

**EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2022
2:00 PM
PRE-K 4 SA NORTH EDUCATION CENTER**

Members Present: Board Member Elaine Mendoza, Chair, *Mayoral Vacant, District 1*
Board Member Brandon Logan, *District 2*
Board Member Joe De La Garza, *District 3*
Board Member Richard Perez, *District 4*
Board Member Andrea Greimel, *District 5*
Board Member Dr. Tracy Hurley, *District 6*
Board Member Frances Guzman, *District 7*
Board Member Dr. Shari Albright, Secretary, *District 8*
Board Member Dr. Richard Middleton, *District 9*

Members Absent: Board Member Jan Kirby, *District 10*

Staff Present: Sarah Baray, Ph.D., *Pre-K 4 SA Chief Executive Officer*; Alex Lopez, *Assistant City Manager*; Paul Chapman, *Pre-K 4 SA*; Larrisa Wilkinson, *Pre-K 4 SA*; Eryanne Taft, *Pre-K 4 SA*; Daisy Castillo, *Pre-K 4 SA*; Shreya Shah, *City Attorney's Office*

Also Present: Rebecca Garza, *Pre-K 4 SA*; Ileana Sandoval, *City Council District 10*; Anamaria Suscan-Fast, *talkStrategy*; Laura Hutton, *talkStrategy*

Call to Order

Chairwoman Mendoza called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM.

1. Approval of minutes of the May 10, 2022, Early Childhood Education Municipal Development Corporation Board of Directors Strategic Planning meeting.

Board Member Logan moved to approve the minutes from the May 10, 2022 meeting. Board Member Guzman seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

2. Public Comments [If a member of the public would like to provide comment to the Pre-K 4 SA Board on PreK 4 SA related matters, please email comments to prek4sa@sanantonio.gov before 2:00 PM on the day of the meeting]

There were no public comments to be heard.

Consent Agenda

3. Board action to accept funds in the amount of \$6,948,294.00 in Child Care Relief Funding from the Texas Workforce Commission for recovery of expenditures related to the COVID19 pandemic. [Sarah Baray, Ph.D., Pre-K 4 SA CEO]

4. **Board action to approve an amendment to the agreement with Teaching Strategies, LLC, extending the term of the agreement for one additional year through June 30, 2023 [Sarah Baray, Ph.D., Pre-K 4 SA CEO]**
5. **Board action to approve an extension agreement and amendment to the SB 1882 agreement with Edgewood ISD, extending the term through June 30, 2029. [Sarah Baray, Ph.D., Pre-K 4 SA CEO]**

Board Member Albright moved to approve the items on consent. Board Member Logan seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

Briefing and Possible Action on the following items

6. **CEO Update to include Student Enrollment, Hiring, End of Year celebrations, June Conference, partnership updates, promotion and outreach, and 2022-23 Board Meeting Calendar [Sarah Baray, Ph.D., Pre-K 4 SA CEO]**

Dr. Baray began her CEO Update by introducing the new Pre-K 4 SA Board Member appointed to represent District 5, Andrea Greimel, as well as the new Marketing Agency of record, talkStrategy.

Dr. Baray provided an update on hiring for the department. Paul Chapman has been officially confirmed as the Chief Operations Officer for Pre-K 4 SA. Patricia Betancourt has been promoted to West Center Head of School, and Cashelle Johnson has been promoted to North Center Head of School. In addition, Pre-K 4 SA has filled 11 out of 13 teacher vacancies. Hiring is underway still for the Deputy CEO, Chief of Schools, and Chief of Innovation, as well as the Head of Marketing and the new Family Outreach & Engagement Manager.

Board member Middleton asked about teacher vacancies.

End of Year activities included Demonstrations of Learning at each center, where children invite their families into the centers with them. End of Year celebrations were also held at each center, and although it was a joyful, beautiful day, this came just a few days after the tragedy in Uvalde.

June Conference, an event planned for teachers by teachers, was held the first two days in June. Day one was a virtual conference, and day two was held in person at the Red Berry Estate. Pre-K 4 SA's focus on self-care throughout the year was incorporated into the day, which began with a guided drum circle and included meditation and time outside throughout the day. While the event gave teachers a chance for rest, it also heavily focused on equity through action – we are a giant equity project but how do we make it explicit in our work?

Dr. Baray also provided an update on enrollment. Since opening enrollment to three-year-olds in May, there has been a tremendous response from the community with more than 1,250 applications received to date. There are currently 1,750 families actively engaged in the enrollment process. To date, we have received over 3,100 applications total which is typically an indicator that all seats will be full by the start of school.

Board member Middleton asked whether families could go to another center if their first choice was full.

Regarding partnership updates, Dr. Baray shared that Pre-K 4 SA was approached by Diego Bernal to assist with a city-wide Pre-K enrollment campaign. The effort is being organized by Mark Larson with Early Matters San Antonio. Pre-K 4 SA is providing support with our registration team, who will be acting as an operator to field calls from the public interested in learning more about the pre-k options available to them and connecting them with their respective school district. The goal of the campaign is to increase public Pre-K enrollment back up to pre-pandemic levels.

Board member Middleton asked what school districts are participating.

Dr. Baray highlighted the Gracias check presentation to THRU Project in May. In total, Pre-K 4 SA raised over \$6,900 to support THRU Project. The check was presented to the charity by a group of children at the South Center.

Additionally, Dr. Baray highlighted meetings with Flagstaff, Mass Education, and Oak Rose and Apple Tree who approached Pre-K 4 SA about curriculum support in Texas, particularly underserved rural areas.

The Board meeting calendar for next year was shared, with meetings being held every other month.

Board Chair Mendoza asked about the number for three-year-olds at the North and how we will incorporate them. She also asked if Pre-K 4 SA has reached full enrollment.

7. Briefing and Board action to approve a memorandum of agreement between Pre-K 4 SA and Holli-Hills Day Care Center, and to accept a contribution of \$100,000.00 from the Holt Family Foundation to support the partnership. [Sarah Baray, Ph.D., Pre-K 4 SA CEO]

Dr. Baray began the briefing with an explanation of Pre-K 4 SA's Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) program. She explained that currently, 89% of CDCs are not certified for quality in San Antonio. Family-owned, corporate, and faith-based CDCs need support to provide a high-quality education that each child deserves. The CQI program specifically targets centers throughout the city that would like to become TRS certified.

In 2021, the HOLT Family Foundation approached Pre-K 4 SA with a desire to contribute funding that would be used to improve the quality of an existing daycare center. HOLT had identified Holli-Hills as a potential beneficiary, who was already a CQI participant.

Under the terms of this partnership, Pre-K 4 SA is the fiscal agent for the funding and overseeing the action plan to ensure the funds are spent on targeted improvements to increase the center's quality.

Dr. Baray noted that this partnership could potentially be a model for other businesses in San Antonio to make similar investments in existing daycare centers.

Board member Logan asked what the timing is for this partnership and funding.

Board member Hurley asked if we are funding any staff with the money and how the budget was developed.

Board member Greimel asked about the curriculum.

Board Member Logan moved to approve. Board Member Middleton seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

Consideration of Future Meetings

The next meeting of the San Antonio Early Childhood Education Municipal Development Corporation Board of Directors is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, September 13, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. at Pre-K 4 SA North Education Center

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 2:38 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine Mendoza, Chairperson

Eryanne Taft, Pre-K 4 SA