

IGA GOVERNING BOARD
Concerning
Early Childhood Education
February 27, 2019
Oak Park and River Forest High School
Board Room
Oak Park, IL 60302

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m.

Present: Simone Boutet, Jennifer Cassell, Dr. Carol Kelley, Dr. Jackie Moore, Katherine Murray-Liebl, Jim O'Connor, Cara Pavlicek, Dr. Joylynn Pruitt-Adams, and Jim Taglia and recording secretary Gail Kalmerton

Also Present: John Borrero, Sharon Ellison, Laura Crawford, Jennifer Little, Carollina Song, Penny Wallingford, Becki Streict, and Jeff Weissglass.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Cassell moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Ms. Boutet. A voice vote resulted in motion carried.

Minutes

Ms. Cassell moved to approve the minutes of October 24, 2018, as presented; seconded by Ms. Boutet. A voice vote resulted in motion carried.

Public Comment

None

Report on Contract Implementation

Mr. Borrero referred to an IGA Progress report included in the packet and highlighted some things that occurred from the first half of FY 2018/2019.

- 1) The Parent Resource Program continues to grow. Examples of community-based parent workshops included.
 - The Impact of Technology on Language and Social-Emotional Development
 - Preschool Health
 - Using Positive Guidance with Young Children
- 2) The 16th Annual Symposium held on February 23, 2019 was very successful. Laura Jana, MD FAAP, was keynote speaker and spoke about “The Toddler Brain: Nurture the Skills Today that Will Shape Your Child’s Tomorrow. An observation was made that new teachers can be involved in early childhood education.
- 3) The first cohort of teachers in Oak Park completed the “Equity in the Early Childhood Classroom” series, which focused on implementation of equity practice strategies in the early childhood environment. Ongoing conversations are occurring. It is important to have an understanding of culture engagement, equity in classrooms, and equity bias. Equity in preschool is very important.
- 4) Mr. Borrero is doing visioning work in the community listening to where people think the Collaboration has had impact in the community.

Mr. Borrero did a simulation exercise with the Governing board. The Collaboration’s work is about the relationships between the parent and the child, as they are at the center and the Collaboration also supports relationships with the teachers and interaction with service providers (doctors, PT, OT,

therapists, etc.). The progression is the successful handoff to the kindergarten teachers. The Collaboration provides parenting skills training, empowerment focus, and leadership training. The children receive developmental screenings as well as screenings for hearing and vision. The Collaboration hires personnel to go out into the community; it supports teachers with PD, assesses classroom quality, tracks career advancement, and hosts a symposium. The Collaboration held a breakfast for doctors to inform them about trauma-informed care. Kindergarten teachers receive various kinds of PD, depending on the class. The Collaboration sends people to intake areas, to homes, and pays for a part of the Village's nurse's salary. These people give feedback on the culture of race, ethnicity, gender, geography, social economics, language, religion, age, etc.

Board members were asked for their feedback as to what they thought the Collaboration should offer. Comments included:

- 1) Is the ultimate goal to have the child ready to enter the workforce?
- 2) Nutrition, exercise, safe housing, affordable housing, exercising, and literacy skills are important to the growth of a child. Note: One of the Collaboration's markers is literacy in third grade. The others markers would be strong service providers.
- 3) What does the transition to kindergarten and family engagement look like? Is it strong enough to focus on mental health? The Collaboration works with the teachers on the root cause of the behavior.
- 4) Is enough being done to support the preschool teacher? How can newborns and pregnant moms be supported. The basis on which all of this stands is data. Doctors use screeners. One is developmental and the other social emotional. The parents fill out the ASQ III and the doctors fill out the ASQ SE. The KRT, EDI test, and accelerate data, which is a measure of how much PD and teachers have engaged in teaching strategies. The Collaboration helps the Day Nursery. They train people who are already busy. D97 asked for more data. The Gold costs \$15 per child every year.
- 5) What is being done to help keep the service providers? The average salary is \$13 to \$14 per hour but they can get more at the retail level. The Collaboration is looking more closely at the data and what is happening in classrooms. The caretakers' job is not simple babysitting as many people think. The Collaboration is developing shared language and providing leaders with strong awareness of what is happening. It is showing the economic benefits of early childhood interventions. The Collaboration supports the daycares as they push toward accreditation. The state and the federal government need to raise salaries. The minimum wage law could entice to people to leave early childhood jobs. Daycares cannot afford to pay teachers the minimum wage and they cannot charge the parents more. The Collaboration is helping them maintain their craft support their relationships, and helping them with systems. Policy is the next level.

The Collaboration is supposed to help build local capacity and help centers in the community be engaged and involved. It gives parents the best information it has. It is also exploring scholarships for preschool students. One suggestion was to implement a sliding fee. When asked what is being done to prepare that all students are ready and all centers understand they are preparing these children for schools, it was noted that students who qualify for Head Start are doing OK, but the children in the middle need to be found. Often children are in co-ops, home daycares, or with relatives. The challenge is to network with all centers.

Preschool can be very expensive, costing \$15,000 to \$20,000 per year. Families consider keeping their child at home with a relative or hiring a nanny, which costs much less. The nanny is not on the Collaboration's radar, as he/she has no license requirement. The au pair experience may be a higher quality experience and the child will be multilingual.

Finance

The January financial statements were provided. There is \$643,000 in assets and they are being held in the checking and money market accounts. The receivables are \$12,000 and the fixed assets are \$30,000, which totals \$750,000. As of January 31, no liabilities exist. A nonprofit has restricted and unrestricted funds (\$612,000). About \$149,000 is set aside for designed use or temporarily restricted assets and reserves. The Collaboration's big income comes in February because of the Symposium.

Budget

The budget presented was for 7 months of a 12-month year. The Collaboration is on track.

Expenses

Forty-four percent of the budget is spent on wages. The Collaboration has seven employees and 29 consultants or contractors. A position director of early learning will be part-time until the summer and then extended to a full time position. The Collaboration has two parent ambassadors. Thus far, 37% of the \$35,000 budgeted for contract services has been spent. The Collaboration is on track for training specialists, the bookkeepers, data analysis with Chapin Hall, accounting, and general consulting. It is under budget in home visits, legal fees. Home visiting should increase because they are building up those visits. The expenses for telephonic communication, rent, computer hardware and software, etc. are in line with the budget.

The home ambassador program is a success story. Engaging families is not easy and they use a variety of strategies. The Collaboration is pushing toward leadership and the ambassadors are part-time staff who try to engage parents. They represent the Collaboration at events. The hope is to hire another person to do this. One of the two presently speaks Spanish and the other English. They are a resource for IEP information. They are promising contributors to the community. Great model. Ms. Cassell felt this was a small investment for a big impact. Currently, they are paid \$13 per hour but they want to raise that amount to \$15 to per hour.

With regard to the donor pool, there are about 100 to 150 donors total with 25 people donating over \$1,000. The amount of donations vary from year to year. The new tax laws might impact the donor pool. Note: people transition from one philanthropy to another. Some major donors are leaving their peak wage earning years and may pull back some. They have found that more people are giving, but giving less.

Preliminary Budget

The preliminary budget was reviewed.

- 1) Visioning is an important part of the budget process and the Collaboration laid out where it can go.
- 2) It was anticipated that the public support would remain the same.
- 3) Grants. \$22,000 is a combination of several smaller sources, i.e., Grand Victoria \$15,000, organizational donations, Good Life race, etc.
- 4) The program activity registration includes all symposium registrations.
- 5) The hope is that fundraising may remain the same. If the Collaboration has to push to support families with IEPs that would impact that money.
- 6) Governmental contracts - entities. This is estimated to be the same as in the past. The Illinois Department of Public Health pays for vision and hearing screening and it will give more money than last year.
- 7) The wages are 1.8% COLA. Erin Hanneman moved to a job that worked more directly with kids. They are reviewing administrative support to see if a part-time person can manage this position for 90 days.
- 8) Communication engagement will be enhanced to engage fundraisers, etc. space holder only.
- 9) Easter Seals money is in line and they get more this year. More money will go for home visiting.

- 10) Insurance is status quo
- 11) Operating expenses are less
- 12) Telecommunications is status quo.
- 13) A new virtual server and will be doing updates to websites.
- 14) The Collaboration is looking at branding. How recognizable is its face to the community.
- 15) Printing and rent are status quo.
- 16) Money was added for staff PD development.

A suggestion was made to engage a director of engagement.

Administrative Update on the IGA: Finance

It was reported that the payments are being made and the billing to the entities will be sent out soon. Ms. Pavlicek noted that based on what was done a year ago; the administration was directed to disperse surpluses. There was a consensus to continue to do that. Ms. Cassell will communicate with District 97 about this.

May Meeting

The May 16 meeting will be held at Village Hall with dinner starting at 6:00 p.m. and the program starting at 6:30 p.m. A quorum is needed due to the transition.

Both Ms. Cassell and Mr. O'Connor were thanked for their service to this organization.

Mr. O'Connor suggested exploring signs for display within the community to embed the Collaboration into the fabric of Oak Park even more. He was really proud of it and he wished more people knew about it. It is a unique experience of adults working together for kids.

Adjournment

At 8:26 p.m. on Wednesday, February 27, 2018, Ms. Cassell moved to adjourn; seconded by Ms. Pavlicek. A voice vote resulted in motion carried.

Submitted by
Gail Kalmerton