



COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

May 23, 2019

Commissioners Present: Dr. Michael Gollub, Kelly Long, Barbara Marquez-O’Neill, Dr. Cesar Morales, Barry Zimmerman

Excused Absence: Dr. Robert Levin, Stan Mantooth, Dr. Carola Oliva-Olson, Bruce Stenslie

Staff Present: Lauren Arzu, Heather Davidson, Fahim Farag, Jimena Hernandez, Jennifer Johnson, Elizabeth Majestic, Sam McCoy, Nani Oesterle

Public Present: Carizma Chapman, Sharon Elmensdorp, Lilia Gurrola, Elizabeth Hardin, Shayna Kasbee, Alicia McFarland, Amie Mills, Elizabeth Szczepanek, Arledy Trejo, Danielle Thomas, Noemi Valdes, Alicia Villicana

OPENING

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Marquez-O’Neill opened the meeting at 1:02 and shared quotes from *Everyday Kindness* and from Petra Puls’ 2019 Take 5 and Read to Kids! Letter to the Editor in the Pacific Coast Business Times. She also expressed regrets on behalf of Petra Puls for her absence due to a family emergency.

2. Approval of Minutes from April 18, 2019 Commission Meeting

A motion was made by Commissioner Long, seconded by Commissioner Zimmerman to approve the minutes from the April 18, 2019 Commission Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Agenda Approval and Review of Commission Packets

Jennifer Johnson provided an overview of the supplemental packet.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gollub, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Public Comments/Correspondence

There were no comments from members of the public.

5. Presentation: 2019 Take 5 and Read to Kids!

Chair Marquez-O'Neill introduced Lauren Arzu to present on the 2019 Take 5 and Read to Kids! event. Lauren directed the Commissioners to the impact handout and noted that more than 80 celebrity readers, including most of the Commissioners, read to more than 1,800 kids in 71 classrooms and 10 libraries. She recapped the goal of Take 5 is to inspire early literacy awareness and support, highlighted recruitment and staff efforts, and detailed the kick off breakfast on April 26 at CSUCI. Lauren noted media coverage is included in the packet and that F5VC partnered with the VC Star again this year for promotion and coverage. She added that F5VC staff provided sample social media posts and celebrity reading posters ahead of the event to help raise awareness and increase impact. Also new this year was partnering with Dia de los niños/libros, stressing learning to read in native languages, and introducing books to kids at home. Lauren noted a bilingual book was provided to each child to take home and the bilingual book provided to preschool classes was also used at First 5 Advocacy Day. She added F5VC partnered with the Ventura County Sheriff's Office and Public Library Systems to increase bilingual readers and allow more public reading opportunities. Lauren detailed participating elected officials and concluded her presentation with additional event images as well as thanking F5VC staff for all the hard work to ensure a successful event.

Chair Marquez-O'Neill thanked F5VC staff, particularly Lauren Arzu and Fahim Farag, for their efforts and all the Commissioners for their participation and support.

Commissioner Long thanked F5VC staff for increasing the impact this year and having more early literacy efforts in the County. Lauren noted our goal this year was for 55 readers, which was exceeded by almost 50% and will create additional outreach opportunities for future years.

Chair Marquez-O'Neill thanked F5VC staff for increasing bilingual resources and readers.

Commissioner Long asked if we target books telling the stories of persons of different abilities. Lauren noted that while staff seek books that represent diverse persons and experiences, the majority of books come from community donations.

CONSENT AGENDA

6. Receive and File the First 5 Ventura County Financial Reports as of March 31, 2019

A motion was made by Commissioner Morales, seconded by Commissioner Gollub, to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA

7. Recommendation to Increase FY 2019-21 Contract with the University Preparation Charter School for the Preschool Program

Chair Marquez-O'Neill introduced Nani Oesterle to present the recommendation. Nani noted this action corrects the previous allocation to one of the F5VC preschool partners, University Preparation Charter School (UPS), for Fiscal Year 2019-21. She detailed the previously requested allocation was based on the current UPS model, which is a four day per week program. She added that with the F5VC required five day per week program total service days increase from 130 to 175. This recommendation is to increase the UPS allocation by \$6,427 per year for FY 2019-21, and added that no new allocation of funds is required as these funds are available within the total preschool allocation.

A motion was made by Commissioner Zimmerman, seconded by Commissioner Morales, to authorize the Executive Director to increase the FY 2019-21 contract with the University Preparation Charter School by \$6,427 per year for two years for implementing a preschool program, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$39,254 for July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2021. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Recommendation to Contract with Child Development Resources, Inc. to Manage and Implement the Preschool Scholarship Program for FY 2019-21

Chair Marquez-O'Neill asked Nani Oesterle to present the Preschool Scholarship Program recommendation. Nani recapped prior Commission actions to maintain preschool scholarships in Moorpark, Ojai Valley, and Simi Valley for Fiscal Years 2019-21. She noted current preschool scholarship programs and the lack of state funded program spaces in those communities. Nani recapped the LOI process, and noted that as approved by the Commission, the F5VC Executive Director entered into contract negotiations with Child Development Resources, Inc. (CDR), which has experience managing voucher based child care programs. Nani reported contract negotiations went well and the administrative costs are budgeted at \$22,050 annually, for a total contract amount of \$296,100 for managing the implementation of the preschool scholarship program as described for FY 2019-21. She concluded that no new allocation of funds is required as these dollars have been previously allocated by the Commission.

A motion was made by Commissioner Morales, seconded by Commissioner Long, to grant authority to contract with Child Development Resources of Ventura County, Inc. (CDR) to manage the implementation of the Preschool Scholarship Program for FY 2019-21 in the communities of Ojai Valley, Moorpark, and Simi Valley, not to exceed \$44,100, as well as provide funds for CDR to issue up to \$126,000 per year for two years in preschool scholarships to eligible families under the previously approved guidelines, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$296,100 for July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2021. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Update and Discussion of Implementing FY 2019-21 Strategic Investments

Elizabeth Majestic summarized previous Parent Leadership Network (PLN) activities, noting work is anchored in the National Academy of Science's Parenting Matters Report and guiding principles from CSSP's Manifesto on Race Equity. She detailed how principles will be used to ensure parents are engaged in all parts of the process and valued for their expertise, with the goal of creating a network of powerful parent leaders. Elizabeth introduced Jimena Hernandez to provide an update from EC-LINC's inaugural parent leader summit.

Jimena reported on activities and lessons from the Summit, noting F5VC was one of ten communities selected to participate. She recapped summit goals, noted connections established, and detailed identified core values – unity, diverse voices, mutual support, and collective power. F5VC parent leaders presented on local programs, highlighting PACT, and created a learning and action agenda. Jimena concluded her presentation with a summary of future agenda priorities based on the five commitments of the manifesto and thanked the Commission for their commitment to engaging with and supporting parents. Jimena introduced parent leaders to present on lessons from the summit.

Danielle Thomas detailed how parent cafés increase parent engagement across communities and socioeconomic platforms. She added that local implementation of a parent café platform is already underway.

Elizabeth Szczepanek noted F5VC was able to connect with F5 Alameda County and F5 Orange County for ongoing sharing of best practices.

Arledy Trejo noted the dedication of parents and leaders at the summit allowed cultural and language barriers to be broken down. She noted parent leader networks being developed will provide ongoing training and support to drive collective impact. She added she wants to prioritize advocacy for increased support for child care.

Elizabeth Majestic thanked the parents for their time and thoughts and recapped local goals that the PLN will take on in the near future. She also noted how F5VC will support parents, including providing stipends, child care and snacks, which will increase comfort level, dedication, and productivity. Elizabeth asked Carizma Chapman to provide an update on the PLN and other activities.

Carizma commended the Commission for prioritizing the inclusion of parent leaders and noted there have been many times in her career where target populations were not at the table when designing programs for their benefit. She reported on foundational assumptions, including parents being the best leaders for advocating for their children, that parents must be engaged in program design as well as in advocating at all levels. She noted Interface and F5VC are working with parents to develop a parent transition strategy, and are dedicated to engaging parents across all communities served. Carizma noted parent transition strategy implementation is underway and all efforts will be bilingual.

Carizma outlined PLN recruitment efforts, noting that currently we have four parents from Oxnard (Region 2), two from Conejo Valley (Region 3), and one from Ventura (Region 1). She noted that efforts to recruit parent leadership from all areas of the County are ongoing and that parent feedback will be valued and applied. Priorities include defining roles and responsibilities and engaging traditionally underrepresented groups, including fathers. She added data collections and evaluation will be a priority within Interface and will drive program modifications, utilizing the Plan, Do, Study, Reflect, Adjust model to ensure continuous quality improvement. She noted parent advisory boards will be developed, and Interface will host open houses as sites launch to recruit parent leaders. Carizma concluded her presentation with a detailed overview of the parent engagement strategy vision, including timelines and activities.

Commissioner Long asked if Santa Clara Valley is represented in Parent Advisory Groups. Carizma noted recruitment is still underway for representation from Santa Clara Valley and all areas. Elizabeth

Majestic added listed parents include only committed parents and recruitment efforts will ensure all communities are engaged. Commissioner Long noted the need for quality programs in Santa Clara Valley, Port Hueneme and Oxnard and advised F5VC to prioritize engaging parents from traditionally underserved areas.

Commissioner Long asked how we are engaging all parents and non-parental caregivers. Carizma noted parent preference for meeting times and format is key to allow to parents to be available and engaged. Danielle added that PLN activities are going to be scheduled with PACT and other programming to allow parents to be present.

Commissioner Long advised F5VC and Interface connect with the Ventura County Mobile Library as a potential partner. Elizabeth noted such discussions are underway and Lauren Arzu added we are working with the Mobile Library to coordinate visits with PACT class schedules.

Commissioner Morales thanked parent leaders for representing Ventura County so well and for being leaders and ambassadors, as well as F5VC for organic yet systematic and strategic program development.

Chair Marquez-O'Neill thanked the parents for coming and thanked parents and staff for their passion and strategic approach. She commended Interface for their detailed transition plan and thanked F5VC staff for clarifying that although we are using the term parent engagement we are dedicated to engaging all supporting caregivers and family members of children prenatal through age 5.

10. Report from Executive Director

Jennifer Johnson provided highlights from the May written report, noting four funded programs requested funds for close out activities to occur between July 1 and September 30, 2019. She summarized recent recognition events for funded partner staff and directed the Commissioners to a handout encouraging parents to opt-in to stay connected as new service sites launch after July 1, 2019. She also reported the Oxnard School District received a grant award for 94 state funded preschool spaces and is no longer requesting F5VC funds for maintaining preschool spaces. The Oxnard School District originally requested 42 spaces.

Jennifer reported on advocacy activities, reporting Petra Puls and Lauren Arzu attended the 2019 Advocacy Day in Sacramento, and pointed out the letter of support for an ECE Center at CSUCI and F5CA Bill Tracker. She concluded her reports with details about recent CA budget updates and directed the Commissioners to the anecdote on Triple P and enclosed media.

Chair Marquez-O'Neill asked if there are any details in the budget revise for funds to be made available for screening follow-up services. Jennifer stated F5VC staff will research and report back.

11. Commission Member Comments

There were no comments from members of the Commission.

12. Next Meeting

Thursday, June 27, 2019, County Office of Education, 5100 Adolfo Rd., Camarillo

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 pm.