



**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, March 15, 2017 at 8 a.m.**  
**15506 County Line Road**  
**Spring Hill, FL 34610**

**Committee Members Present: Dr. Steve Kanakis, Chair; Gus Guadagnino, Pat McHugh**

**Committee Members Present via Phone: None**

**Committee Members Excused: None**

**Coalition Staff Present: Jim Farrelly, Jak Jakubauskas**

**Others Present: Jeff Webb**

**I. Call to Order – Dr. Steve Kanakis, Chair**

Dr. Kanakis called the regularly scheduled Executive Committee meeting to order at 8:07 a.m., and welcomed attendees.

**II. Review/Adoption, Draft Minutes from February 15, 2017**

Dr. Kanakis requested a motion to adopt the minutes from the February 15, 2017 Executive Committee meeting as presented if there were no corrections or changes; Mr. McHugh so moved and Mr. Guadagnino seconded the motion. All were in favor with no abstentions and the motion carried.

**III. Review/Adoption, Draft Minutes from March 8, 2017 Executive Committee Meeting**

Dr. Kanakis requested a motion to adopt the minutes from the March 8, 2017 Executive Committee meeting as presented if there were no corrections or changes; Mr. McHugh so moved and Mr. Guadagnino seconded the motion. All were in favor with no abstentions and the motion carried.

**IV. Update, Hernando County’s “Early Education Initiative”**

Mr. Farrelly explained the Hernando County School Superintendent invited participants to an Early Learning Summit on January 24, 2017. This first meeting included Mr. Guadagnino representing the Hernando School Board; Dr. Romano and several executive staff members representing Hernando County Schools; Mr. Farrelly representing the Coalition; Pasco-Hernando State College was also represented with executive leadership and other management staff. Guests were also invited to participate and Mr. Farrelly invited the directors from both the Hernando and Pasco Head Start organizations.

The summit seeks to address what needs to be done to have early learning become a key issue. Both Dr. Romano and Mr. Guadagnino addressed key issues and the need to transition to a seamless progression from Early Learning (or preschool) to a K-12 program with this initiative. Mr. Farrelly stated the group plans to meet monthly to begin to develop a seamless system.

Mr. Farrelly explained the current administration in Washington is fostering support for child care and Florida has also planned to allocate additional funds for Early Learning. The summit hopes to see a partnership between the Coalition, Hernando and Pasco County Schools and Pasco-Hernando State College. The next meeting is scheduled for March 30, 2017.

A brief discussion followed on continuing to encourage Mr. Kurt Browning, Superintendent of Pasco County Schools to attend future summit meetings.

Mr. Farrelly explained that at the last summit meeting he learned that Head Start's perspective on VPK teachers was different from that of the Coalition's. Head Start requires a much higher level of training for VPK teachers. Coalition requirements for a VPK teacher consist of a completion of a 40 hour on-line course and one other on-line course. Head Start requires a minimum of an Associates' degree. However, the Coalition does offer its teachers a variety of training.

## **V. Update, School Readiness Waitlist**

Mr. Farrelly reported the Coalition is having a great year that is directly tied to funding. When children begin to enroll in June, the Coalition must have funds through the following year to continue services. The waitlist in July was at approximately 2,400 children, one of the highest numbers in Coalition history. The Board has required that spending on services is to be at 90% or higher for Direct Services in order to eliminate the waitlist. As of last Friday, the waitlist stands at 107 children (76 in the 0-5 age range and 31 in the school-age to age-12 range). Families are receiving services within a week of applying.

Mr. Farrelly has reviewed the budget and the Coalition is in good shape with a projected Direct Services surplus of \$850,000 through June 30, 2017. These funds will enable the waitlist to remain open through June 30<sup>th</sup>. He reported that School Readiness enrollment, as of the end of February, was at 3,843, a nearly record enrollment with only one other year, within the last six (6) years, having a higher enrollment.

Mr. Farrelly reported that VPK has 4,910 children enrolled, again the second highest enrollment year.

Non-Direct Services also has a projected surplus of approximately \$350,000 in part due to the savings from a projected health insurance increase that did not materialize. The FY 2017-18 budget is still unknown, but the Coalition will purchase items this year for next fiscal year such as toner for printers and computers. Next year's budget is nearly finalized

and the Executive Committee will see a first draft at April's meeting with a final version for full Board approval at the July meeting.

Mr. Farrelly stated the Governor's proposal for Early Learning was healthy and should maintain the current funding less the one-time contribution of \$700,000 this Coalition received from the State earlier this fiscal year. For providers, a \$50 increase per child is being considered for the VPK program.

Mr. Farrelly advised he had two (2) additional items to discuss. The first is an update on the site for the 2017 annual conference. The conference has been held at Bishop McLaughlin High School, but they have increased their rates from \$3,600 last year to \$9,000 this year which also includes a \$3 per car parking fee. Mr. Farrelly has tried to negotiate a better price with Bishop McLaughlin's new administration, but was only able to have the cost dropped slightly. Therefore, the Coalition has reached out to Pasco County Schools and River Ridge High School. A contract is being considered for about \$3,800.

A brief discussion followed on the 1,200 seating capacity in the auditorium and the arrangement of classes for the various breakout sessions. Staff does have a list of potential keynote speakers, but are waiting to confirm the date and location with a signed contract. Mr. Farrelly stated that Mr. Ernest Hooper, last year's keynote speaker, was a big hit with providers and he has asked to come back in some roll for this year's conference.

The second item is as of June 30, 2017 a large number of Board member changes will occur as 4-year terms expire and county representation switches. About six (6) Board members will leave the Board and as some of these are mandated positions, Coalition staff will begin to reach out to the designated agencies to begin recruiting replacements. An example is Mr. John Allocco, Hernando County Commissioner who has just joined the Board to complete former Commissioner Diane Rowden's term which expires at the end of June. He will be replaced by a Pasco County Commissioner.

Dr. Kanakis inquired if there was any other business to conduct; there was no new business.

**VI. Public Input**

None.

**VII. Adjournment**

Dr. Kanakis requested a motion to adjourn this meeting of the Executive Committee; Mr. McHugh so moved and the meeting was adjourned at 8:41 a.m. without further discussion.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Jak Jakubauskas  
Administrative Assistant I