

**From Cradle to College Foundation, Inc.**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Of**  
**January 19, 2022**

The From Cradle to College Foundation, Inc. held a Board of Directors meeting on January 19, 2022, at 10:00 AM through a Zoom Meeting initiated at 600 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue West, Palmetto, Florida

**Board Members Present:**

Marc Gilner  
Dianne Kopczynski  
Diana Dill  
Linda Guritz  
Rachael Quinn  
Howard Veltz

**Board Members Absent:**

Andrew Minor (excused)

**Foundation Staff Present:**

Marie O'Connell

**Early Learning Coalition Staff Present:**

Darrell King, Interim CEO

These minutes are a summary of the discussion and action items of the From Cradle to College Foundation Board of Directors meeting on January 19, 2022.

**Welcome and Roll Call**

Marc Gilner called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

Marie O'Connell conducted roll call and determined a quorum was present.

**Foundation Update**

The Board discussed the sudden passing of Paul Sharff and the impact his loss will have on the Manatee County community as well as those who had been business or personal associates with him over the years. It was noted that Paul's passion for the children of Manatee County was remarkable and his work so meaningful. All reflected on his interest in helping others and how effective he was at getting things to happen, noting that he will be missed greatly.

**Managing Director**

Chair Gilner asked that Marie O'Connell share the Foundation Updates, the first item of business being the appointment of an Interim to manage the business of the Foundation due to Mr. Sharff's unexpected passing. Ms. O'Connell shared how much energy and influence that Mr. Sharff brought to his work and that we can honor him by continuing the valuable work. Ms. O'Connell shared with the Board that Darrell King had been appointed Interim CEO of the Coalition.

Darrell King was asked to speak to this first item of business. Mr. King shared that he had been appointed as the Interim CEO for ELC and both he and the ELC Board thought it best that he focuses all his time on the Coalition rather than taking on responsibility for the Foundation as well. Mr. King recommended that Ms. O'Connell be appointed as the Interim noting that she had been with the Foundation since its inception and that she has been involved in the business operations. Dianne Kopczynski recognized that it would be difficult to do both jobs and stated that she appreciated that. She also noted that Ms. O'Connell has done an excellent job at the Foundation, and she would be supportive of that idea. The Board remarked that they are in full support of Ms. O'Connell securing the assistance she needs through an employee or on a contractual basis.

**Contract Manager PEARLS**

Ms. O'Connell shared that she had been completing all the tasks associated with the contract and working closely with the DEL Contractor Manager and the continuation of the duties would keep the contract management and associated processes flowing smoothly.

**Scholarship Administration Process**

Ms. O'Connell shared that the Foundation was very successful in raising funds for scholarships at the Leadership Prayer Breakfast. To continue with this success, she stated that we want to move forward in a structured fashion and that we are very fortunate to have Diana Dill on our board and asked if she would be willing to take the lead on

the Scholarship Administration Process. Ms. Dill has great expertise on how scholarships management and continuation can best be handled. Ms. Dill shared with the Board that she and Mr. Sharff had worked closely throughout the Leadership Prayer Breakfast fundraising and that it is time to plan the launching of what was accomplished to support these technical and educational scholarships. All agreed that we need to get processes in place and Dianne Kopczynski noted that we need to consider any tax issues or ramifications. Darrell King also noted that the scholarships outgrew Paul's expectations and are an important focus for the Foundation. At that time, he also noted that he is considering applying for the continuation of the WIT program through the Coalition rather than the Foundation. Ms. O'Connell shared with the board that it is simply a pass through of funding so the changeover of that program will have little to no impact on the Foundation. The PEARLS program funding request is in Tallahassee now for re-funding consideration and will continue under the Foundation, along with fundraisers. Mr. Sharff had been working with Senator Boyd and Mr. King has noted that he will also support the request in any way he can.

The Board spoke about a Leadership Transition process to include defining Director responsibilities and compensation. Ms. O'Connell was asked to leave the room for further board discussion and invited back by Ms. Linda Guritz. The board shared that they believed that Ms. O'Connell has the knowledge, desire, and wisdom to keep the Foundation moving forward.

#### **Items for Approval on Non-Consent Agenda**

The assignment of duties for Marie O'Connell to serve as Interim Director of FCTCF and Contract Manager for PEARLS was presented.

***Upon a motion duly made by Dianne Kopczynski and seconded by Diana Dill and the motion to approve the Non-Consent Agenda item was unanimously approved as presented.***

The Scholarship Administration to be handled by Committee headed by Diana Dill was presented.

***Upon a motion duly made by Dianne Kopczynski and seconded by Linda Guritz, the motion to approve the Non-Consent Agenda item was unanimously approved as presented.***

#### **Approval of the Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes of December 15, 2021**

Dianne Kopczynski noted a change on page 2 of the minutes from the word Means to Meals is needed.

***Upon a motion duly made by Dianne Kopczynski and seconded by Howard Veltz, the Minutes for the Board of Directors Meeting of December 15, 2021, with revision on page 2, were unanimously approved.***

#### **Old Business**

None

#### **New Business**

Diana Dill proposed to the Board that we establish a named scholarship in honor of Paul Sharff and the Board was in full agreement with the idea based on Mr. Sharff's service to the community and Foundation.

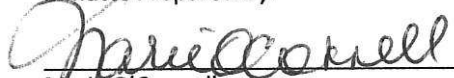
#### **Public Comments**

None

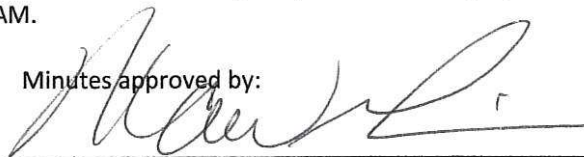
#### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Diana Dill moved to adjourn, and Dianne Kopczynski seconded the motion. The Meeting was adjourned at 10:57AM.

Minutes Prepared by:

  
Marie O'Connell

Minutes approved by:

  
Marc Gilner, Esq.