

**From Cradle to College Foundation, Inc.
Scholarship Committee
Meeting Of
February 10, 2022**

The From Cradle to College Foundation, Inc. held a Board of Directors meeting on February 10, 2022, at 10:00 AM through a Zoom Meeting initiated at 525 7th Avenue West, Palmetto, Florida.

Committee Members Present:

Marc Gilner
Dianne Kopczynski
Diana Dill
Karen Carpenter

Committee Members Absent:

Linda Guritz (excused)
Elaine Graham (excused)

Foundation Staff Present:

Marie O'Connell

These minutes are a summary of the discussion of the From Cradle to College Foundation Scholarship Committee meeting on February 10, 2022.

Welcome and Roll Call

Diana Dill, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:02A M.
Marie O'Connell conducted roll call and determined a quorum was present.

Scholarship Administration

Diana Dill thanked everyone on the call for joining the Scholarship Committee, noting how important it is that the Foundation follow through with the scholarships as it is important to honor the wishes of our generous donors and being true to Paul's commitments. Ms. Dill discussed the press release that was sent out regarding the Leadership Prayer Breakfast which detailed that \$15,000 plus match are designated for first responder scholarships and \$16,000 for early educators.

The Application process would be done through schools, with an established review and selection timeline. The intent is to serve low-income at-risk children with Florida Prepaid matching the funds one for one. For the Foundation to handle this solely would be a cumbersome process, so alternative methods have been investigated. There are other Manatee County organizations handling scholarships which would provide a valuable partnership in this process allowing the Foundation to participate but not be the sole owner of the process. Ms. Dill noted that she and Darrell King from ELC had attended a meeting with Ms. Joan McCaw from Manatee Community Foundation. Ms. McCaw suggested that we consider partnering with MTC Foundation in financial aid for first responders and SCF Foundation for the early educator programs.

Ms. Dill further described how the goal is to provide scholarships for seniors because statistics show that approximately 1/3 of them, approximately 2,000 annually, graduate without a plan for their future. The need is to get them to a career and education for a skilled trade provides a great opportunity to create that path. In addition, the workforce is crying out for labor, so the need is present for these workers.

If the Foundation utilizes MCF, we will have Mary Glass overseeing the scholarship process. This organization would ensure it goes to high school seniors. The Foundation would also be staying true to the list of approved entities approved by the board at the December 2021 Board Meeting.

Ms. Dill went on to state that this is an evolving process and asked committee members for their thoughts on this possibility for handling the scholarship process.

Dianne Kopczynski noted that she had been thinking along the same lines, that it would be best to piggyback with existing organizations and asked about the funds going to first responders and education scholarships.

Ms. Dill confirmed that we would honor donor intent and follow the press release sent out by Paul.

Judge Gilner asked, and Ms. Dill confirmed that children of first responders would not be eligible for scholarships based on that relationship, but only individuals seeking education to serve as first responders, again noting the great need for filling these positions,

Karen Carpenter noted that it was important to establish the process and distribute the funds to set a precedent for

the next breakfast, to keep our intent clear. She also noted that it may be possible for Manatee Education Foundation to provide match.

Ms. Dill agreed that it is important that we keep our intent clear and noted that streamlining this process rather than creating another will assist, noting that this is a win-win for the community.

Ms. Carpenter shared that she had no concerns with MEF and Mary Glass handling this process for FCTCF, and Ms. Kopczynski noted that she too was certain that the Foundation would be recognized and have a presence at the award ceremony.

Ms. Dill pointed out the challenge of students not finishing their courses completely, noting that she was aware of one female firefighter student who needed \$1500 to complete her certification, but was not able to secure that funding. Ms. Kopczynski noted what a waste that was and it would be ideal for those students to have some form of assistance so they can complete their coursework.

Ms. Dill shared that the meeting is currently set up with herself, Darrell King, and Marie O'Connell and that we hope she is open to this concept. Ms. Carpenter shared that she thought Ms. Glass will be open and that she knows the process.

In closing, Ms. Dill asked if there were any additional concerns or thoughts to be considered as we further research moving forward with the scholarship administration. The Committee indicated there were none.

Items for Approval on Consent Agenda

There were no items to vote on at this meeting due to research into the options still being in process.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Public Comments

None

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Judge Gilner moved to adjourn, and Dianne Kopczynski seconded the motion. The Meeting was adjourned at 10:25 AM.

Minutes Prepared by:

Minutes approved by:

Marie O'Connell

Diana Dill, Committee Chair