



Board Meeting Minutes
January 17, 2019

Present: Diamond Bethea, Ilene Britt, Linda Chappel, Cathy Collie-Robinson, Ellie Erickson, Phillip Harris, Josh Hawn, Brenda Howerton, Jason Jones, Michael Page, David Reese, Donna Rewalt, Ben Rose, Delphine Sellars, Queron Smith, Jim Spencer

Absent/excused: Deric Boston, Cheryl Brown, Drew Cummings, Karen O’Mansky, Ashley Taylor Jacobs, Mike Lee, Joanne Pierce

Guests: Rachel Cason, Mya Sendak

Cathy Collie-Robinson called the meeting to order at 3:10 pm with a quorum.

| Agenda Item | Summary of Discussion | Motion | Action |
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| ANNOUNCEMENTS | New staff, Haley Barber, was introduced and it was announced that Jeffrey Cabrera has returned for a temporary position. The NCPC 25 th Anniversary Gala will be held on March 2. Two pediatric residents who are on their community rotation were introduced. | | |
| AGENDA MODIFICATIONS | None. There was no public comment | | |
| CONSENT AGENDA -Board minutes (11/15/18) -Spending Analysis (DSP’s and NCPK) | The consent agenda was presented. Laura noted that the Durham Early Head Start materials were not ready due to the close out period of the grant ending 12/31/19 and the necessity of spending and monthly reports to go to Policy Council before they are presented to the Board. The Policy Council did not meet due to the December holidays) | It was moved to approve the consent agenda. Motion: Delphine Sellars Second: Brenda Howerton Not voting due to conflict of interest: None | Motion Carried |
| FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT | Queron Smith presented the final audit report for both the FY 17-18 financial statements and the single audit (federal funds). It was noted that there were no significant changes between the draft financial statements and the final audit. It is a clean opinion with no management letter or areas of concern from the auditor. Commendation was again offered to the finance team for their diligent oversight and fiscal management. | It was moved to receive the FY 17-18 audited financial statements and single audit as prepared by CohnReznick. Motion: David Reese Second: Jason Jones Not voting due to conflict of interest: None | Motion Carried |

| Agenda Item | Summary of Discussion | Motion | Action |
|--|--|--|-------------------------------|
| STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN FRAMEWORK | <p>The board spent an hour of this meeting in small table group discussions around the focus goal areas of the draft strategic action plan. The following questions were asked.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Are we focused on the right big desired results? Is this where we have the most leverage? -Are these the right strategy focuses? What else should we consider? -Will they get us there most quickly and help shift the paradigm for children to be successful? -Are we building on DPfC's natural strengths while sufficiently challenging ourselves? -Are we helping to reduce fragmentation in the system? -Are we taking advantage of our true power which lies in Influence and Advocacy? -Do these desired results and strategies reflect where we want to be headed as a community? <p>Collated discussion notes follow these minutes as an addendum. They were circulated to the full board following the meeting. Laura will bring a small working group of board members together with Teri Beckman to hone the draft further and incorporate the board's recommendations into the plan.</p> | | |
| EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT | <p>The written report was included in the Board packet. The report included a chart of all proposal requests received for FY 19-21 Smart Start funding.</p> | | |
| OTHER BUSINESS | <p>There was no other business. The board was reminded that the March Board meeting will begin with a partner fair, and the Allocations Committee members are invited to attend.</p> | | |
| ADJOURNMENT | <p>The meeting was adjourned..</p> | <p><u>February 21, 2019</u></p> <p><u>March 21, 2019</u></p> | <p>3:00 pm</p> <p>3:00 pm</p> |

One way to reconfigure the Action Plan Goals:

Vision - Durham's leading organization for helping children succeed

1. Solving Basic Needs

- Ready families
- Enabling parents to advocate for their children
- Central hub for identifying resources to help families' basic needs

2. Kindergarten Readiness

- Guide the successful expansions of Pre-K and ensure quality
- DPFCs current strength

3. Advocacy

- Why Durham's investing in this matters
- Year round engagement, community wide

Question Set #1:

Are we focused on the right big desired results for the next 2-3 years? Is this where we have the most leverage and can make the biggest impact?

- Yes, when you look at the mission, all 3 priority areas are related to it.
- The strategies need to be prioritized
- There is a lot of work to do in selecting objectives for each focus area.
- Strategies need to be "grouped" and "stacked" more meaningfully throughout plan
- We have a lot of capital in the education space

Question Set #2:

Are these some of right strategies? What's missing? What else should we consider?

Will these approaches get us to the desired result most quickly and help shift the paradigm for children to be successful?

Are we building on DPfC's natural strengths while sufficiently challenging ourselves?

Are we helping to reduce fragmentation in the early childhood system?

Are we taking advantage of our true power which lies in influence and advocacy?

Do these desired results and strategies reflect where we want to be headed as a community?

- Hitting in areas that are focused on supporting young children
- A real change – being more specific; addressing issues beginning with infants and toddlers
- We are in the right position with established relationships and cultivating new relationships
- A lot more strength v. weakness in this created system
- Are we positioned to be a central organization? What blind spots are there? It's easy to be in an echo chamber!
- Agencies / funded partners need to be better connected. This has improved over the years, but there is still room for improvement.
- Does the plan address the silos/fragmentation in ECE? It can be confusing system.
- We don't take advantage of or use our "voice" – utilize board and their diverse working sectors – board can be better champions
- We're not taking advantage of our power and advocacy

-We have a lot of influence within Early Childhood Education but we need to build our influence outside of our direct realm

-Create advocacy committee: mobilize members to speak to civic groups

-Make ourselves more visible (to what end?)

-Regarding advocacy: use influence and advocacy to find other funding sources for ongoing needs. We can't just stop funding the basic foundations of early childhood (e.g. WAGE\$), so don't simply redirect our funding streams – but continue to find new ways of supporting the foundations, and then we can move our other resources to address new areas.

Focus Area / Priority #1: All young children successfully transition from home or pre-school settings into kindergarten.

-What does transitioning and being ready for Kindergarten really mean? What does transition look like?

-Add “ready to learn” – not just “ready”

-We need to be more specific with objectives that would define success in this area

-What can we achieve to be successful that's reflected back in the children we serve?

-I like the ‘warm hand off’; ‘seamless path’; ‘planning hub’

-Prioritize the strategies – *Put serving vulnerable children first!*

-We should be able to say: These are the 5-6 things that are essential for transition and they fit on a bookmark! (Clarity and brevity)

Focus Area / Priority #2: All families with young children receive timely, culturally relevant, and accurate information that provides the support necessary for their children to be successful in school and life.

-Does/can DPfC be a hub for information? Are there any other Local Partnerships that do this?

-Use website to point to where to go add a comment box for parents to ask questions

-Missing from this area – the need to be networking with government agencies to help assist us in our goals (e.g. hospitals, attorneys, Durham Public Library)

-Strong network is discussed, but what's missing is a network of the entire community – not just agency to agency, or family to family, but a full connection with schools, with government

-What about basic needs? Poverty is at the core of what's real for families and what needs to be addressed

-How to help parents connect to resources beyond education and basic needs?

-Embed this priority in the capacity of parents to self-advocate

Focus Area / Priority #3: Durham Pre-K successfully launches and effectively serves Durham's four year olds to prepare them for kindergarten.

-Yes, this is exactly where we should be

-Add accountability – who is responsible for kindergarten readiness? Is this within DPfC's control?

-We need to do a deeper dive to answer what our role is in Durham Pre-K – we're the “front end”

-Be sure to frame what we're accountable for in this process – we can't guarantee that children leave pre-k ready to learn.

-Who is accountable for how well one individual child is prepared for kindergarten?

-How is data shared?

-How to create public will and create a demand for high quality care

-How do we tell this story? We need to have a more robust story to sell the benefits of pre-k

Focus Area/ Priority #4: The Partnership's infrastructure and systems adapt, evolve, and strengthen to accomplish these results.

- The language in this priority area is the least exciting; expand it; energize it; it's not inspiring – we need to identify our role (e.g. Durham Public Education Network said it was a “Critical friend to DPS”)
 - This is internal facing, not public facing
 - Necessary to have this in the plan – we have to build our capacity so that we don't overpromise as if we can serve all children
 - This isn't a result – it's an objective
 - We need to answer the question: What is DPfC wanting/needing to be?
- One answer: A HUB/CONNECTOR