



Board of Directors Meeting
August 5th, 2013; 8:00 a.m.
ELC Board Room

Board Attendees: Adrian Alfonso (Chair); Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr. (Former Chair); The Hon. Cindy S. Lederman (Vice Chair); Gilda Ferradaz (Treasurer); Charles Auslander; Roderick E. Beasley; Doug Blomberg (attended via conference call); Dr. Tina Carroll-Scott; Commissioner Heather Carruthers; Robert Eadie; Philip Gassman; Helene J. Good; Eric Knowles (attended via conference call); David Lawrence, Jr.; Dr. J. Abilio Rodriguez; Gerald K. Schwartz, Esq.; David Williams, Jr.; Dr. Mara Zapata

Board Absentees: Lucy C. Pineiro, Esq. (Secretary); Lucia Davis-Raiford; Shaleen Fagundo; Lisa Martinez; Holly Estes; Harve Mogul; Magaly Abrahante, Ed.D.; Theresa Axford

Staff Attendees: Evelio Torres (President/CEO); Angelo Parrino; Leeana Sanchez; Christina Vila; Jackye Russell; Pamela Hollingsworth; Fred Hicks; Bethany Sands; Mercy Castiglione; Fiorella Altare; Jose Hernandez; Aileen Martinez; Sandra Gonzalez; Kendra Link; Christine Hughes; Melissa Fernandez; Ana Rodriguez; Rosa Raskin; Kerry Allen; Anna Kempa; Daisy Di Muro; Martha Calderon-Apolo

General Attendees: Santiago Echemendia, Tew Cardenas (attended via conference call); Linda Carmona-Sanchez, AECE; Marisel Elias Miranda, MDCPS; Evelyn Borrell, FIU; Jessica Scher, United Way; Alison Gonzalez, FIU; Regina Francis; Wendy Salomon, Family Central; Rachel Spector, The Children's Trust; Matty Loret De Mola, Edu Consulting; Vivien Verdeja; Daisie Overman, Miami Shores Baptist Academy; Lisa Pittman, The Children's Trust; Brian Sheaffer, YMCA; Gladys Montes, United Way; Tab Verdeja

I. Welcome and Introductions

Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr. & Adrian Alfonso

- O. Verdeja called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
- L. Sanchez called roll and a quorum was established with fifteen (15) voting members.
- O. Verdeja stated that if anyone has a conflict of interest on any item coming before the Board, to declare the conflict and see L. Sanchez for a conflict of interest form.
- O. Verdeja introduced the newly governor appointed board chair, Adrian Alfonso. Adrian is a partner at Perez Abreu, Alguerrebere, Suerio & Torres, PL. He was appointed by the governor for a term that began on July 25, 2013 and ends on April 30, 2017. Adrian has been a member of the ELC's Audit Committee so he is already familiar with how the ELC functions. Prior to the appointment by the governor, he was interviewed and endorsed by the Nominating Committee. The governor's press release is in the Board packet.
- A. Alfonso thanked Octavio for the many years of service on the Board. He's seen what he's done and can only hope to continue the work he started. He stated Octavio has been a wonderful leader.
- O. Verdeja introduced the newly governor appointed private sector members, Philip "Flip" Gassman and Gordon Eric Knowles. Flip is the executive vice president and managing director of professional and executive banking for Marquis Bank. His term began on July 25, 2013 and ends April 30, 2015. Gordon Eric Knowles is



semi-retired and previously served as the senior director of governmental affairs for the Miami Dolphins. His term began on July 25, 2013 and ends April 30, 2016.

- Both P. Gassman and E. Knowles are excited about the opportunity.
- O. Verdeja stated that Esther Jacobo was appointed by the governor to serve as the interim Secretary of the Department of Children & Families. That is a huge compliment to the leadership Esther has provided as director of DCF and to this community in general. G. Ferradaz, who many already know from her more than 30 years serving the community, was appointed to serve as interim Regional Director for DCF until Esther returns. Gilda has also agreed to serve as the interim Treasurer and Finance Committee chair until Esther returns. This is a perfect fit because Gilda has many years experience with state budgets and programs. She is aware of the challenges, restrictions, and will make this transition seamless. Gilda has also participated on our Board many times and we are happy to have her back.
- O. Verdeja stated State Representative Erik Fresen would be visiting later.
- E. Torres thanked O. Verdeja for his many years of service. A plaque was presented by himself, C. Lederman and A. Alfonso.
- E. Torres introduced Ileana Tomacelli, Director/Owner of Little Wonders in Palmetto Bay. 10 children from her class presented a special show for O. Verdeja's last meeting. The children were presented with thank you gifts.
- D. Lawrence stated that when O. Verdeja took power 8 years ago, it was a very difficult time to be in his position. We had a terrible problem at the ELC. He doesn't know of a nonprofit chair that has grown more in the community than Octavio has. The last several years, he has done a stunning job of leadership in this community.
- E. Torres stated Octavio has been a remarkable chair and friend. The ELC has been able to do so much under his leadership. It has taken a lot of courage for all he has done. He has gained a friend for life and has been privileged to serve under him.
- C. Lederman stated that this is a board that truly loves their chair. Octavio has displayed steady and honest leadership. He has turned the ELC into the best in the state.
- O. Verdeja stated that in the past 8 years, there have been different presidents, governors, executive directors, but that D. Lawrence has always been there. He walked into a very bad situation. The only thing that was going to turn things around was being surrounded by decent people. He learned a lot these past 8 years but most importantly learned of patience. The ELC board does amazing work. He thanked the Board of Directors. He also thanked his wife for allowing him an 8 year affair with the ELC and his son who took over many duties at the firm so he could dedicate time to the ELC. He thanked the ELC staff, both those present and those who no longer worked here. He thanked Evelio for always making him look good. He has gained a true friend, and has grown with him. He wishes his best to Adrian.
- O. Verdeja stated the following items were included in this month's Board packet:
 - ELC News Alert & ELC Parent Link
 - Doral Early Childhood Initiative Article: Evelio C. Torres, "Maravilloso!"
 - Publix Super Markets Charities: Awarded the ELC with \$10,000 to go towards our school readiness programs. The foundation was established by Publix's founder, Mr. George Jenkins, to improve communities. The application was submitted by Leeana Sanchez, who is "maravillosa".



II. Approval of Minutes

Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr. & Adrian Alfonso

- O. Verdeja called for the approval of the meeting minutes from June 3, 2013.
 - H. Good moved to approve the minutes.
 - G. Schwartz seconded the motion.
 - Motion was passed unanimously.

III. Executive Committee Report

Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr.

- O. Verdeja reported that due to no Finance or Board meeting last month, the following resolutions were sent directly to members of the Executive committee for approval. All three resolutions are to add additional dollars to our budget. Two are for last fiscal year and one for the current year. These resolutions are now being presented to the Board for ratification.
- Motion for ratification of the Executive Committee's approval of Resolution 061113-01 to approve the Budget Amendment #6 increasing the approved annual budget for fiscal year 2012-2013 of \$173,822,516.00 by \$1,000,000.00 for a new budget total of \$174,822,516.00.
- Motion for ratification of the Executive Committee's approval of Resolution 061903-01 to approve fiscal year 2013-2013 Budget Amendment #1 increasing the approved initial annual budget for fiscal year 2013-2013 of \$175,588,922.00 by \$55,000.00 for the new budget total of \$175,643,922.00.
- Motion for ratification of the Executive Committee's approval of Resolution 062813-01 to approve Budget Amendment #7 increasing the approved annual budget for fiscal year 2012-2013 of \$174,82,516.00 by \$450,000.00 for a new budget total of \$175,272,516.00.
 - R. Eadie moved to approve all three resolutions as one motion.
 - Motion seconded by C. Lederman.
 - Motion was passed unanimously.

IV. Finance Committee Report

Gilda Ferradaz

- G. Ferradaz reviewed the financials.
- G. Ferradaz stated the Finance Committee did not have quorum. Two resolutions were discussed and were recommended by the present members.
- Motion to approve Resolution 07312013-01 to authorize the President & CEO to receive and execute the grant agreement with the Monroe County School District for the Teenage Parent Program (TAP).
 - C. Lederman moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion seconded by H. Carruthers.
 - Motion was passed unanimously.
- Motion to approve Resolution 07312013-02 to authorize the President & CEO to negotiate and execute a purchase order for strategy & performance management software and support from the Advisory Board Company.
 - C. Lederman moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion seconded by H. Carruthers.
 - Motion was passed unanimously.
- G. Ferradaz reviewed the snapshots for Miami-Dade and Monroe.



V. Program & Strategy Committee Report

The Hon. Cindy Lederman & David Williams, Jr.

- C. Lederman reported on provider grievance of Kid's Kollege. They did not attend the meeting therefore the grievance was not discussed.
- C. Lederman reported on provider grievance of Sunshine & Sunset Daycare and Kindergarten. The Program Committee voted to approve the Provider Peer Review Panel's recommendation to issue a (3) three month probation.
- C. Lederman reported that the Program Committee was apprised that 81 Miami-Dade providers fell below the minimum school readiness for three or more consecutive years have not been granted a Good Cause Exemption, and therefore are removed from eligibility to deliver VPK for a period of five years, as per the Office of Early Learning policy. The range of reasons why a Good Cause Exemption was not granted include: non-submission of a request, no data submitted, insufficient data submitted and/or failure to demonstrate learning gains. The 81 providers represent a cross section of private, faith-based, Head Start and Miami-Dade County Public Schools.
- H. Carruthers requested information on what percentage of the 81 providers are accredited, and how many children are involved.
- E. Torres would follow up and send this information to the Board.
- C. Lederman stated the Program Committee has approved the ELC to enter the self study process in its pursuit of accreditation by COA, an agency that accredits more than 2,000 public and private organizations internationally. The process takes about 12-18 months.
- C. Lederman stated that the Program Committee has approved the ELC to enter the process to become authorized to administer CEU's (continuing education units) for its training classes. The Internal Association for Continuing Education and Training (IACET) Accreditation is the gold standard for helping organizations develop and implement high quality continuing education and training programs. This process takes about 12 months.

VI. CEO Report

Evelio C. Torres, CEO

- The full presentation can be found at:
http://www.elcmdm.org/about_us/Board/minutes/Board/CEO%20report/CEOR080513.pdf

VII. Public Comments

Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr. & Adrian Alfonso

- O. Verdeja stated Florida State Representative Erik Fresen, Chairman of the House Education Appropriations Subcommittee and Vice Chair of the PreK-12 Policy Committee had arrived.
- E. Torres stated a longtime education and child advocate, Rep. Fresen has worked hard for all of Florida's children. His leadership led to the approval of \$5.1 million in new funding for Early Learning Coalitions. The Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe received \$2.1 million of the new funding to restore childcare services for hundreds of young children of working, low-income families. He stated Rep. Fresen is always available and responsive and always there to bridge the gap between legislators and provider organizations.
- Rep. Fresen stated early learning has always been the red headed step child of education, as it is always K-12 oriented. When he first got into the legislature, he was on the lower end of the learning curve and didn't have the knowledge. He didn't realize how complex and critical early learning is in the state of Florida. He feels for the first time in a decade, he has set the ground for what's to come.
- O. Verdeja stated he is not easily impressed with politicians. He has met with Rep. Fresen a number of times, and he is always dedicated. He has been impressed by him.



- D. Lawrence stated he has known Rep. Fresen since before he was in office. He is a model of decency and public service and is so pleased he is he smitten with the subject of early learning, which is deeply important for this state.
- L. Carmona-Sanchez encouraged Rep. Fresen that for his upcoming legislative session, to look at testing equity for children with special needs and the role of English/Spanish learners.
- D. Overman of Miami Shores Baptist Academy, congratulated the ELC on their work on the transition so far. Parents are pleased. The work is paying off.

VIII. Adjourn

Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr. & Adrian Alfonso