

MEETING NOTES/MINUTES

October 8th, 2014

Start Time: [1:12 pm CST]

End Time: [1:51 pm CST]

Committee Members Present

Rickey Boggan, Louise Davis, Johnny Franklin, Juanita Johnson, Jenny Kern, April May, Lora Mederos, Nita Norphlet-Thompson, Mimmo Parisi, Marcie Skelton, Laurie Smith, Holly Spivey, Danny Spreitler, Jennie Sturgis, Rhea Williams-Bishop, Carolyn Willis, Carey Wright

Others Present

Tate Gould, Kelsey Risman

Motions Passed

1. Danny Spreitler motioned to amend the agenda to include an item for the approval of a strong letter of support for the preschool development grant proposed by MDE. Rhea Williams-Bishop second the motion. The board unanimously approved the motion.
2. Spreitler motioned to approve the minutes from the 9-25-14 SECAC meeting. Dr. Mimmo Parisi seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved the motion.
3. Spreitler motioned for SECAC to write a strong letter of support for the preschool development grant proposed by MDE. Johnny Franklin seconded the motion. The board unanimously approached the motion.
4. Franklin motioned to adjourn the meeting. Parisi seconded the motion. Boggan adjourned the meeting at 1:51 p.m.

Meeting Notes

Ricky Boggan called the meeting to order at 1:12 p.m.

Danny Spreitler motioned to amend the agenda to include an item for the approval of a strong letter of support for the preschool development grant proposed by MDE. Rhea Williams-Bishop second the motion. The board unanimously approved the motion.

Spreitler motioned to approve the minutes from the 9-25-14 SECAC meeting. Dr. Mimmo Parisi seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved the motion.

Spreitler motioned for SECAC to write a strong letter of support for the preschool development grant proposed by MDE. Johnny Franklin seconded the motion.

Dr. Carey Wright gave a presentation about the grant and expressed MDE's willingness to clarify any of its answers to various questions/concerns about the grant. Dr. Wright addressed one specific question from Debbie Ellis about an economic impact study. Dr. Wright said that although MDE hasn't conducted

an official study, other research, including a meta analysis, indicates a need for additional early childhood programs. She also said the grant's definition of "high quality" mirrors the definition in the Early Learning Collaborative Act.

Boggan opened the floor for clarifications from the public audience.

Cassandra talked about workforce/trainer requirements and asked if language about CEA training could be included in the grant.

In response to the research cited by Dr. Wright, Debbie Ellis said there is research suggesting the opposite results: that private establishments with toddlers and infants will suffer financially. Ellis also cited the example of Texas, which requires a mixed-delivery system. In this system, school districts are required to show that they are collaborating with private providers to get more funding. She asked if Dr. Wright could give a guarantee that collaboratives in the grant would involve a private provider. Dr. Wright said MDE would have to follow the grant requirements.

Cantrell Keys asked what districts are collaborating with private preschools to get extra funding? Dr. Wright said MDE cannot provide that information until the grant is released. **Robin** from MDE said that 22 of the collaboratives involve private preschools. **Keys** asked if the collaboratives represent people across the state. Dr. Wright said yes, every region and income level are represented. **Keys** asked if the grant would try to help private providers to participate. **Robin** said MDE very much sees it as a partnership even if everyone isn't in a collaborative. Spreitler said the collaborative model makes a difference.

Cora Rogers asked if your school is consolidated and doesn't get funds, what benefit can you receive from that? Dr. Wright said you are free to participate; she said everyone can receive the same Title and Special Education funds.

After this discussion, the board unanimously passed the motion to write a strong letter of support for the preschool education grant proposed by MDE.

Franklin motioned to adjourn the meeting. Parisi seconded the motion. Boggan adjourned the meeting at 1:51 p.m.