

1-10-2019

Juvenile Welfare Board Meeting : 2019 : 01 : 10 : Minutes

Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County.

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Juvenile Welfare Board

Investing in children. Strengthening our community.

BOARD MEETING

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 2019
DIRECTLY FOLLOWING THE 9:00 AM
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**JUVENILE WELFARE BOARD
14155 58TH STREET NORTH
CONFERENCE ROOM 191
CLEARWATER, FL 33760**

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Brian Aungst, Jr., Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM. He asked Dr. James Sewell to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Aungst announced the dedication of Room 191 in memory of former Board members Mrs. Maria Edmonds and Mr. Raymond Neri would occur after the adjournment of the January regular Board meeting. He also stated staff anniversaries would be acknowledged at the February regular Board meeting.

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Brian Aungst, Jr.	Board Chair	Present
Susan Rolston	Board Vice Chair	Present
Rick Butler	Board Secretary	Present
Bob Dillinger	Public Defender	Absent
Michael Grego	Superintendent	Absent
Bernie McCabe	State Attorney	Present
Michael Mikurak	Board Member	Present
James Millican	Board Member	Present
Patrice Moore	Sixth Judicial Court Judge	Present
Karen Seel	Pinellas County Commissioner	Present
James Sewell	Board Member	Present

II. CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Approve Board Minutes for November 8, 2018
- B. Accept Financial Report for November and December 2018
- C. Accept Finance Committee Meeting Minutes for December 18, 2018
- D. Approve Board Workshop Minutes for November 29, 2018

Mr. Aungst asked for a motion to approve the Consent Items.

ACTION: Dr. Sewell moved to Approve the Consent Items as presented; seconded by Division Chief Jim Millican. No further discussion, all in favor; motion carried.

III. ACTION ITEMS

A. Ratify Finance Committee Meeting Recommendations from December 18, 2018

Mr. Brian Jaruszewski, Chief Financial Officer, explained each item for ratification.

Action 1: Approve Quality Early Learning Initiative Request for Qualifications (RFQ) Recommendation

Mr. Jaruszewski summarized the process leading to make the recommendation to award a two-year contract with an amount of \$475,000 annually to the YMCA of Greater St. Petersburg to operate a quality early learning center in Lealman.

There was no discussion.

ACTION: Division Chief Millican moved to Approve the Quality Early Learning Initiative Request for Qualifications (RFQ) Recommendation as presented; seconded by Mrs. Susan Rolston. No further discussion, all in favor; motion carried.

Action 2: Approve New Per Diem Rates for Travel

Mr. Jaruszewski explained the rationale and impact of increasing travel per diem rates to match the Federal travel per diem rates. There was a brief discussion explaining the vote on this matter at the December 18, 2018 Finance Committee Meeting which was not unanimous.

Currently, the Travel & Conference Guidelines contain the rates included in Florida Statutes 112.061(6)(b). The current and proposed rates are:

	Current	Proposed
Breakfast	\$ 6.00	\$16.00
Lunch	\$11.00	\$17.00
Dinner	\$19.00	\$31.00
Total	\$36.00	\$64.00

The financial impact of the increase to the rates is less than \$5,000 annually.

There were no questions.

ACTION: Mr. Michael Mikurak moved to Approve the New Per Diem Rates for Travel as presented; seconded by Mrs. Rolston. No further discussion, all in favor; motion carried.

The members began to discuss the recommended Board Policy changes. Mr. Aungst asked that that discussion on this matter be held until that section of the agenda.

Action 3: Approve Non-Operating and Capital Projects Funding Recommendations

Mr. Jaruszewski provided an overview of the process to award \$1 million to JWB funded nonprofit agencies in Pinellas County for non-operating and capital projects.

Mr. Aungst called for a motion.

ACTION: Mr. Bernie McCabe moved to Approve Non-Operating and Capital Projects Funding Recommendations as presented; seconded by Mr. Mikurak. No further discussion, all in favor; motion carried.

Action 4: Approve Removal of Surplus and Obsolete Inventory

Mr. Jaruszewski referenced the list of surplus and obsolete inventory items and noted all had been full depreciated.

Mr. Aungst called for questions from the Board. There were none. He called for a motion.

ACTION: Mr. Mikurak moved to Approve the Removal of Surplus and Obsolete Inventory as presented; seconded by Judge Patrice Moore. No further discussion, all in favor; motion carried.

Action 5: Approve FY19 Funding Recommendations

Mr. Jaruszewski said the FY19 Funding Recommendations were discussed at the November Board Workshop, with subsequent discussion at the December 18, 2018 Finance Committee Meeting. Mr. Jaruszewski referenced the document FY19 Future Programming Funding Recommendations found in the Board packet, and noted that the red highlights reflect updates incorporated subsequent to the November workshop.

Mr. Aungst asked if an amount has been budgeted for the Early Learning Request for Proposal (RFP). Mr. Jaruszewski stated that it was \$688,000 annualized. JWB is doubling its current investment in that program for a total investment of \$1,376,000.

ACTION: Mr. Mikurak moved to Approve the FY19 Funding Recommendations as presented; seconded by Division Chief Millican. No further discussion, all in favor; motion carried.

B. Approve Board Policy Revisions

Mr. Jaruszewski presented the proposed Board Policy revisions. He noted that this item was discussed at the December 18, 2018 Finance Committee meeting, but no action was taken. A decision was made by the Finance Committee to bring the item to the Board.

Mr. Aungst stated that the Finance Committee discussed the protest procedures outlined on page 18 of the policies.

Mr. McCabe explained that Mr. Bob Dillinger raised concerns about the Board serving as the final arbitrator if a protest is filed during the solicitation process. Mr. Dillinger believed that the final decision should stay with the Chief Executive Officer. Ms. Colleen Flynn, JWB's legal counsel, noted that this has always been JWB's protest procedure. Allowing the CEO to be the final arbitrator for a protest would potentially create a conflict with other Board policies. After brief discussion, there was consensus that the protest procedure should remain as it is.

Mr. McCabe also explained the Finance Committee's discussion about documenting and monitoring funded agency board training. Dr. Marcie Biddleman, Chief Executive Officer, explained the funded agency reporting process to document board training. She stated JWB consultants often provide the training.

Mrs. Rolston said a Board member from one of the Neighborhood Family Centers said he had not had any training.

Mr. Aungst called for questions. There were none.

ACTION: Dr. Sewell moved to Approve the Board Policy Revisions as presented; seconded by Division Chief Millican. No further discussion, all in favor; motion carried.

IV. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Dr. Biddleman provided information on the status of the faith-based literacy program operated by the YMCA of Greater St. Petersburg. She referred to Information Item V.A. Status Update: Literacy for Faith-Based Organization Program, which included responses to questions emailed to her by Mr. Aungst in December. She provided an overview of the literacy program offered by five St. Petersburg churches: Bethel Metropolitan, Southside Tabernacle, St. Petersburg Islamic Center, Christ Gospel, and Faith Memorial. Previously there were eight churches offering literacy services. As of December 2018, the average daily attendance in those five church programs is 53 students with a total of 84 students enrolled. Efforts are in place to expand the program. She explained the program is using the iReady[®] evidence-based curriculum and the program staff is conducting comprehensive testing to ensure individual student success. Dr. Biddleman explained the program staff enhancements, including a full-time lead teacher.

Mr. Aungst questioned the correlation between average daily attendance for FY17 and FY18 and he asked if the variance was a result of three churches not participating, or if it was a trend.

Dr. Biddleman explained the transition of the program and uncertainty in the community impacted program attendance. She called Mr. David Jezek, President and CEO, YMCA of Greater St. Petersburg to the podium. He then introduced Ms. Felicia Handy, Faith-Based Program Director for the faith-based literacy program. Ms. Handy briefly outlined plans to recruit students in the Bethel Metropolitan Church neighborhood.

Dr. Biddleman continued to report on attendance trends for the school year versus the summer and acknowledged attendance is an issue. She indicated that the Request for Proposal being developed for literacy programming will have an emphasis on attendance.

The discussion continued about the cost per student. Mr. Aungst said the average cost per student is \$1,600, not \$8,500 as previously stated during the November 2018 regular Board meeting and then reported in the *Tampa Bay Times*. He also requested clarification on the amount of money spent on books.

Dr. Biddleman referred the members to the faith-based literacy program equipment inventory supplied in the Board packet. She said the technology equipment at the three churches that are no longer providing faith-based literacy programs is the property of the YMCA of Greater St. Petersburg and is in the process of being transferred.

The discussion then turned to an email sent to the Board and Ms. Flynn on January 8, 2019 from Ms. Shirin M. Vesely at Trenam Law, attorney for Mrs. Donna Welch.

Dr. Biddleman acknowledged misstatements attributed to JWB concerning the faith-based literacy program. Mr. Aungst explained the *Tampa Bay Times* extrapolated information from the JWB documents they received after filing multiple public records requests.

Dr. Biddleman said staff would correct the inaccuracies and respond to the letter from Mrs. Welch's attorney.

She reviewed the financial oversight process as outlined in Information Item V.A. Status Update: Literacy for Faith-Based Organization Program.

Mr. Mikurak asked if staff review field trip plans before the trips occur, and how changes to planned field trips would be monitored.

Mr. Jaruszewski said funded agencies have a list of approved field trips modeled after the approved field trip list adopted by Pinellas County Schools. Any trip that is not on the list requires prior approval.

The members agreed it is necessary to clear the air on any mistakes made and any misunderstandings. They emphasized the need to move forward.

Commissioner Karen Seel then referred to an email she sent on January 9, 2019 requesting Dr. Biddleman prepare a response for the *Tampa Bay Times*.

There were no further questions or comments from the Board.

V. INFORMATION ITEMS

Mr. Aungst asked the members if there was a need to discuss any additional Information Items. There was no discussion.

VI. OPEN AGENDA

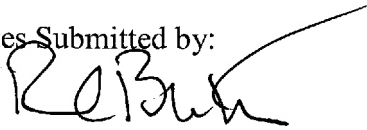
Mr. Aungst announced no public comment cards were submitted.

Mr. Aungst reminded the audience that the dedication of the Edwards Neri Conference Room was scheduled to begin at 10:00 AM and the CEO Search Committee meeting begins at 10:30 AM.

VII. ADJOURN

Mr. Aungst moved for adjournment at 9:40 AM seconded by Dr. Sewell. No further discussion, all in favor; motion carried.

Minutes Submitted by:



Rick Butler
Board Secretary
02/14/19