

Early Learning Coalition – Emerald Coast Board Meeting Minutes – May 21, 2021

Board Approved 6.25.21

Board Members in Attendance: Beth Brant, Ray Sansom, Louis Svehla, Bev Sandlin, Michele Burns, Angela Strumeyer, Anthony McKinney, Scot Copeland, John Roper, Pam Jones, Don Edwards

Call to order – Beth Brant, Chair

Beth Brant, Chair called the meeting to order at 8:11am

I. Agenda Approval –

- a. Chair requested to move the 19 - 20 Audit Report from Warren Averitt to the top of the agenda.

Motion Result:	Approved as moved Unanimous
Motion –	Bev Sandlin
Second –	Michele Burns

- b. Motion made by Anthony McKinney to add the survey monkey public survey conducted by former employees having to do with a vote of no confidence of the Executive Director to the agenda and record.

Motion Result:	Died for Lack of Second
Motion -	Anthony McKinney
Second -	None

Chair made comments regarding the mission of the Early Learning Coalition and addressed current issues at hand regarding the organization. Reinforced the mission of the organization.

II. Agenda –

1. Approval of Audit Report

Chad Hamilton, Warren Averitt presented the 19 - 20 Audit Report. Audit findings were presented.

Additional comments were presented by Beth Brant regarding the Attorney General Audit as well as other audits that are conducted regarding the ELC. Mentioned two discrimination complaints filed by two ex-employees who spoke at the last meeting and the inaccuracy of their complaints. Made comments regarding how well the ELC is doing supporting our providers and that she is proud of our team.

A request was made by Beth Brant for a motion to accept the audit findings as presented.

Motion Result:	Approve Agenda as Presented Unanimous
Motion -	Bev Sandlin
Second -	Louis Svehla

2. Approval of Minutes for 3.26.21 meeting

Motion Result:	Approve Minutes as Presented
	Unanimous
Motion -	Bev Sandlin
Second -	Louis Svehla

3. The summary of the Executed Contracts was presented to the Board as information. The status of Agency Audits and Monitoring was presented to the board and reference was made to the comments presented by the Chair at the beginning of the meeting.

Anthony McKinney made comment that he may not have been heard when voting for the minutes due to mic being muted. Added a yea vote.

III. Treasurer's Report

- February 2021 & March 2021 Financial Report
- COVID-19 Expenditures Report (pg. 27)
- Local SR Match Report (pg. 28)

1. The Treasurer's Report was presented by Ray Sansom. Question was asked by Louis Svehla whether any PPP Loan forgiveness had been approved. Answer was not yet and that it just takes time, but the State is moving through the requests. Louis Svehla presented comments regarding his pride in the fact that even through COVID, the ELC was able to perform and ensure that all providers and employees were paid.

Motion Result:	Approve Treasurer's Report as Presented
	Unanimous
Motion -	Angela Strumeyer
Second -	Bev Sandlin

IV. Old Business –

1. Wage Comparability Study and Compensation Analysis – RFP was discussed. Highest ranked firm was WIPFLI Louis Svehla asked if the RFP needed to be awarded.

Motion Result:	Approve to Tentatively Award to WIPFLI
	Unanimous
Motion -	Louis Svehla
Second -	Michele Burns

V. New Business –

1. Anti-Fraud Policy – Anti-Fraud policy was presented by Executive Director Renea Black.

Motion Result:	Approve Policy as Presented
	Unanimous
Motion -	Ray Sansom
Second -	Louis Svehla

2. Staff Updates – Renea Black discussed the recruiting for open positions as well as the process for a potential restructure/re-organization of positions. She presented new organization to take effect on July 1, 2021 which

would change upper management to include a CFO and COO that would report directly to ED. Other former director positions would be changed to manager positions and report to either CFO or COO. Discussions took place regarding the inability to hire at this time.

3. Legislative Overview – Renea Black presented information regarding HB-419 and how it will affect the coalition. A summary of the changes was read by the Chair. Discussion took place regarding the benefit this legislation will have for the ELC and providers. Bev Sandlin requested that the information be placed on the Facebook page and to be distributed wherever it can be distributed.

Ray Sansom departed the meeting at 9:07am with a quorum maintained.

4. Board Membership – Renea Black discussed the current need to recruit board members for the ELC and that it would be best to see if we can attract additional private sector members.
5. Phase V Grants – Renea Black presented information regarding grants that have been available to providers.

VI. Public Comment

1. Bev Sandlin presented information regarding awards that 2 current Northwest Florida State College teaching students received.
 - a. Sara Fuller – Terri Locoff Award – Only presented to 50 persons
 - b. Christina Walden – Gold Medal for State of Florida at Skills USA
2. Ann Leaf requested to read comments from the survey monkey public survey conducted by former employees. The request was denied.
3. Sebastian Edwards requested that the survey monkey public survey conducted by former employees be entered into the record. Request was denied as a prior motion to that affect had failed due to lack of a second. Edwards said that the informant should be heard. Louis Svehla said that that information can be received by request to those that conducted the survey. Also, that providers know how to contact the ELC if they have concerns.

Motion Result: Motion to Adjourn	
Nay vote by Anthony McKinney. Motion Passes	
Motion -	Louis Svehla
Second -	Michele Burns

Additional public comment was requested.

4. Ann Leaf requested for the board to answer the question of why she was terminated. Beth Brant replied that it would not be appropriate to discuss personnel matters.
5. Additional public comment requested. Louis Svehla noted that the motion to adjourn had been passed.

VII. Meeting adjourned at 9:30am