

Draft Special Board of Directors Minutes for 11/09/06



Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe
Special Board of Directors Meeting–Minutes of November 09, 2006

BOARD ATTENDANCE: **O. Verdeja (Chair)**, A. Eckstein, C. Chapell, C. Jones, D. Lawrence, G. Schwartz, J. Russell, J. Robinson, M. Hill, M. Bryant
N. Hernandez Hendrix, S. Herald (via phone), S. La Villa, Y. Johnson, Y. Perkins

STAFF ATTENDANCE: O. Mendez

GENERAL ATTENDANCE: G. Gregg, G. Montes E. Besos, D. Blomberg, K. Suarez-Espinosa, A. Sejeck, B. Park, M. Abety, E. Rivera, W. Harvey (Board Attorney)

AGENDA ITEMS	DISCUSSION/CONCLUSION	RECOMMENDATION/ACTION
WELCOME & INTRODUCTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ O. Verdeja called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. ▪ The board reporter called roll and a quorum was established with eight (8) voting members. 	
CHAIR STATEMENT TO BOARD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ O. Verdeja read a statement explaining the purpose of the Special Board meeting and the Search Committees recommendation to the Board: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Special Board of Directors meeting was held for the purpose of interviewing and deciding whether to accept the recommendation of the Search Committee as to our new CEO. The Early Learning Coalition is a \$175 Million dollar organization which must do what's best for itself and what is best for the children of Dade and Monroe County. The search process was begun by appointing the Search Committee that included members of the board, members of the community and providers. The Search Committee met on several occasions. Bud Park from the Performance Search firm identified a number of excellent candidates and produced a short list of candidates. All were excellent. At the end of the third day the committee identified four individuals out of eight. These were Jonah Pruitt, Evelio Torres, Karen Egozi and Mercedes Toural, however Mercedes was selected by the Search Committee as their choice for candidate for the CEO position. The decision to recommend Mercedes Toural was unanimous. ▪ O. Verdeja addressed the board concerning a phone call received two days ago from Bud Park regarding a phone call he (Bud Park) received from another board member. That board member indicated to Bud Park that Dr. Rudy Crew, Superintendent to the School Board had called him and said that he did not want Mercedes Toural for this position. O. Verdeja told the board that he was 	

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	<p>surprised, shocked and dismayed to learn this. He subsequently asked Bud Park to call Dr. Crew directly and make sure he heard the comments directly from him.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bud Park shared his comments regarding a conversation he had with Dr. Rudy Crew about Mercedes Toural being the only name submitted to the board of the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade and Monroe. Bud Park told the board that he called Dr. Crew around 8:00PM on Tuesday night and asked for his consent to take notes on their conversation. Bud Park told Dr. Crew that the notes would be shared with the ELC Board of Directors. Dr. Crew gave his consent. Dr. Crew said that he was concerned that Mercedes Toural was the only nominee submitted to the board. He was also concerned about the viability of the relationship with the Early Learning Coalition. He said that they have gone through some court issue with her and that this would compromise his relationship with the Early Learning Coalition. He said he would have to do business else where. He also said that if it goes that way that there are sufficient issues on the table with this candidate and he would be compromised and would not be a player with the Early Learning Coalition. In conclusion, Dr. Crew said that this was a surprising and unfortunate development, however he's not telling anybody what to do. ▪ O. Verdeja said that he does not think our organization should be pressured by any organization or anyone on how to proceed. ▪ O. Verdeja asked that the board interview Mercedes Toural and that they do not just focus on Dr. Crew's comments. ▪ O. Verdeja thanked Bud Park and all the member of the search committee for their hard work. 	
<p>BOARD DISCUSSION</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ O Verdeja stated that the reason the Search Committee came to the board with only one candidate was because the Search Committee's vote had been unanimous. ▪ The board agreed that it would be in the Coalition's best interest, as was agreed previously at the last board meeting of 10/07/06, that the board have the opportunity to interview the top three candidates and not just one and that the candidates should be interviewed on the same day and that the same questions be asked to all three. ▪ Motion made by G. Schwartz to schedule another board meeting to interview the top three candidates. ▪ Motion is second by D. Lawrence ▪ Motion unanimously passes. ▪ J. Perkins suggested that J. Pruitt stay for a transition period of at least 90 days as a consultant. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Motion made by G. Schwartz to schedule another board meeting to interview the top three candidates. ▪ Motion is second by D. Lawrence ▪ Motion unanimously passes. ▪ B. Park will send the board the list of interview questions prior to the next special board meeting, ▪ The next meeting will take place on Monday, November 20th at 3:00PM ▪ J. Perkins suggested that J. Pruitt stay for a transition period of at least 90 days as a

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ O. Verdeja confirmed that J. Pruitt had already verbally agreed to stay for the transition period. ▪ B. Park will send the board the list of interview questions prior to the next special board meeting, ▪ The next meeting will take place on Monday, November 20th at 3:30PM. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ consultant. ▪ O. Verdeja confirmed that J. Pruitt had already verbally agreed to stay for the transition period.
MEETING ADJOURNED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Meeting was adjourned at 10:30AM 	

Signed and approved by:

S. Herald, Board Secretary

Date