

Minutes
ECIC Executive Committee
March 28, 2007

Present:

Board Members

Marvin McKinney
Sally Vaughn
Carolyn Clark
Pamela Faris
Mike Flanagan
Larry Schweinhart
Betsy Boggs

Staff

Judy Samelson
Mike Foley
Joan Blough
Yasmin Green
Chris Kolb

Others

Valerie Batts, VISIONS, Inc.
Doug Weinstock, VISIONS, Inc.

I. Call to Order

Dr. McKinney called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

II. Public Comment

None

III. Approval of Minutes

RESOLVED, that the Early Childhood Investment Corporation Executive Committee approve the minutes of the meeting of January 24, 2007.

Moved by Ms. Vaughn, seconded by Ms. Boggs. Unanimously carried.

IV. Chairman's Report

Dr. McKinney discussed the board retreat, stating it is the first of several meetings the board needs to hold. He noted that he will be working with Ms. Samelson to more formally solicit input from board members regarding attendance policies and practices.

Mr. Flanagan noted that some board members require that meeting dates be established up to two years in advance in order to facilitate attendance. Further discussion ensued regarding meeting scheduling, frequency, and so on. Ms. Vaughn agreed that a schedule of dates far in advance would be helpful, and she noted that a tiered approach to the board might be something to consider. Dr. McKinney suggested that there should be a substantive discussion regarding this issue at a future board meeting.

Dr. McKinney discussed the letter to the Governor, stating it was written in anticipation of possible service tax and other funding dollars flowing to early childhood. He stated the Chairman's Discussion Group had reviewed the letter prior to it being sent. Mr. Flanagan commented that the current situation could end with kindergarten being moved down a grade, which would be an unfortunate mistake as opposed to thinking about the whole child.

RESOLVED, that the Early Childhood Investment Corporation approve the letter sent to the Governor dated March 20, 2007.

Moved by Ms. Vaughn, seconded by Ms. Faris. Unanimously carried.

V. New Business

Ms. Samelson introduced Chris Kolb, the new ECIC Vice President for Public Affairs. She noted that many will remember Mr. Kolb from his service in the state legislature.

December Financials

Ms. Samelson reviewed the financials, noting they are unremarkable. She went on to state that the audit is on-going and that Plante Moran has reviewed the ECIC procedures and will be making recommendations for the future as well as serving as interim accountants until such time as a financial manager is brought on board. Ms. Samelson further noted that the CCDF dollars are on track and that the Great Start Collaboratives are being monitored closely to ensure expenditures are adequate and appropriate.

Discussion ensued regarding collaborative funding; i.e. what might the life cycle be for a collaborative, and so on. Ms. Samelson stated that it takes five years to a collaborative to be firmly anchored. Expansion vs. maintenance is an issue that will be viewed on a case-by-case basis. Ms. Samelson further stated that the exact spending of the collaboratives is being analyzed and reviewed.

RESOLVED, that the Early Childhood Investment Corporation accept the financial statements as presented.

Moved by Mr. Flanagan, seconded by Ms. Faris. Unanimously carried.

Proposed ECIC Policy Agenda

Ms. Samelson stated that ECIC's job will be to bring together all the disparate early childhood groups, try to coordinate the work and come up with an agenda. While ECIC may not have had the credibility previously to accomplish this, much progress has been made. This work will culminate in the November Challenge to Michigan. Ms. Samelson added that much of this effort is about not losing ground for early childhood.

Ms. Samelson called attention to a new visual for the organization; Dr. McKinney noted that it is a very effective depiction of ECIC's work. Ms. Samelson added that Mr. Kolb is helping to develop briefings for the legislature, which will include a variety of materials incorporating the new visual.

Corporate Board Development

Ms. Samelson stated that the work for the corporate board development has not yet been undertaken. It is anticipated that such a body would meet annually, but she added that it will eventually consist of 171 people and will have a quorum requirement. Options for such a gathering include video and other types of conferencing. Ms. Samelson stated that data will be gathered and information presented to the Chairman's Discussion Group for further exploration.

VI. Old Business

None.

VII. CEO Report

Ms. Samelson reviewed current ECIC activity and the Strategic Priorities document, which was well received. She noted also that ECIC will be represented on the Children's Action Team of the Governor's Cabinet Action Teams. The external advisory committees are up and running, with the Blueprint and Quality Child Care meetings have just taken place in the past week. Ms. Samelson stated that discussion at the meetings was thought-provoking and substantive and that the turnout was excellent. Ms. Vaughn concurred, noting there was rich discussion and that recommendations from the group would be forthcoming in September.

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VIII. Adjournment

Dr. McKinney declared the meeting adjourned, with subsequent board participation in the VISIONS, Inc. workshop.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Aguirre
Ex. Ass't. to CEO