



Early Learning Coalition of Escambia County

Executive/Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

March 28, 2024, 8:30 a.m.

Members Present

Van Mansker
Shannon Nickinson

Roger Thompson

Mona Jackson

Members Absent

Melissa Birdsall

Staff

Bruce Watson
Melissa Jennings

Dawn Engel

Darrell Merritt

Public

None

I. Welcome and Introductions

Notification of the Executive Finance Committee Meeting scheduled for March 28, 2024, was sent to the Pensacola News Journal, and posted to the Coalition Public Calendar Board on March 1, 2024. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Mansker.

II. Public Comments

None.

III. Consent Agenda

Upon a motion by Ms. Jackson and seconded by Mr. Thompson, the Consent Agenda, consisting of the Agenda, and Minutes of February 22, 2024, was approved without objection.

IV. Coalition Status Reports

a. Financial Update

Through February 2024 the Coalition has spent \$10.2 million of the \$17.3 million SR grant which is 59.2% of the grant. Admin was 2.4%, Non-Direct was 17.7% and Quality was 8.9%. VPK Admin was 3.2%.

b. Enrollment/Wait List Status Report

There are 2,620 children enrolled in the School Readiness Program. There are 590 children on the Wait List. The last pull from the Wait List was on March 25, 2024, for applications made between October 2 and October 8, 2023. There are 1,641 children currently enrolled in VPK. Since the application window opened on January 1st, for the 2024-2025 program year, 855 applications have been approved.



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c. Contracting and Fraud Summary Report

There are 84 SR providers and 72 VPK providers.

V. **Committee Recommendations**

- a. None

VI. **Old Business**

a. ARPA Grant Funding - Update

The Coalition has spent \$2.5 million of the \$4.99 million ARPA Early Learning Discretionary grant through the end of February.

b. MIP Implementation

Most of the inputs to set up the MIP program have been submitted. Training for the finance staff has begun. During this training period, overtime has been approved.

c. Board Member Orientation April 2024

The Coalition staff will conduct an orientation for new Board members immediately after the April Board meeting. Members who have not attended an orientation are strongly requested to attend. All other Board members are welcome to attend if desired.

d. Joyce Griffin Room Dedication

The new plaque proof is still in progress. The dedication ceremony is scheduled to be held during the June Board meeting.

VII. **New Business**

a. IACET Plaque

The Coalition gained the certification as an IACET approved agency. The certification plaque was shared with the Committee.

b. Kindergarten Readiness Rates

The DEL has published the Kindergarten Readiness rates for the State by county and by School. Florida was 51% ready and Escambia was 50% ready. State VPK completers were 64% ready and Escambia 64% ready. State non-participants were 36% ready and Escambia 38% ready.

b. Legislative Session Results Preview

The Legislative Session \$1.7 billion for Early Learning programs highlights were presented and discussed. These highlights will be presented at the next Board meeting.

VIII. **Audits and Reviews - In Progress**

a. A-133 Audit for 2022-2023 In Process

In process, onsite April 22-26, 2024



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b. DEL Financial Review 2023-2024 – Onsite Complete, report is in draft with DEL
Two findings have been removed from the report. The final report will reflect three findings.

IX. Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 10:03 a.m.

**Next Meeting: April 25, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. at the Early Learning Coalition Office, 1720
West Fairfield Dr., Suite 100/400, Pensacola, Florida 32501**