr. Fetsko to the Board was approved without objection.

**b. Executive Director Annual Evaluation**

The annual performance evaluation of the Executive Director was reviewed. The Chair commented that the Executive Director's has continued to be stellar. Upon a motion made by the Executive Committee and seconded by Mr. Wyer, the annual performance evaluation and the same three percent cost of living pay increase approved for all Coalition staff was approved without objection.

**c. Eligibility Manual**

A revision of the Eligibility Manual was reviewed. The revision was required to incorporate procedures related to use of the Statewide Information System, EFS MOD. Upon a motion made by the Executive Committee and seconded by Mr. Thompson, the Eligibility Manual was approved without objection.

**d. Vehicle Alarm System – Status and Options**

The DEL has decided not to fund Providers for purchase of the alarms for vehicles required by 2021 statute. Therefore, as previously approved, the Coalition will implement a quality program to reimburse Providers who do transportation for the cost of the devices.

**e. Time Reporting and Compensation Policy Workgroup Status**

Because the DEL has not published their new guidance the Workgroup has not met.

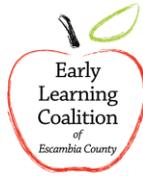
**f. Faith-Based Provider Representative**

The organization that is the employer of the Faith-Based Provider Representative has had their only contract with the Coalition terminated, and they had had their eligibility to provide VPK services revoked for five years. There is precedence at this Coalition and others for having a representative whose company is not contracted with the Coalition. The representative has not indicated any intentions to resign. Options discussed were for the Board to vote to remove the representative from the Board, query the Providers if they care to have the representative continue to represent them, or in part because the representative was the only person to volunteer for the position do nothing and allow the representative to continue to the end of their term. No motion was made, so no action was taken.

**V. Executive Director's Report:**

**a. SR/VPK Program Fiscal Year Benchmark Report**

The Coalition ended fiscal year 2020-2021 approximately \$2.2 million below the SR grant award. There reasons are not enough parents are placing their children in care, and the parents that do enroll their children cannot readily find a Provider with space available. The space is not available because both locally and statewide, there is a staffing shortage in child care.



## **b. Enrollment/Wait List, Status Report, and Contracting Summary Status Report**

### **1. Enrollment/Wait List Status Report:**

There are 3,011 children enrolled in the School Readiness program of which 1,427 are school-age children. For the past five months all the children on the Wait List have been pulled each week. There are already 1,919 applications approved for the 21-22 VPK program.

### **2. Contracting and Fraud Summary Report:**

There are 80 SR Providers, and 66 VPK Providers. There were no new fraud cases to report.

## **c. EOY Summary Reports**

The Medical Support, Program Operations and CCRR reports for the year ending June 30, 2021, were presented for review.

## **VI. Old Business:**

### **a. DEL NOA and 2021-2022 Budget Approval**

The official Notice of Award (NOA) for 2021-2022 was received, however it was after the last Executive Committee, and this allows the budget for 2021-2022 to be officially approved. The only changes since the draft was approved were increases in SR and VPK services. Budget allocations for other expenses remain the same. Upon a motion made by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Fetsko, the Coalition budget for fiscal year 2021-2022 was approved without objection.

### **b. 2021 Legislative Actions**

Significant legislative changes were made to the early learning statutes in 2021. Most notably the addition of program assessments for VPK providers that will be used to calculate readiness rates, the redesignation of OEL as a Division vice Depart and standardized annual evaluations of Executive Directors to be submitted to the DEL.

### **c. DEL Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Funding – aka CRRSA Phase V**

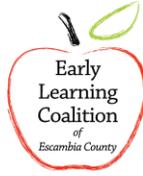
The Coalition distributed almost all of the \$1.6 million CRRSA Phase V Grants to all our SR and VPK Providers and non-contracted childcare Providers that chose to apply.

### **d. Coalition Relocation**

The renovations and related work the Coalition requested are in work. The projected period for the move is the second half of October.

### **e. Insurance Claim Update**

Another \$108,000 was received from the insurance company for fire loss. This payment was for loss of equipment and furniture.



**f. OEL Financial Review, Feb-Apr 2021**

The review is still ongoing because the Corrective Action Plan has not been approved and presented to the Coalition for action. The Coalition responded to the draft Corrective Action Plan, but no response has been received and therefore no action has been taken.

**g. Escambia Children’s Trust Update**

The Trust met the July 1 deadline for submitting the required documents for completing related actions required for getting approval to assess the mileage rate for this year. The process has begun to hire the first Executive Director.

**VII. New Business:**

**a. ELC Organizational Chart**

The proposed chart reflects the new post-fire, mid-pandemic, permanent telework structure of the Coalition. Upon a motion made by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Wright, the Coalition Organizational Chart was approved without objection.

**b. DEL Disaster Relief Payments for Teachers**

The DEL has been processing applications from Providers to pay all persons defined as teachers, Director and Principals \$1000 per person disaster relief payments, like those paid to public school teachers. The DEL contracted a third party to collect, approve, and make the payments.

**VIII. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 11:18 a.m.

**Next Meeting: Thursday, October 14, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. at the Early Learning Coalition Office at 3300 N. Pace Boulevard, Suite 210, Pensacola, FL 32505**

**Minutes approved by:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Date  
Marcus McBride, Board Secretary