

**From Cradle to College Foundation, Inc.  
Scholarship Committee  
Meeting Of  
March 25, 2022**

The From Cradle to College Foundation, Inc. held a Board of Directors meeting on March 25, 2022, at 9:00 AM through a Zoom Meeting initiated at 525 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue West, Palmetto, Florida.

**Committee Members Present:**

Diana Dill  
Karen Carpenter

**Committee Members Absent:**

Linda Guritz (excused)  
Marc Gilner (excused)  
Dianne Kopczynski (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 March 25, 2022.

**Welcome and Roll Call**

Diana Dill, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 9 AM.

Marie O'Connell conducted roll call and determined that the meeting attendance did not indicate a quorum.

**Scholarship Administration**

Diana Dill noted that all the documentation is in place for the scholarship process to move forward in a proper manner. Based upon the decision of the Early Learning Coalition to not support the Foundation in its need to distribute scholarships to seniors and their desire to separate the two entities, quick action was taken by the board to make the necessary changes.

Marie O'Connell reported that the Foundation's status change has been filed. The Articles of Incorporation and By Laws have been amended to accommodate the Foundation's duty to provide these scholarships as intended by the generous donors at the Leadership Prayer Breakfast. Mr. Mohammadbhoj, ELC Board Chair, has signed the letter releasing any control over the Foundation.

Ms. Dill shared with the committee that we will not be partnering with MEF as originally hoped for scholarship administration. She noted that Mr. Darrell King, Interim CEO of the Early Learning Coalition, spoke with Mary. After his conversation, he informed Ms. Dill that MEF had declined the partnership.

Ms. Dill noted that the Foundation has two partnerships established to facilitate the completion of our important scholarship process. These entities were both approved at the December 15, 2021 Board meeting as part of the Funding Authorization list.

Virginia Sirocky of the MTC Foundation is ready to partner with us to administer the First Responder Scholarships. These scholarship funds will go to high school seniors in financial need who have the desire to pursue first responder careers.

SCF Foundation is also ready to partner with the Foundation for its educator scholarship opportunities, both in early and elementary education. The scholarships will also go to high school seniors in financial need. Cassandra Holmes will be working with the Foundation.

The committee discussed the necessary MOUs for working with MTC Foundation and SCF Foundation to outline the responsibilities of each party. Ms. O'Connell will draft the MOUs and send for review.

MTC Foundation will select recipients and will dispense the funds for First Responder participants.

SCF Foundation will select recipients and the scholarships that have been purchased by the Foundation from Florida Prepaid will be awarded by SCF.

The Foundation will provide a representative to participate in the selection process and it will be clearly noted in the document that no scholarships will be awarded to relatives of either organization's employees or board members to ensure complete compliance with IRS guidelines.

All scholarships will be required to be disbursed and/or assigned in the same calendar as the Foundation provides the funding and all recipients shall be required to start by August of the same calendar year.

It was agreed that we will hold a final meeting of the Scholarship Committee and then take the plan forward to the full board for approval.

Upon final approval, FCTCF will purchase FL Prepaid Scholarships and distribute funds to begin implementation.

**Items for Approval on Consent Agenda**

The vote on the consent agenda items was deferred to the next scheduled meeting for a vote by quorum.

**Approval of the Scholarship Committee’s Meeting Minutes of February 10, 2022**

*The Committee agreed to vote on their approval at the next Committee meeting.*

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

Ms. O’Connell shared a grant opportunity, Sisterhood for Good, that she had received from Dianne Kopczynski. It was agreed that the Foundation will apply for \$1,000, funds which would be utilized for books, supplies, and laptops for scholarship recipients to help provide equal opportunities for their learning success.

Ms. O’Connell also shared the Mrs. Karin Grablin had communicated that they would be making an additional donation soon to honor Paul Sharff. The committee was so appreciative of the Grablin family’s continued generosity and recognition of Paul.

**Public Comments**

None

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Karen Carpenter moved to adjourn, and Diana Dill seconded the motion. The Meeting was adjourned at 9:32 am.

Minutes Prepared by:

Minutes approved by:

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Marie O’Connell

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Diana Dill, Committee Chair