

COLLABORATION FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD

IGA GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

February 24, 2021 – 7:00 PM

Call to Order

Chairperson Jung Kim from District 97 called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: Joylynn Pruitt-Adams, Jim Taglia, Arti Walker-Peddakotla, Lisa Shelly (for Cara Pavlicek), Sara Spivy, Carol Kelley, and Recording Secretary Sheryl Marinier

Absent: Katherine Liebl, Jackie Moore, and Cara Pavlicek

Also present: John Borrero, Laura Crawford, Gordon Hellwig, Penny Wallingford, Patrick King, Becki Streit, Louise Gates, Lisa Ginet, and Heather Duncan, Jennifer Little, Shannon Ellison, Whitney Brooks, Elizabeth Lippitt, Azucena Galvez, and Sophie Grimes

Approval of Agenda

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

Ayes: Taglia, Spivy, Pruitt-Adams, Walker-Peddakotla, Shelly, Kim, and Kelley

Nay: None

Absent: Liebl, Pavlicek and Moore

Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes from October 23, 2020

It was moved by member Walker-Peddakotla and seconded by member Pruitt-Adams to approve the minutes from October 23, 2020 as presented. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Walker-Peddakotla, Pruitt-Adams, Taglia, Kim, Shelly, Spivy, and Kelley

Nay: None

Absent: Liebl, Moore, Pavlicek

Motion carried.

Public Comment

None

Progress Report – Update on Current and Upcoming Collaboration Activities

John Borrero, Exec Director of the Collaboration for Early Childhood shared a review of the organization's activities and the program service model highlighting four areas, community engagement, family engagement, health and development, and early learning. He reported that the Collaboration is working with the Morten Group to interview staff and look for ways to embed equity. He noted that the Morten Group is also doing this work for the state of Illinois.

Borrero reported that the Collaboration is partnering with the New Teacher Center examining teacher practice and how they work with the children.

FY20-21 Financial Report

Gordon Hellwig presented the financial report as of January 31, 2021. He reported that the Collaboration is on track to use all six of the invoice requests to the funding bodies this year. Hellwig reported a \$205,782.49 surplus, but

explained that the surplus is always greater in the first month of an invoice period. The funds run down as the pay periods move forward. He assured the IGA Governing Board that the goal is to maintain a zero based budget.

Borrero reported that the pandemic caused a need to shift away from in-person programming and events, and more of a need to reach people for remote programming. He reported that the Collaboration is spending about the same amount of money as last year, noting that the expenses are just different. Borrero explained that there has also been an increase in grant opportunities.

FY21-22 Budget Forecast

Hellwig reported that he adjusted the budget mid-year due to the different working conditions caused by the pandemic. He explained that the staff has provided very good notes to explain the needed changes, which totaled about \$5,000.

The proposed FY21-22 budget was shared in detail. Hellwig noted that since the new budget begins in July, and the end of the pandemic is questionable, the Collaboration will need to continue their engagement in pandemic work for the unforeseeable future.

Hellwig recommended a one percent increase to the budget over last year's, noting the need to increase employee wages. He reported that the organization is fully staffed, and there would only need to be minor changes to the contracted services. Borrero reminded the Governing Board that the organization shares a second location with Easter Seals (next to the Live! Café). The organization had plans to do some updates there, but that had been delayed due to the pandemic. The Collaboration would also like to continue the racial equity work.

Borrero reported that the Collaboration had a very strong year in the community. He recommended a celebration be planned to recognize the Collaborations 20th anniversary in Oak Park. Borrero acknowledged the team of people who support the Collaboration, noting that they are ambassadors for this work.

Financial Report from the Fiscal Agent

Patrick King, the fiscal agent for the Governing Board, shared the updated financial report. He noted that as of January 31, 2021, there have been four draws requested, and he is anticipating two more. King reported that all three governing bodies have submitted their contributions to date.

King reported that there was some confusion about what the administrative reserve fund is used for. He suggested that the language in the IGA might be revisited to clarify the purpose of these funds. He reported that the reserve funds have not been touched since 2018, and he offered to participate with someone else to research the need for these funds.

Upcoming Date

Schedule a Spring IGA Governing Board Meeting

Borrero asked if the Governing Board would consider an additional meeting on Wednesday, March 24, 2021 to discuss the reserve account. He explained that this account contains money that was underspent in the past and was put into a reserve fund. Borrero explained that the Collaboration would like to propose uses for these funds. He noted that Erikson Institute performed a powerful study of Oak Park a few years ago. It was a three-year pilot that should have had follow up last year, but it was delayed due to the pandemic. Borrero explained that the original service was completed for free, but the follow up would cost about \$150,000. He explained that this expense is not included in the Collaboration's budget, but he felt that it would be a good investment for the entire community.

Borrero went into detail about the process, explaining that Erikson created a work group of stakeholders that helped determine the census blocks and created custom questions for some of the areas. Teachers was trained on how to complete the tool on their own, based on their knowledge from the beginning of the school year to about December. Erikson received a 100 percent completion rate, which he explained is very rare. He suggested that the Village might consider including the parochial schools in the follow up.

Borrero also expressed interest in talking to the Governing Board about buying licenses for Teaching Strategies Gold, a preschool assessment tool currently used by the Publicly Funded Preschool programs in Oak Park. It includes teacher training and licenses to use the assessment software.

He asked if Wednesday, March 24, 2021 at 7:00 PM would work for the majority of the board. With no objections, the secretary offered to poll the group to ensure quorum.

Annual Meeting – May 13, 2021 at 7 p.m.

It was reported that the annual Collaboration board meeting is scheduled for May 13, 2021 at 7 p.m.

Adjournment

It was moved by member Pruitt-Adams and seconded by member Walker-Peddakotla to adjourn the meeting at 7:01 p.m. Roll call vote.

Ayes: Pruitt-Adams, Walker-Peddakotla, Taglia, Shelly, Spivy, and Kelley

Nay: None

Absent: Liebl, Moore and Pavlicek

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by, Sheryl Marinier Recording Secretary