



Giving every Galveston child the opportunity to soar

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**Moody Early Childhood Center**

**BOD Minutes**

**Friday, March 22, 2019**

**1:00 p.m. in the Family Engagement Room @ MECC**

**1110 21<sup>st</sup> Street, Galveston, Texas 77550**

**In Attendance:**

Betty Massey, Jeri Kinnear, Angela Brown, Weez Doherty

**Absent:** Ms. Adams, and Dr. Prochaska

**Staff:**

Karin Miller, Greg Howell

**Guests:**

None

Ms. Massey called the meeting to order at 1:07pm. No members of the public were present so she dispensed with the Public Comment item on the agenda.

**On a motion from Ms. Kinnear and a second by Ms. Doherty, the minutes of the February 22, 2019 meeting were approved with Mr. Howell's correction of GISD payment referenced in the second paragraph of those minutes: \$228,000 not the figure in the original document.**

Mr. Howell and Ms. Brown presented the financial reports, responding to questions from board members on specific accounts. Mr. Howell stated that the audit is winding down and should be ready for presentation to the Finance Committee and then the Board in April. Following acceptance of the audit by the board, it will be submitted to GISD as required in the contract with the district.

The issue of bank account reconciliation had been discussed at the Finance Committee earlier in the week and is on its way to resolution as is the protocol for processing the professional development grant expenditures. Mr. Howell stated that he will present budget amendments to Finance Committee and the Board next month. **On a motion from Ms. Kinnear and a second by Ms. Brown the financial reports were accepted by the board.**

Ms. Miller had distributed her Executive Director's report prior to the meeting and reviewed it with the board, responding to questions. She asked the board if there were subjects that members wanted addressed or material that did not need to be presented in her reports, noting that she had been including the same items for nearly 3 years. Board members agreed that enrollment numbers did not need to be presented monthly...perhaps including that information quarterly. Ms. Brown suggested that Ms. Miller add a regular item to her report in which she informed the board of any assistance she and her staff needed. This help might range from introductions to resource access for Family Advocates to gift cards for staff incentives to resolution of a policy issue. Ms. Miller will incorporate this section in her April report.

Dr. Prochaska had an urgent matter to attend to at work and was unable to break away for the meeting so the board deferred his committee report until next month.

Ms. Massey reported that the requests to United Way Galveston and the Ippolito Charitable Foundation were filed in March. She is working on requests to Herzstein Foundation, a previous MECC donor, and the Arnold Foundation, which would be a new donor, as well as a report to the Moody Foundation. Any work with the Moody Foundation on a second multi-year request needs to wait until determination is made by the Department of Health and Human Services on MECC's Early Head Start application.

Mr. Howell reported that MECC has been approved for a Yaga Children's Fund donation; he and Ms. Brown, who originated the Yaga relationship, will handle the Yaga process.

Ms. Kinnear reported on the invitation to testify before Senator Larry Taylor's education committee on SB 1769 which would extend automatic eligibility for PreK4 to students who qualified for PreK3 without families having to reapply. She asked the board to reaffirm its commitment to advocating for early education by adopting the following resolution:

March 22, 2019:

By 2020, three in five Texas jobs will require an Associate's, or Bachelor's degree, or a vocational certificate.

Whereas it is the law that the State of Texas provide an equal education for our 5.4 million students, it is particularly important for students of color and those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, beginning with our youngest learners;

Whereas research has shown that a child's brain is 90% developed by age 5 and that children from more affluent families hear 30 million more words by the time they are 3-years-old than their peers from lower income families; and

Whereas research has demonstrated that beginning early will give all children an equal opportunity to learn, to read on grade level by 3rd grade, and succeed in school; now therefore, be it

*Resolved*, that The Moody Early Childhood Center in Galveston:

1. fully supports funding for full day PreK3 and PreK4;
2. fully supports Senate Bill #1679 that states that if a child is eligible for pre-kindergarten at age three then they are eligible for enrollment in PreK4.

The Board of Directors  
Moody Early Childhood Center  
1109 21st Street  
Galveston, TX 77550

Her request was affirmed unanimously on a motion from Ms. Kinnear and a second by Ms. Doherty. Ms. Miller will travel to Austin for PreK rally day and to testify before Senator Taylor's committee.

Ms. Doherty reported on the first quarter Advisory Board meeting. Out of that meeting came a request to hold a MECC Budget 101 orientation for the advisors and that meeting is scheduled for late April. The Ball High MECC video is completed and approved by GISD so it is ready for distribution. As the website is being revamped, the video will be included.

The next report came from Ms. Doherty also; she, Ms. Brown and Mr. Howell visited Kids 'R' Kids, an early childhood center in the League City area, with two campuses, one that is 100% full tuition

students and one that is 70% scholarship. They returned with several ideas which they shared with Ms. Miller about center operations. Ms. Miller and Mr. Ford are identifying a time for the two of them to make a similar site visit to the Educare facility in New Orleans.

Ms. Brown then reported on the Dental Health education program she is developing. Ms. Brown is looking into a partnership with Galveston Sustainable Communities Alliance, who is talking to the University of Texas Dental Branch to have residents come to MECC, talk to our parents, and do dental health screenings on all of the children. We are also looking at getting free dental health material for our families. She is hoping to have more information on these partnerships at MECC's board of directors' April meeting.

Ms. Massey reported that Teen Health has received a grant from Sealy & Smith Foundation to open a pediatric clinic at MECC. Teen Health staff and board will be on the MECC campus following the board meeting to identify space and work on a timetable for opening.

Ms. Massey, Mr. Howell and Ms. Miller met with Dr. Moulton, Dr. Scott and Mr. Barger on March 21st to begin discussions on changes in the operating agreement for the 2019/20 school year. The large issues included:

- a) the possibility of opening a PreK4 classroom for Head Start students as requested by Mr. Richards and Ms. Johnson, who feel there are students not ready to leave the MECC campus;
- b) the tuition that will be charged for the single PreK3 classroom at Rosenberg School;
- c) the entire process that deals with the flow of funds, which Mr. Howell and Mr. Barger will redraft;
- d) the sections on school policies which Ms. Miller is drafting in consultation with Maya Consulting.

Ms. Massey did tell Dr. Moulton that over the course of the next year, MECC would be researching the efficacy of preparing its own food, but there would be no change in the contract for the upcoming year. Other issues were relatively minor and all in alignment with the MECC board discussion in February. It is the goal of the process to have a final draft to the MECC board for its April meeting and to the GISD board in May.

Mr. Ford, Ms. Miller and Ms. Massey met on March 18th with Mr. Richards and Ms. Johnson to discuss the upcoming year's MOU with Head Start. The changes to that agreement were minor with the exception of the possibility of a PreK4 class at MECC, which is pending with GISD. Both parties agreed to implement a more robust recruitment program.

The board then adjourned to Executive Session to discuss personnel issues, reconvening 20 minutes later with no decision to reach.

On a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.