



Location: Zoom and 1130 N Eglin Pkwy,  
Shalimar FL 32579  
Date: January 8, 2021  
Time: 8:00 a.m.  
Approved 3.26.2021

## Board Meeting Minutes

### **Board Members Present:**

Beth Brant, Gubernatorial Appointee, Private Sector (Poly, Inc.)-Chair – In person  
Bev Sandlin, Northwest Florida State College President’s Appointee – Zoom  
Darrell Taylor, Private Sector – Zoom  
Michele Burns, CareerSource Okaloosa Walton – Zoom  
Pam Jones, School District of Walton County Superintendent’s Appointee – Zoom  
Brittney Hay, Private Provider (First Steps Learning Academy) – Zoom  
Louis Svehla, Walton County Commissioner’s Appointee, Secretary – Zoom  
Angie Strumeyer, DCF Circuit Administrator Appointee– Zoom  
Kim Gillis, Walton County Head Start Director – Zoom  
Don Edwards, Private Sector (Renasant Bank), Vice-Chair - Zoom  
John Roper, Representative of program under Federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (The Arc of the Emerald Coast) - Zoom  
Susan Blumenthal, Retired, Private Sector - Zoom

### **Board Members Absent:**

Amanda Negron, Private Sector  
Kathryn Barley, Walton County Health Department  
Robin Donlon, Private Sector, BBVA Compass Bank, Treasurer  
Scot B. Copeland, Private Sector – Emmanuel, Sheppard & Condon, P.A  
Vacant, Representative of Faith based Childcare Providers  
Vacant, Private Sector – Gubernatorial Appointee

### **Coalition Staff Present:**

Renea Black, Executive Director – In person  
Jerry Ann Chancellor, Executive Assistant – In person  
Ann Leaf, Finance Director – In person  
Dana Crupi, Early Education Director - Zoom

### **Public Present:**

None

### **Quorum:**

- Quorum confirmed 8:04 a.m.

### **I. Call to order – Beth Brant, Chair**

- Beth Brant, Chair called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m.



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## II. Agenda\*

- a. Beth Brant requested a motion to approve the agenda with the revision of item IV. New Business to include b. new board members.

MOTION/RESULT:	APPROVE AGENDA AS REVISED (UNANIMOUS)
MOTION BY:	JOHN ROPER
SECOND BY:	MICHELLE BURNS

- b. Minutes

Beth Brant requested a motion to approve the minutes for December 11, 2020, meeting as presented.

MOTION/RESULT:	APPROVE THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED (UNANIMOUS)
MOTION BY:	LOUIS SVEHLA
SECOND BY:	ANGIE STRUMEYER

## III. Treasurer's Report

- a. Financial Statements\*

Ann Leaf, Finance and Accounting Director shared the Coalition's financial statements for the month of November 2020 to include the COVID-19 Expenditures and Local SR Match reports.

Beth Brant requested a motion to approve the November 2020 Financial Statements as presented.

MOTION/RESULT:	APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 2020 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (UNANIMOUS)
MOTION BY:	BEV SANDLIN
SECOND BY:	DON EDWARDS

## IV. New Business

- a. Meeting Change\*

Renea Black asked for Board of Directors and Executive Committee meetings be moved to the fourth Friday of the month instead of the first Friday. A few board members have conflicting



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meetings on the first Friday. Renea also noted it will give staff the opportunity to provide more current updates.

MOTION/RESULT:	ACCEPT THE DATE CHANGES AS RECOMMENDED. (UNANIMOUS)
MOTION BY:	LOU SVEHLA
SECOND BY:	ANGIE STRUYMYER

b. New Members\*

Renea Black stated that board terms for Kim Gillis, Head Start Director and Brittany Hay, private child care provider representative end this month. Renea and Board members thanked them for their time and service to the Board. Renea reported that Ashley Thomas, Faith-based provider representative is no longer able to serve on the board as she is no longer employed at a Faith-based provider. Her term ends in 2023 and Renea shared that emails and Board Membership Applications have been submitted to all faith-based programs in Walton County for selection of a new member to complete the term. Renea noted that Anthony McKinney, has submitted his application for filling the Private Provider Representative (Okaloosa County).

Renea noted that we have a private sector member who has expressed interest in joining the Board. A board membership application has been provided.

Louis Svehla made the motion to accept the board membership of Anthony McKinney as the Private-provided representative from Okaloosa County.

MOTION/RESULT:	APPROVE BOARD MEMBERSHIP OF ANTHONY MCKINNEY. (UNANIMOUS)
MOTION BY:	LOU SVEHLA
SECOND BY:	ANGIE STRUYMER

V. **Old Business**

- a. United Way COVID-19 Grant - \$4100  
(1) Child Care Teacher Relief Committee

Renea shared that the ELC was awarded another United Way COVID-19 Grant for Child Care Teacher Relief Scholarships to offset child care costs for teachers in contracted programs. Renea recommended that Bev Sandlin and Don Edwards serve again as they volunteered for the first UWEC COVID-19 Grant committee. Bev and Don agreed to serve. Renea and board members thanked them for serving.



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## VI. Department Update:

Dana Crupi provided an update of the Education Department since becoming the Director in September 2020. Dana noted that when she became the Director there was only one existing staff member in the department. She hired one Early Education Specialist and an Early Education Administrative Assistant and we are in the process of hiring another Education Specialist in the next few weeks.

Dana reviewed the various systems overseen by the Education Department:

Quality Performance System (QPS)- Over 150 providers found in the system. Corrections have been made and the database has been cleaned up and the correct number of active School Readiness providers (68) has been established. She noted that providers are required to update their classroom rosters in the QPS monthly and as of last month 49 out of 68 had submitted updated rosters.

Child Screening: Ages and Stages Questionnaires (ASQ) – was behind approximately 4-5 months. Dana and her team have processed over 400 ASQ's with all families providing results. Currently working to streamline the process.

Quality Improvement Plans (QIP) - was not in place upon arrival. The provider requiring a QIP has completed the QIP. FY2020-2021 contracts have been certified for the provider. Dana noted there is a plan in place with supports for future QIP processes.

VPK Pilot Project – This is a program offered by OEL to providers to use the STAR Early Literacy tool. 19 private, 10 public school programs were approved. The first child assessments are due January 11 – February 12.

VPK Providers on Probation (POPS) – 14 initiated improvement plans, 5 opted out, 9 tracking and 4 are complete.

PDG Mental Health & Curriculum – Conscious Discipline and Creative Curriculum training has been scheduled.

Mid-Bay Rotary Grant – Calm Down kits were distributed to 12 providers. Approximately 35 practitioners registered for classes through the UF Lastinger Center (social and emotional).

Practitioners achieving mastery receive \$125. The ELC receives \$35 per every completed registration. Class ends on Monday (Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>) and final grades will be posted the following week.

Early Education Specialists –Are seeking or completed - Equity Task Force for qualified teachers; Infant Mental Health Endorsement, and Lastinger Center Certified Coach.

Future Plans – Making the Most of Classroom Interactions (MMCI) training and summer cohort, hosting Round Tables for child care staff, developing a Program Committee, hosting an Early Educator's Conference, hosting a Director's Institute in partnership with the HSU Education Foundation, conducting 2 more cohorts with UF and supporting DCF trainings.

Dana noted she is hiring an Early Education Specialist, a Community Liaison and a Community Resource and Development Manager.



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**VII. Public Comment**

- No public comments.

**VIII. Adjournment – Beth Brant, Chair**

- a. Beth adjourned the meeting at 9:04 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Renea Black, Executive Director

*\*Vote is required*

**MISSION STATEMENT**

*Our mission is to support the success of every child and their family through quality education and care.*