



**Board of Directors Meeting
December 19 2018 4:00-
5:00 PM Teleconference
Meeting**

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE:

Board Members Present by Phone: Wil Blechman, Bob Buesing, Chuck Hood, Gege Kreischer, Larry Pintacuda

Board Members Absent: Chris Card, Claudia Davant, Allyson Davis, Linda Stoller

Staff Present: Phyllis Kalifeh, Kerri Cloud, Denise Bishop

Welcome:

Chair Bob Buesing called the meeting to order at 4:08 PM. when a quorum was attained.

Reading and Approval of Minutes:

Bob asked for additions or corrections to the minutes of the October 26, 2018 meeting. Hearing no changes, Bob called for a motion to approve the minutes as written. The minutes were approved (M/S; Pintacuda/Kreischer); motion carried.

Mission Minute (*Opportunities for Board members to be emissaries of the Forum's mission*):

Gege shared that the Southern Early Childhood Association (SECA) conference is being held in Orlando February 28- March 2, 2019 and may provide opportunities for partnerships related to the Forum's strategic plan. Gege also discussed her role on the Board of the Glasser Museum in Tampa and the impact she may be able to have as the only board member with an early childhood background.

Chair's Report: Bob Buesing

Bob talked his experience at the Ready Nation Conference held in New York City in November. He shared several ideas that came out of the conference including the use of a Bond Program in Utah that pays companies back for money saved in early learning programming; this provides a substantial cost savings to bond-holders. Wil added that his idea was also introduced about five years ago through the Council for a Strong America. Bob emphasized that Utah may be the only

example of a state-level bond program, rather than one supported through foundation work. Bob discussed the Chamber Business Alliance Meeting he recently attended. He said there was a National Impact Study due out soon. As discussed in previous meetings, the University of South Florida (USF) has created the Rightpath Research and Innovation Center and has hired nine faculty members specializing in early care and education to run the center. Bob has had an opportunity to meet with Dr. Jason Anthony who is an expert in assessment with infants, toddlers, and preschool children. The Center has received multi-million dollar grants from around the country so far, but Bob would like to see an increased investment at the state level. He has suggested that the Center use Hillsborough County as a potential source of data to inform their research and initiatives. Bob has also been promoting the Child Care WAGES[®] Program in Hillsborough County. WAGES has just been introduced in Pinellas county as a program targeting child care programs in low-income communities.

Update on sale of the building at 2807 Remington Green Circle, Tallahassee Florida.

- \$800k counter offer was not accepted.
- Larry shared that the owner of an office building for lease on Mahan Rd was planning to make a counter offer which would include the possibility of the Forum leasing back the building at 2807 Remington Green, at a discounted rate, from a new owner while renovations of the Mahan building were being completed. There was conversation about the pros and cons to this. The biggest negative of that arrangement was that the Mahan Rd. space was still divided into two separate buildings.
- Negotiations and a search for an appropriate buyer and office space are in process.

Finance Committee: Kerri Cloud, CFO

- **Financial Statements:**

Kerri shared that four months into the fiscal year, the profit was \$1489.00.

The Florida Early Learning Disaster Relief (FEDLR) is listed in the financial statements as a restricted section. The financial statement as of October 31, 2018 is attached.

Motion to approve the financial statements (M/S; Pintacuda/Blechman). The current financial statements were approved by the members.

- **CEO Travel & Expense Report:**

Motion to approve the CEO Travel and Expense report and the motion was seconded (M/S: Hood/Pintacuda). The current CEO Travel & Expense Report was approved by the members and signed by the Chair (attached).

President's Report: Phyllis Kalifeh (see summary attached)

Pritzker Foundation Grant

- Phyllis is coordinating a collaborative effort to bring key stakeholders together to develop a strong application for a Pritzker Foundation planning grant. The Children's Forum should be well-positioned to be the administrative lead on the grant if awarded as one of the requirements is that the lead be a 501c3 organization. Wil added that this was a great opportunity to reduce or eliminate some of the silos that exist within the field in Florida.

Larry asked for clarification about what it meant to be the “administrative lead.” Phyllis shared that it meant we would have financial support to continue to coordinate the collaboration and we would also have a policy voice moving forward. Bob acknowledged that the Pritzker Foundation had accomplished the goal of breaking down barriers and forcing collaboration by accepting only one application form each state interested in applying. Will added that the planning grant had the advantage of pulling everyone together to address system improvements. TGege shared that the list of stakeholders involved in the application process is extensive and appropriately represents the interested and diversity of the field.

Early Learning Consortium

- Phyllis shared that she has developed a white paper for the EL Consortium addressing the need for an increase in Base Student Allocation for the Florida Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) program. This will be distributed to the legislature during committee weeks and beyond. In addition, the platform for the EL Consortium has been finalized and focus areas have been established. Bob suggested that the Chamber Foundation, which has no lobbyists, should partner with the EL Consortium on early childhood issues. Bob and Larry both suggested that this partnership be explored further. Gege suggested that we develop some *Program Director Stories* to share with the legislature to provide substance and narrative to the VPK BSA ask.

Status of the Building Sale (discussed earlier in the meeting)

Legislative session and Children’s Week

- Session begins in March this year (not an early session), so it gives us more time to educate new members of the legislature on issues and initiatives related to early childhood. Phyllis has begun to meet with legislators and their staff. Children’s Week begins March 25, 2019.

Strategic Plan Progress:

Minor edits were made following the last review to the strategic plan and Phyllis asked the board members to review these individually and send her any comments they may have so she can incorporate them.

New Business:

Deferred Compensation Plan for Phyllis Kalifeh and adjustments to her 403B plan.

Closed Executive Session (N/A)

Motion to Adjourn: (M/S: Pintacuda/Kreischer). Meeting was adjourned

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for **Friday, March 15, 2019.**

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Pintacuda
Secretary

Denise Bishop
Recording



Signature of Secretary

<<will be reviewed and approved at March meeting>>

Minutes Approved (date)



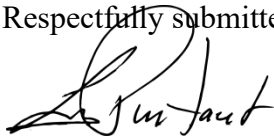
Signature of President

<<will be reviewed and approved at March meeting>>

Minutes Approved (date)

Minutes from 2/28/19 E-Mail Vote: The Board agreed to proceed with the sale of the building at 2807 Remington Green Circle at a price of \$675,000. Phyllis will proceed on behalf of the board to execute the sale.

Respectfully submitted,



Larry J. Pintacuda, Secretary



Bob E., Chair

Approved

March 15, 2019