

**EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, November 8, 2021
2:00 PM
NORTH EDUCATION CENTER**

Members Present: Board Member Elaine Mendoza, Chair, *Mayoral*
Board Member Brandon Logan, *District 2*
Board Member Joe De La Garza, *District 3*
Board Member Richard Perez, *District 4*
Board Member Gloria Ramirez, *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. Gogi Dickson, *District 9*
Board Member Jan Kirby, *District 10*

Members Absent: Board Member Dr. Richard Middleton, *District 1*

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

Also Present: Brad Davenport, *Pre-K 4 SA*; Paul Chapman, *Pre-K 4 SA*; Daisy Castillo, *Pre-K 4 SA*; Hilda Banuelos, *Pre-K 4 SA*; Marisa Martinez, *Pre-K 4 SA*; Eddie Johnson III, *Pre-K 4 SA*; Ramiro Amaro, *ITSD*; Dan Maximuk, *ITSD*; Jill Byrd, *Creative Noggin*; Lauren Decker-

Call to Order

Chairwoman Mendoza called the meeting to order at 2:01pm.

1. Approval of minutes of the September 7, 2021 Early Childhood Education Municipal Development Corporation Board of Directors Meeting.

Board member Guzman motioned to approve the minutes of the September 7, 2021 Early Childhood Education Municipal Development Corporation Board of Directors Meeting. Board member Logan 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 Pre-K 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 approve a contract with McGriff Insurance Services, Inc. to provide Insurance Brokerage Services for the Pre-K 4 SA program for a term of three years with an option to renew for two, one-year terms in an amount not to exceed \$109,000.00.**
4. **Board action to approve acceptance of a contract with Nulinx International, Inc. to provide student information system software for a period of three years, with two, one-year options to renew for a total contract value not to exceed \$86,500.00.**
5. **Board action to authorize Pre-K 4 SA staff to utilize Buy Board Purchasing Cooperative to purchase classroom furniture, supplies, and equipment for the Pre-K 4 SA Education Centers, Gardendale Early Learning Program and Complete Grants Program awardees from Lakeshore Equipment Company DBA Lakeshore Learning Materials in an amount not to exceed \$4000,000 and Kaplan Early Learning Company in an amount not to exceed \$80,000.**

Board member Guzman motioned to approve the items. Board member Kirby seconded the motion. There were no comments or questions. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

Briefing and Possible Action on the following items:

6. **Briefing on the CEO Update to include the SA Food Bank Contract Update, Gracias Election Results and Upcoming Events. [Sarah Baray, Ph.D., Pre-K 4 SA CEO]**

Dr. Baray began her CEO update with Family Reunion. On October 9th, more than 1,000 families and children attended the event held at Nelson Wolfe Stadium. A survey conducted after the event found that “they (families) loved it.” Families contributed their feedback for future booth ideas and suggested there be way for former students to connect to teachers.

Dr. Baray continued with an update on Gracias. On November 2nd, 1,800 children and families voted in the Gracias Election. The three charities selected this year for consideration were Green Space Alliance, Hearts for Arts and THRU Project. THRU Project, a non-profit organization that bridges the gap between foster care and adulthood for youth who age out for the foster care system, was the winner.

Dr. Baray continued with an update on Enrollment. At this time in the school year, enrollment is usually complete. However, families are still enrolling students for current school year. Pre-K 4 SA will have sibling/priority enrollment from December 1st through 17th; during this time the new management system, Nulinx International, Inc. will be used. Enrollment for the public will open February 1, 2022.

Pre-K 4 SA has shifted their approach from seasonal to year-round recruitment. In November and December, staff will attend movies at Mission Marque, participate in OND events held by council districts, and are considering job fairs as potential events for recruitment. In January, Pre-K 4 SA will attend Families Empowered Open House and the annual Martin Luther King Walk.

Dr. Baray continued with an update on Nutrition Services. Pre-K 4 SA is currently on year 4 of a 5-year contract with San Antonio Food Bank (SAFB). The contract requires a daily average of 1,900 meals for breakfast and lunch, however due to lower enrollment, Pre-K 4 SA and SAFB have negotiated a cost offset to include: 10% increase for breakfast, lunch and snacks, cost of puck for

individual meals and periodic distribution of take-home meals for families. There will be no change to the annual budget of \$2,636,335. In addition, Pre-K 4 SA began providing Halal meals as a special meal option for families. A Muslim faith leader provided training for staff. In the spring, Pre-K 4 SA will return to serving family style meals in the classrooms and will use silverware instead of plasticware at all four education centers.

Dr. Baray concluded the CEO Update with upcoming events. For Veteran's Day, centers will provide drive-thru breakfast to our Veterans. A food distribution event will be held on November 19th; centers will be closed the week of Thanksgiving. Pre-K 4 SA will be attending recruiting events November through January. The education centers will host a Festival of Lights in December.

Board members went into discussion about center capacity.

7. Board action to approve an amendment to the Westat independent evaluation contract, extending the term of the contract to November 30, 2024, with two one-year renewal options, for a total contract not to exceed \$3,450,456.00. [Sarah Baray, Ph.D, Pre-K 4 SA CEO]

Dr. Baray provided background on Pre-K 4 SA's independent evaluation contract. In 2013, Westat (formerly Edvance Research) was awarded a contract for a five-year term, with one three-year renewal option. The Board exercised the renewal options and Westat provided evaluation services through the first 8 years of the program. The current contract will expire November 30th. In May 2021, Pre-K 4 SA issued an RFP for independent program evaluation services. Only one proposal was received, which was deemed unsatisfactory and therefore the RFP was canceled. Pre-K 4 SA and COSA Finance negotiated with Westat to extend the current contract through 2024 with two optional one-year extensions.

Board members went into discussion about the RFP process.

Board member De La Garza motioned to approve the item. Board member Logan seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 9-1.

8. Briefing of results from Year 8 Independent Evaluation of Pre-K 4 SA Program by Westat. [Lauren Decker-Woodrow, Ph.D., Westat Senior Study Director]

Lauren Decker and Emily Diaz explained the modifications to the 2020-2021 evaluation and reviewed the results for the education centers, 1882 partnership with Edgewood ISD and the preliminary trends in quality over the first 6 years of Pre-K 4 SA.

Modifications included virtual classroom observations in Fall and Spring, classroom quality and attendance overall for in person and virtual classrooms, and family and teacher interviews to provide context to quality and attendance outcomes.

The Year 8 education center sample included a mix of virtual and in-person classrooms, teachers and families.

Board members went into discussion about the evaluation results.

9. Briefing on the renewal of the lease of the property 7031 S. New Braunfels Ave., San Antonio, Texas 78223 (“South Lease”) under new terms as negotiated. [Sarah Baray, Ph.D, Pre-K 4 SA CEO]

Dr. Baray reminded the board that in June 2021 the Board authorized the CEO to execute lease agreements on behalf of the Board with terms as favorable or qualitatively better than current terms. In conjunction with the city’s real estate division, Pre-K 4 SA negotiated a new lease that included rent of \$72,292.00, which is equivalent to current terms, as well as a payment of \$1,200,699.40 for completion of the lease to be paid to Pre-K 4 SA upon execution of the new lease.

10. Update on Pre-K 4 SA professional learning and grants agenda for SY20212022 with a focus on key initiatives for strengthening San Antonio’s early learning infrastructure to create an equitable, affordable, high-quality early learning and care system for young children. [Larrisa Wilkinson, Pre-K 4 SA Director of Professional Learning and Program Innovation]

Larrisa Wilkinson provided an overview of the Competitive Grants and Professional Learning Divisions. The Professional Learning Division has grown and now consists of 14 Professional Learning Specialist. In school year 2020-2021, 10,000 hours of professional learning were delivered. 1,500 educators attended at least 1 of the 201 events Pre-K 4 SA hosted, and 500 hours of 1:1 coaching with educator and leaders were provided. Over \$710,000.00 have been saved across 5 school districts through Reading Academies support.

The Grants Division is currently working on Shared Services and AVANCE Partnership to help strengthen San Antonio’s early learning infrastructure to create an equitable, affordable, high-quality early learning and care system for young children.

Consideration of Future Meetings

The next meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, January 25, 2022 at 9:00am at the San Antonio Botanical Garden for the annual Board Retreat .

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine Mendoza, Chairperson

Hilda Banuelos, Pre-K 4 SA