



**Pasco County Schools Early Childhood Programs**  
**Early Head Start/Head Start**  
**Policy Council – Minutes**  
**January 13th, 2022**



**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order through Zoom at 10:34 am by Co-Chairperson, Rachel Watson. Welcoming all participants and establishing quorum.

Stacey Saylor shared a Conscious Discipline breathing exercise related to the skill of composure. The program's Social/Emotional curriculum uses Conscious Discipline in all classrooms.

**Old/New Business**

The minutes from the December meeting were emailed to members to review before today's meeting. There were no corrections to the minutes. Motion made by Amanda Shelton, Fox Hollow to approve the minutes. Seconded by Odette Odierno, James Marlowe. Motion passed.

Michael Gunther, Grand Canyon University (GCU) spoke to the Council about his role with the university. The main campus is in AZ and is a Christian college in nature. However, they are most popular for their online platform. He partners with Pasco County Schools to provide discounts and scholarships to students and staff. Motion made to elect Mr. Gunther as community representative by Tracy Blimes, Community Rep. Seconded by Jessica Spicer, Pineview. Motion carried.

**Sick care options/Lunch** – Sara shared with members that as of today there are no “sick care” options for parents to take their children to when they must work. Sara spoke with the Early Learning Coalition to confirm this information. Members were also given information for a free Panera lunch or dinner that expires today.

**FA 2 Monitoring**

Tabled until February meeting.

**Monthly Program Information Report**

Maree Marian, ERSEA Coordinator presented the following information for the month of December in comparison to November: Number of families enrolled in Head Start and Early Head Start, a breakdown of how each enrolled family has qualified, the number of families withdrawn, on the waiting list (with a breakdown of the number of eligible on the waiting list and over income), the number of children enrolled with a diagnosed disability, center attendance percentages, and number of meals served. The Head Start program continues to increase its enrollment each month, despite the pandemic and continued withdraws.

**Budget Report**

Jayzsa Rosario Agostini, Finance Account Analyst presented the program budgets and in-kind reports. Motion made by Jessica Kersey, Pineview to approve the budget report. Seconded by Amanda Shelton. Motion passed.

**Personnel Recommendations/Program Vacancies**

Sara shared with members the personnel recommendations with staff qualifications as requested at last month's meeting. Reminder, all hires go through the District's Human Resources hiring process and background checks. Motion made by Amanda Shelton, Fox Hollow to accept all personnel recommendations. Seconded by Tracy Blimes, Community Rep. Motion passed.

Current vacancies include Instructional Assistants (1), 2 Classroom Assistants, teacher, Health Assistant for ECP and a Secretary III for the ECP office.

## **20-21 ECP Annual Report**

Sara presented the purpose of and information for the 20-21 Annual Report. Please see digital Policy Council folder for specifics. Motion made to approve the Annual report made by Michael Gunther, Community Rep. Seconded by Jessica Spicer, Pineview. Motion carried.

## **Choose Your Own Adventure – Breakout Rooms**

**School Readiness Advisory Committee** was presented by Wendy Lane, Supervisor. Wendy discussed the purpose of the committee and the importance of parents knowing where their child should be academically to be prepared for kindergarten. Ms. Watson requested more information to the council such as a checklist to support child throughout the year. The following members chose this room and participated: Odette Odierno, Britani Lance, Jessica Kersey, Jessica Spicer, Rachel Watson, and Tracy Blimes.

**Annual Recruitment & Selection Criteria Procedures for 2022-2023** were presented by Alexis & Maree. Discussion occurred on The ERSEA Committee's recommended changes to the procedures for recruitment, enrollment, and selection. In addition, the following are recommended changes for the 22-23 Selection Criteria (point system): Increase points for social needs/trauma from 10 to a tiered system for applying families by increasing points to 20 for 2 identified/documented concerns and 30 points for three or more identified/documented concerns; Adding an age group under Head Start recommending that applicants who are three by 9/1 of the applying school year and turn four by 12/31 of that year would receive 20 points for age as opposed to the established 10 points for an applying three year old; and separating the current question about WIC and chronic health conditions into two different questions both assigned five points. For specifics on all recommendations, members of this group were shown where to find the entire ERSEA Committee folder through the Policy Council link on the program's web site side bar. The following members chose this room and participated: Amanda Shelton, Carol Marchesi, Jane Graham, Jayza Agostini, Leon Collier, Melissa Aguilar, Michael Gunther, and Valerie Marrero.

All members reconvened to the main meeting as each group presented information that was discussed. Motion was made to approve the 2022-2023 Recruitment & Selection Criteria Procedures by Amanda Shelton, Fox Hollow. Seconded by Jessica Spicer, Pineview. Motion carried.

## **Upcoming Program Functions & Door Prize**

Mary Burris shared the upcoming 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Early Head Start baby shower on February 9th. Items were donated from Mitchell High School. ECP is partnering with Healthy Start and Healthy Families to provide safe sleep education, lunch, pack 'n plays for all attendees and the donated gift baskets. Tracy, Community Rep., asked to be a vendor at the shower to provide literacy education to parents. Sara confirmed their attendance.

Alexis Russell shared that the program would begin recruitment and interviews after February 1. Currently enrolled Head Start children who were three by 9/1 will receive information about returning to the program next year; children in Early Head Start who turned three after 9/1 will receive information on applying for Head Start for next year as their child will be too old for Early Head Start. Program staff will be reaching out to families by phone and email. Congratulations to our door prize winners.

## **Adjournment**

Motion made by Odette Odierno, James Marlowe to adjourn the meeting at 12:09. Seconded by Jessica Spicer, Pineview. Motion passed.