



## Board of Directors Meeting

November 29, 2012

Minutes – October 11, 2012

**Item II.A.**

**PRESENT:** Elise Minkoff, Chair; Brian Aungst, Jr.; Honorable Bob Dillinger; Dr. Michael A. Grego; Judge Raymond Gross; Honorable Bernie McCabe; Raymond Neri; Angela Rouson; Commissioner Karen Seel; Dr. James Sewell; Attorney Colleen Flynn

**ABSENT:** Maria Edmonds (excused)

### I. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Minkoff called the meeting to order at 8:34 AM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Dr. Grego.

Mrs. Minkoff welcomed Dr. Michael Grego to the JWB Board and spoke about his accomplishments to date.

### II. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approve Minutes for September 13, 2012
- B. Accept Financial Report for September 2012
- C. Approve Minutes for September 13, 2012 First TRIM Hearing
- D. Accept Minutes for September 20, 2012 Final TRIM Hearing
- E. Approve Schedule for JWB Board Meetings for FY 12/13

**ACTION: Mrs. Minkoff requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda; Commissioner Seel moved to approve; seconded by Dr. Sewell. No discussion; motion carried.**

### III. ACTION

- A. Accept IRS/VITA Grant from the U.S. Department of Treasury

Mrs. Lancaster said this was a grant receipt and asked the Board's acceptance of that grant.

**ACTION: Dr. Sewell moved to approve; seconded by Mr. Neri. No further discussion; motion carried.**

- B. Accept Funding from Eckerd Community Alternatives for Family Services Pool

Mrs. Lancaster said the Family Service Pool is a great instrument to provide for administration of external dollars to eligible families. In this case, we are receiving

dollars from Eckerd Community Alternatives on behalf of Directions to administer dollars to families who are diverted from the child welfare system.

**ACTION: Mr. Dillinger moved to approve funding from Eckerd Community Alternatives for the Family Services Pool ; seconded by Dr. Sewell. No further discussion; motion carried.**

#### **IV. PRESENTATIONS**

##### **A. Summer Learning + School Readiness**

Mrs. Lancaster said this is a great news story. In the beginning of summer, 211 was receiving a lot of calls from parents asking how they can provide for their child for the summer. In light of this trend, JWB rapidly began discussions with the school system. A preschool boot camp was developed around several high poverty community areas to help children get ready for school.

Mrs. Lancaster introduced Matt Spence and Marcia Marcionette who spoke to the results and positive experience of this past summer.

Matt Spence said the efforts of the school system were really appreciated because we had a last minute opportunity and some funding available. Matt introduced Gail Ramsdell and Sandy Smith from the School System. In the summer, lower income children lose significantly more learning than those who come from middle or high income brackets. States are starting to realize that these summer bridge programs are becoming more important, especially here in Florida. We targeted those children entering or just finishing a VPK program and worked within our five focus areas to find schools that were already going to be open for the summer, had administration in place, and had Pre-K and kindergarten classrooms available.

Ms. Ramsdell and Ms. Smith were able to identify eight elementary schools, with a certified teacher in every classroom, plus behavior specialist, nursing and special education support. It was 30 instructional days from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM; lunch and snacks were provided. The school system was able to identify children with special needs before the regular school year and there were parent engagement activities.

Ms. Marcionette spoke to the results from the three assessments which assisted in determining the program's performance. The first consisted of the VPK Assessment results, and the second and third portions were the results of the Parent and Teacher Surveys. In January, JWB will be reporting on the children's readiness scores. VPK measures baseline and progress in four areas: 1) Print Knowledge 2) Phonological Awareness 3) Mathematics 4) Oral Language/Vocabulary.

Even with the compressed program time, the children made statistically significant improvements during the time between the pre-test and the post-test on every skill area covered. Also, children who attended more of the program had higher results. The Parent Survey showed excellent results and no negatives. The Teacher Survey indicated teachers would do this again and 100% of them felt the program was effective.

Mr. Dillinger: We've heard again about the loss of learning during the summer. Isn't the real solution to just get rid of those three months and do something different?

Dr. Grego said he would like to expand the school day and will lobby legislators to provide funding beyond 180 days; we need to expand the school year by at least 20 to 30 days.

Commissioner Seel. How much was the cost to JWB and was there a cost to the parents?

Ms. Sahulka: It was \$350,000 or \$50 a day with no cost to the parents.

Commissioner Seel: How do we encourage them to stay with the program and is there before-and-after care?

Ms. Marcionette: If you bring your child every day, the change will happen. There was no before and after care.

Matt Spence: We will look at that next year.

Commissioner Seel: For the children who were identified as not ready, what services are we going to provide to help them become ready?

Mrs. Lancaster: We don't have the answer to that, but we are going to enthusiastically recommend this program for next summer. She recognized and thanked Sandy and Gail for their dedication and hard work.

Ms. Smith thanked JWB for the opportunity to provide the program.

Mrs. Minkoff asked how the program engaged parents.

Ms. Smith: When the parents brought their children to the classroom they received the book of the week, and were shown how we read to their children. On the last day, we invited the parents to see everything their children had done.

Matt Spence: A YouTube video is posted on JWB's website in which the parents are talking about the program.

Ms. Marcionette said the FLKR data will be available in January and we will be able to match every child to their scores, giving us the ability to know whether those who weren't ready from the summer program were also not ready on their FLKRs.

Mr. Neri asked about going to the Legislature to try and get more money; we need to get these statistics down.

Mrs. Minkoff asked if the children received breakfast.

Matt Spence said breakfast was provided.

B. Fairmount Elementary Children's Initiative

Mrs. Lancaster introduced the item as a follow-up on the Fairmount Elementary Initiative that was funded last year.

Dr. Brimm, speaking for the School System, stated it was the fourth year in the program and she thanked the Board, for their support. She said it was truly a collaborative effort and she showed on PowerPoint the results students had achieved over the four years. The program elements center around early learning; wraparound services are also offered, including two social workers that conduct home visits. A before-and-after summer school program is offered to keep students engaged, and if they are in need of utilities, food and clothing, that is provided as well. There is parent engagement in which families are required to attend monthly meetings in addition to teacher/parent conferences. The students are also engaged in community civic activities through which they can give back to their community.

Dr. Brimm referred to some graphs: Kindergarten had the lowest number of discipline referrals and martial arts were implemented this past year. Overall the students are performing well and doing extremely well

Mr. McCabe asked what the size was of the initiative and the groups.

Dr. Brim: 200 students, with 18 to 25 in a group.

Mr. McCabe: What does school do to the relatively few children that are causing problems for the entire class?

Dr. Brimm: A process called Response to Intervention (RTI) can be used behaviorally and academically. For a repeat offender, the school meets with the parents, a social worker and psychologist to develop a plan for that child for a six-month period. When problems are attributed to the home environment, they work on the dynamics of the home.

Mr. Dillinger: Referring to the booklet, on page 13 where Fairmount is compared to Lakewood, it appears Fairmount did worse than Lakewood in the first grade cycle, one and three.

Dr. Brimm: For that correlation, Lakewood was higher.

Mr. Dillinger: What did Lakewood do to get the children proficient?

Dr. Brimm said she did not know but would find out and report back to the Board.

**V. INFORMATION ITEMS**

Mrs. Minkoff asked for questions/comments regarding informational items.

Commissioner Seel thanked Penny DeLacqueaux for her 33 years of service and Gay Lancaster for her six years and said she appreciates all the time everyone at JWB gives to improving children's services.

## **VI. OPEN AGENDA**

Mrs. Minkoff pointed out that the next JWB Board meeting is November 29<sup>th</sup>, the fifth Thursday at JWB, Conference Room 191.

Mr. Dillinger shared the good news that they are ready to distribute the food that the Board approved in the amount of \$200,000. The Public Defender's office agreed to coordinate, and will keep the records and inventory. Mid Town Rotary will provide a Pac a Sac model to Lakewood; St. Pete Rotary is doing Jamerson and the new Rotary at Feather Sound is going to help out at Highpoint. There are still some schools to go, but the hope is to feed all those chronically hungry children with support from the community. JWB will provide the food for the children involved with both Child Protection and Directions.

## **VII. ADJOURN**

**Mrs. Rouson moved for adjournment at 9:37 AM; seconded by Dr. Sewell; no discussion; motion carried.**

Minutes Submitted by:

Dr. James Sewell  
Board Secretary  
11/29/12