

COLLABORATION FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD

IGA GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

October 21, 2020 – 7:00 PM

Call to Order

Chairperson Arti Walker-Peddakotla from the Village board called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: Jackie Moore, Joylynn Pruitt-Adams, Katherine Liebl, Jim Taglia, Arti Walker-Peddakotla, Cara Pavlicek, Sara Spivy, Carol Kelley, and recording secretary Sheryl Marinier

Absent: Jung Kim

Also present: John Borrero, Laura Crawford, Gordon Hellwig, Penny Wallingford, Patrick King, Becki Streit, Julie Stevens, Louise Gates, Lisa Ginet, and Heather Duncan, Jennifer Little, Zachary Rimkus, Rupa Datta, Shannon Ellison and Sophia Grimes.

Approval of Agenda

It was moved by member Pruitt-Adams and seconded by member Taglia to approve the agenda as presented. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Pruitt-Adams, Taglia, Moore, Liebl, Walker-Peddakotla, Pavlicek, Spivy, and Kelley

Nay: None

Absent: Kim

Motion carried.

Election of Officers

Member Liebl nominated Jung Kim as chairperson for the year.

Member Spivy nominated Jackie Moore as vice-chairperson for the year.

Member Taglia nominated Walker-Peddakotla as secretary for the year.

It was moved by member Pavlicek and seconded by member Kelley to elect member Jung Kim as chairperson, member Jackie Moore as vice-chairperson, and member Walker-Peddakotla as secretary for the year.

Ayes: Pavlicek, Kelley, Pruitt-Adams, Taglia, Moore, Liebl, Walker-Peddakotla, and Spivy

Nay: None

Absent: Kim

Motion carried.

Calendar of Meeting Dates

Member Liebl reminded everyone that the joint board meeting is scheduled for November 18, 2020, the winter meeting is scheduled for February 24, 2021, and the final meeting, which is actually a Collaboration Board meeting is scheduled for May 20, 2021.

Public Comment – none

Approval of Minutes from February 19, 2020

It was moved by member Moore and seconded by member Taglia to approve the minutes from February 19, 2020 as presented. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Moore, Taglia, Pruitt-Adams, Liebl, Walker-Peddakotla, Pavlicek, Spivy, and Kelley
Nay: None
Absent: Kim
Motion carried.

Report on Contract

John Borrero, Executive Director of the Collaboration for Early Childhood reported on the status of the organization. He introduced Cece the flying pig as one of the new characters that will appear in the organizations new branding. Borrero explained that the goal of the new branding is to portray the Collaboration as professionals who love children. Illustrator, Amy Huntington was acknowledged for creating the new characters.

Borrero reminded the board that the Program Service Model was introduced last year. This program provides a variety of services to meet the needs of families. Additionally, he reported that the Collaboration is in the process of creating their first ever annual report. The goal of the report is to give the community an understanding of what the Collaboration can do to assist them. Borrero expects the report and the new website design to be released sometime between mid to late November.

Borrero reported that the Collaboration has grown to 10 full-time employees. He introduced the members of the Collaboration's team, noting that Sophia Grimes is the most recent hire.

He shared how the Collaboration is supporting the community through the pandemic, and noted that they are working with District 97, the Library, and the equity team to offer "Ready, Set, Kindergarten". This program will be offered to students who are transitioning from preschool to kindergarten.

Borrero reported that the Collaboration received a grant from the Community Foundation. The grant will allow the Collaboration to share classroom safety practices with the rest of the community. He explained that some of the information shared will come from the CDC, the state, and the Oak Park Public Health Director Mike Charlie. Additionally, he reported that the Collaboration has updated its equity statement to include physical/mental health as well as racial equity, and has hired the Morten Group for transforming organizations through assessment, education and action.

Borrero shared the idea of relative poverty, noting that three out of 20 children (about 544 children) living in Oak Park are living below the federal poverty guidelines. He explained the need to look at poverty differently in Oak Park, and questioned how Oak Park and River Forest are finding and supporting the low income families and children. He suggested that it could take years to find all of these families and to build relationships and trust with them.

Collaboration Financial Report

Gordon Hellwig, presented the financial report as Treasurer of the Early Childhood Collaboration Board. The report was positively received with discussion regarding 2020 financial statements and review of the preliminary budget for 2021-2022. Hellwig reported that the current audit was completed and unmodified.

Administrative District's Finance Report

Patrick King, Director of Finance for District 97 explained that the IGA Governing Financial report is the bank balances of the four accounts that he controls. The three governments contribute to the IGA funds and as needed every other month, the collaboration can request withdrawals. In some years, there are surpluses that accumulate. In February 2019 there was a surplus that could be refunded. This year, the Collaboration opted to not invoice for the sixth payment which allowed the Collaboration to maintain a workable balance.

Return of Unspent Contract Funds

Hellwig told the board that because the Collaboration did not invoice for the sixth invoice last year, it only has a \$6,000 surplus; therefore, there is nothing to refund to the governing bodies at this time.

John Borrero shared that he considered how the Collaborations spending is different because of the pandemic, and noted that the amount of the budget that the organization underspent was comparable to the sixth payment that was not invoice to the governing bodies.

Process for maintaining records and setting and posting agenda

Member Liebl told the members that Sheryl Marinier will be the recording secretary for the board this year. Sheryl will work with Laura Crawford and John Borerro from the Collaboration, and Chairperson Kim, to prepare agendas for each of the meetings.

Location of Tri-board meeting

John Borerro asked this board to identify topics of interest for the November joint meeting. Interest was expressed in hearing the following;

- Chapin Hall update
- The work that needs to be done in order to incorporate River Forest into the partnership
- Update on goals the partners had and how it relates to beyond the early years
- What is happening to the other kids in the homes of the Oak Park poverty preschoolers? Where are they now, and what do they look like?
- Keeping the purpose of the Collaboration in mind, what are we doing to talk about all of these issues?
- What is the Collaboration doing to focus on the mental health aspects of the pandemic, and how can we make it more tangible?

It was noted that the November joint meeting will be held virtually. The agenda and connection details will be shared with the three boards as soon as possible.

Meeting date/locations for the February and May meetings

The recording secretary was asked to email the future meeting dates to the members of the IGA board.

Adjournment

It was moved by member Moore and seconded by member Taglia to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 p.m. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Moore, Taglia, Pruitt-Adams, Liebl, Walker-Peddakotla, Pavlicek, Spivy, and Kelley

Nay: None

Absent: Kim

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by, Sheryl Marinier Recording Secretary