



**DRAFT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING MINUTES
June 6, 2017**

Meeting: Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting

Day/Date/Time: Tuesday, June 6, 2017 at 8 a.m.

Location: Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties, Inc.
15506 County Line Road
Spring Hill, FL 34610

Board of Director Members Present: Pat McHugh, Chair; Dr. Amy Anderson, Lisa Campos, Cynthia Cook, James Cook, Cathy Dofka, Gus Guadagnino, David Meglay, Angela Porterfield, Neil Thompson

Board of Director Members Present via Phone: Kathleen Casper, Jessica Weightman

Board of Director Members Excused: John Allocco, Florence Buono, San Shrieves, Mary Beth Wehnes

Board Members Unexcused: Josh Kelly

Coalition Staff Present: Carolyn Casler, Pattie Eacobacci, Jim Farrelly, Rachel Hardy, Jak Jakubauskas, Betsy Kier

Guests Present: None

I. Welcome and Call to Order – Pat McHugh, Chair

Mr. McHugh called this special meeting of the Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties, Inc. Board of Directors to order at 8:03 a.m. and thanked everyone for attending.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited followed by introductions.

II. Action Items

- **Adoption of Agenda**

Mr. McHugh requested a motion to adopt the agenda. Mr. Meglay so moved and Mr. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor with no abstentions and the motion carried. **(Action Item #1617-22)**

- **Consideration for Expansion of Executive Committee Membership**

Mr. McHugh explained this item to expand the Executive Committee is being brought about by Mr. Cook. Mr. Cook explained this Board and the Executive Committee have an awesome responsibility - the care and education of thousands of children. Decisions made will have a long impact on the children and an increase in the Executive Committee representation will allow for sharing the burden of decision making and create a diversity of thought. He explained that an emergency situation can arise and if only three (3) members serve, that leaves the decision making with two (2) people who will make decisions for the entire Board and thousands of children.

Mr. Cook continued saying there are more women on the Board now having different perspectives and ideas on education which are needed on the Executive Committee. The new incoming Board will consist of ten (10) women and seven (7) men.

Mr. Cook moved to expand the Executive Committee from three (3) members to five (5) members. Mr. McHugh inquired if there was any discussion.

Mr. Guadagnino inquired why this emergency meeting had been called for this idea. Mr. Guadagnino was informed that this is not an "emergency" meeting, but a "special" meeting. Mr. Farrelly explained that Mr. Cook's suggestion was brought up at the May Executive meeting, at which Mr. Guadagnino was not present, and the decision on whether to wait until the July meeting or hold a special meeting was decided at that time.

Mr. McHugh stated it is better to expand the Committee sooner than later. Mr. Meglay stated this meeting was also called to accommodate his schedule as he will be out of town with the Department of Defense for the next month which would have left the Committee with only two (2) members.

Mr. Thompson inquired why a Board of 16-17 members has only three (3) members on the Executive Committee to make decisions. He has served on a number of different boards and he does not feel increasing membership has anything to do with the integrity of the individuals, but he does not want it to seem as an insular group.

Ms. Casper stated she has also served on a number of boards and agrees that expanding committee membership will allow for more voices to be heard and more Board involvement.

Mr. Guadagnino stated he agreed up to a point. Over the years, he has contributed over 14,000 hours of personal time volunteering on boards and now has a problem of "trust" with the way things are happening. He feels he should resign because of these trust issues, but he is not a quitter. At the last Board meeting, there was a different Chair, where is he now. (The former Chairman announced on March 30, 2017 that he would complete his term of office, concluding April 30, 2017.) The recent public information

requests, the videotaping at the last meeting, labeling a member of the public “the shadow,” having a deputy attend, having Mr. Farrelly state he now carries a gun, all feel like it may be a hostile work environment for staff. Mr. Guadagnino stated he has suggested that Mr. Farrelly step down and that he was the go between for Mr. Farrelly and “the shadow” and relayed information. Mr. Guadagnino then received a phone call from Mr. Meglay who called to inquire whether there was an intention to take down Mr. Farrelly and the Coalition. Mr. Guadagnino stated he had met with Mr. Meglay and went on to speak of the grievance hearing for a former staff person. He explained he witnessed Mr. McHugh outside speaking with the staff person, prior to the meeting. Mr. McHugh then came into the meeting,

(CORRECTION: At the July 27, 2017 Board meeting, Mr. McHugh requested a motion to approve the minutes of the June 6, 2017 Board Meeting as presented if there were no corrections. Mr. Guadagnino stated he had a correction on page 3, the sentence containing “...while it was being recorded...” The correction should read, “Pat McHugh stated... ‘before we begin to record’, the case may be resolved.” Mr. Guadagnino explained the original content was incorrect.) When asked what the staff person wanted, Mr. Guadagnino stated Mr. Farrelly grabbed his crotch and explained “...she wants these.” Mr. Guadagnino again stated he has no trust and stated that outside forces are ready to come forward.

Mr. McHugh stated there is a motion on the table, is there a second. Mr. Meglay seconded Mr. Cook’s motion. A roll call vote was taken by Ms. Jakubauskas with nine (9) yes votes, one (1) no vote and one (1) abstention. The motion to expand the Executive Committee to five (5) members passed. **(Action Item #1617-23)**

- **Solicitation of Board member volunteers for appointment**

Mr. McHugh requested volunteers for appointment to the Executive Committee. Ms. Casper and Ms. Porterfield volunteered. Mr. Thompson also volunteered, but explained he would defer to the ladies to have more diversity on the Committee.

Mr. McHugh moved to approve Ms. Casper and Ms. Porterfield to the Executive Committee and Mr. Thompson seconded the motion. All were in favor with no abstentions and the motion carried. **(Action Item #1617-24)**

III. Public Input

None.

IV. Adjournment

Dr. Anderson moved to adjourn this meeting of the Board of Directors of the Early Learning Coalition; it was adjourned at 8:25 a.m. without further discussion.

Respectfully submitted by:
Ramute “Jak” Jakubauskas, Administrative Assistant I