



Early Childhood Learning Center

Monday, August 28, 2017 5:00 pm
Early Childhood Learning Center
4309 N. 34th Street
Tampa, FL 33609

In attendance: Board President Michelle Shimberg (MS), Directors Jerome Lieberman (JL) and Virginia Lieberman (VL).

Guests included: ECLC Principal Frances McCrimmon (FM); Evolution Institute, Inc. Executive Director Jerry Miller (JM); Advisory Group members Darlene DeMarie (DD) and Frankie Jones (FJ).

1. Opening Session

- a. Meeting was called to order at 5:05pm.
- b. A motion was made to approved the Agenda; it was seconded and **approved unanimously**.

2. Public Comment

- a. None were submitted

3. Reports

- a. School Progress Report: Principal Fran McCrimmon gave overview.
 - All 22 out of the 23 items required that we provide to the school district have been uploaded/submitted. The crises management plan is due.
 - Our enrollment is 27 children – we lost one student and gained one.
 - The District will average the 1st and 2nd student count submitted previously and will likely fund up based on 30 children until next the count.
 - Also, we believe we will qualify for Title 1 money since we have 90% free and reduced lunch.
 - JL asked if BM has done outreach for new students. It was reported that BM did attend an event recently and her mother, who runs a child care center, has referred people here.
 - MS says we don't know if we will get to 30 students. If Potter students arrive it may be because they have had challenges.
 - Lack of walls in the classrooms are a problem due to noise and lack of containment.
 - DD said her colleague at USF may be willing to adopt a school.
- b. MS provided an update:
 - The first dance class was held and students loved it. Students were much more attentive. The dance instructor was very effective with managing the children.
 - The music program from the Straz starts this Friday for the first time.
 - Both teachers expressed a need for planning time.
- c. Financial Report
 - JL estimates \$45k net loss with the number of children we have.



Early Childhood Learning Center

- MS had asked Ashle for an updated financial report. She also asked for a revision based on the number of students to get an idea of the budget with the reduced number of students.
- JL is looking at how to spend in the most effective way to help the families. MS thinks it needs to be for the operation of the school as a first choice if needed. Costs will likely exceed income.
- JL reports the way we presented this to the district is that the school would be as a full-service school. JL reports there is a need for a full-service school. He believes it is essential to success since there are some homeless families and families that can use supports or program intervention. The funding he raised was for the full service school.
- JL reports that he met with health agencies who report they may be able to provide some support for students with special needs. JL will send the names to us and we can try to track them down.

4. Consent Agenda

- a. Approve Minutes from previous meeting: Motion was made to approve the minutes from the prior meetings. This was seconded and **unanimously approved**.

5. Board Discussion/ Actions

- a. Potter School Meeting: JL sent a report from the meeting that was attended by the Principal of Potter, Tracey Jones from the District, FJ, and Brittany McCloud.
 - Potter Principal indicates one major issue they face is the mobility rate – where students move in and out of the neighborhood. In addition, many families have financial stresses – such as joblessness and homelessness. JL talked about a linkage with the HOPE Center, for supportive services.
 - Potter Principal agreed to talk with a counselor in their school to work with us on an ongoing basis. Tracey asked for the name of the individual so there can be some follow through.
 - We may be able to put some dollars from the Evolution Institute (not from the school funding) into this partnership if it made sense.
 - FJ is supposed to work with the Potter parent liaison.
 - For the parent meeting, we will invite someone from HOPE and Pam Jeffre from Success for Kids.
 - MS says she doesn't want to see an excuse that our children are different, etc. Poverty is not an excuse. The prior school she served on the board of was an F school and now it's an A school now that it is a partnership school with the District. MS says the expectations need to be that the students can be on grade level.
 - JL reports the lesson learned from the charter school he helped start in the past included the value of case management and partnerships.
 - JL suggests DD be given the MOU with the District to support the case for adopting ECLC as their school. MS will send them.
 - JL will get back to Tracey about follow-up meetings regarding Potter.
 - FJ reinforces what MS said about success being possible for the kids.
 - MS thanks FJ and BM for attending the meeting at Potter.



Early Childhood Learning Center

- JL reported when he stopped in unannounced at our school, he saw the affection between the teachers and children.
 - MS and FM report very good parent communication.
- b. Expanding the Board
- JL passed out a note (attached), about expanding the ECLC board.
 - MS reported on Jenna's conversation. Only way we can expand our charter school is to include additional members of the EI board with the limitation that their responsibility is solely for the school and not the rest of the EI.
 - MS sent the conflict of interest information from the statues and EI policies.
 - The next steps are to amend the EI bylaws to allow for a special member who would only serve on the EI board.
 - JL suggests people who are nominated for the Board should have evidenced certain support for the school. We also need to be mindful of diversity and talents.
 - The conflict of interest rules are clear that no board member can have financial benefit.
- c. Comprehensive Community Center
- MS reports she has arranged for the following agencies to visit the school:
 1. Jewish Family Service - they have counseling, testing, and food support.
 2. Two school board members, who have since postponed
 3. Marlen Rubin - school psychologist
 4. Champions for Children - numerous support programming
 5. Frameworks - social emotional training
 - JL asked if someone in-house is familiar with the “one stop concept”. JL brought info about a model of a community partnership school - Evans High School. Sam Bell is involved with this and the Castors. MS will reach out to Sam Bell and have a conversation with him.
 - FJ said the community room will be open for use by parents and for the school itself.
- d. Student Progression and Education Quality Committee
- JM will organize this with DD and VL, FM is a de facto member. FJ will do some class observation.
 - DD has completed bios with the students and these will be on the wall for parent night.
 - DD points out that learning is not linear and does not want us to be too early in categorizing the kids.
 - There was discussion about student group behavior and VL pointed out there are some milestones in the application by grade for participation behavior. (Page 54)
- e. Curriculum Enhancements
- *Tune into Reading* – This is a remedial reader for second grade and so may not be appropriate for us. It is a computer based reading program where the students sing.



Early Childhood Learning Center

- Grant possibilities - Garden grant, classroom pet, Community Foundation, and other grants we will be looking at. Ashle is keeping track of these opportunities.
 - The STRAZ programming starts on Friday.
 - McGraw Hill has a new pilot language arts program that may be available to use at no cost during the pilot. FM may meet with the representative this week.
 - *Everyday Math* is ahead of where our students are. The publisher also gave us the antecedent teacher's manual of Everyday Math if we want to try that.
- f. School/staff needs:
- We asked the staff for a list of what they need.

Notes/Actions:

JL asks that we put on the agenda fundraising prospects for next meeting.

6. Adjourned at 6:51 pm.

Important Dates

August 28 – Board Meeting

September 7 – Open House

September 25 – Board Meeting

September 28 – Family Game Night - 6 pm

October 30 – Board Meeting

Thoughts on how best to expand our early childhood board

We need to submit a proposal to have the EI board approve the expansion of the ECLC board to include for the present school year up to four new members. The language has to be clear that the EI board is creating a distinct governing body that includes three existing members who qualify because they live in the geographical area that are permitted by state law to serve on a local public charter school. This local expanded school board will be nominated by our three EI board members and recommended for the full board's consideration. The ECLC board would be exclusively responsible for the governance of the school and will be appointed to serve specific terms by the EI board. This ECLC board would be responsible for school governance and policy, but not any other aspects of EI

The present members will base their nominations on the following considerations:

Nominees will generally be people that have already served in an advisory capacity for the ECLC and made a significant contribution.

They will ensure that to the extent possible greater balance in terms of diversity and talents.

For the sake of only discussion at today's public meeting a potential list of nominees is provided that I believe very much qualify as nominees:

Frankie Jones

Robert Johnston

Darlene DeMarie

Tami Trimming

Carlye Morgan

Hope everyone is having a great weekend,
Jenny