

**The Broward Reads Coalition - Campaign for Grade-Level Reading
Meeting Minutes
June 2, 2021**

9:30 a.m.

Meeting conducted via Zoom

I. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 9:34 a.m. Commissioner Beam Furr asked meeting attendees to introduce themselves.

II. Updates

a) Early Learning Coalition (Renee Jaffe)

Broward Bookworms: The program was launched two weeks ago and will distribute free book packages to Broward County families with children ages birth to five. The packages will be sent directly to registered families by Scholastic and will include activities that correspond to the books. Over 5,000 families have signed up for over 6,000 book packets. Books will be available in both English and Spanish with some being bilingual.

School Readiness Waitlist Update: Miss Jaffe reported that the team continues to move children off the waitlist. The ELC has surpassed 1,800 children and so are on target to hit the goal of 2,000. Parents are on the waitlist for approximately only two months and families continue to sign up which show the need of the program. She shared that the agency continues to do outreach to spread awareness of the program and further, that there may be new eligibility criterion based on some new Federal legislation.

Legislative Update: Many early learning advocates have been pushing for a more robust VPK program with different accountability measures which can be monitored from pre-K all the way through to grade school. That legislation was passed. This will see the inclusion of program assessments (Kindergarten Readiness tool) to measure teacher/child interaction in the classroom. The changes will require additional training and will be rolled out in phases over the new few years.

b) Broward County Public Schools (Lori Canning; Dan Gohl)

Dan Gohl reported that BCPS is working on submitting their list to the State of planned expenditures for Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) funds. County schools will get approximately \$260M and BCPS has authorization of about \$210M. The school board will convene on January 22nd to discuss the allocation.

American Recovery Plan\$ update: Mr. Gohl provided an update on the American Recovery Plan funding and will advise when additional information will be available.

Legislative Update: Cameras in Self-Contained ESE Classrooms: The state of Florida will be conducting a 3-year pilot program which allows students in self-contained classrooms to have their parents request full time audio visual monitoring of the self-contained classrooms. The anticipated roll out for public opportunity to sign up for this program is no later than July 15th, because cameras must be installed by August 18th - the first day of school. State law says that only recordings can be done and not live monitoring. There are rules around who can view the recordings and when they can be viewed. Copies of recordings cannot be provided to parents.

Charter Rules Changes: There are several new charter rules, including the ability of universities to create charters and charters to become their own LEA if they operate more than one campus called Schools of Hope. This has the potential to change the educational landscape across the state of Florida.

Transgender Athlete Bill: Governor DeSantis has signed the bill into law which limits the participation of transgender youth in sporting activities. Another element of the bill includes a provision that overrides the Education Commissioner's recent emergency order and allows parents of students in grades K through five the ability to request retention of their children and school districts must honor the request. This means, if a parent wishes their child to repeat a grade it is the parent's preference, not the school's recommendation, which must be honored. Parents have until June 30th to make such requests.

Broward Read for the Record: Lori Canning shared that the Museum of Discovery and Science will host a Broward Reads night at the museum at the end of August. Anyone interested in being part of the planning committee, please contact Lori.

Summer School Opportunities: BCPS Summer 2021 is an opportunity for in-person summer schooling. Parents can find out what opportunities are available at their children's school by visiting browardschools.com/summer2021 and searching by site. There will be 56 sites available. Pre-K programs are available but only for those currently enrolled in pre-K programs.

Countdown to Kindergarten: The webpage dedicated to the guide to Kindergarten is www.browardschools.com/bcpsk. Over 1,000 families have expressed interest thus far. Families receive a package which include the kindergarten roadmap to success, awesome Broward Reads bookmark, and a copy of Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten. 4,000 packets have been sent for public school and VPK headstart children.

The Three Pigs event was held virtually in April and the Mother Goose event was also held.

Canvas Website: Two week modules are being setup for the summer. These are thematic and similar to what was doen throughout the school year. A course is also being setup for the public which will go along with the ones being done for the teachers. A canvas page was also built for the Pig play (done in partnership with Broward Center for the Performing Arts). The links to the various Canvas pages will also be shared with early childhood care providers and also the South Florida Hunger Coalition, for use at feeding events. If persons need books for distribution at events, please feel free to reach out to Lori directly to make arrangements to get books (lori.canning@browardschools.com).

Tutoring Programs: Lori Canning reported that a workshop is being built for presentation to the school board on June 20th about tutoring. If persons implement a tutoring program in the community and they would like it to be highlighted, please email Lori. The objective is to create comprehensive tutoring plan for Broward County.

c) Children's Services Council (Cindy Arenberg Seltzer, Sandra Bernard-Bastien)

Cindy Arenberg Seltzer reported that the council approved the tentative budget for next year. She shared that there is a substabtlial reserve of unallocated dollars included which can be used to fill gaps where needed to possibly create some "on ramps" for things until federal funding kicks in and also, possibly provide some off ramp as some of the federal funds go away over time, the CSC can pick up some of it to help on the programmatic side. Cindy stated that there may be need to invest heavily in the community in areas such as remediation, mental health, social and emotional learning.

FGLRC: Jenn Faber provided updates from the Florida Grade-Level Reading Campaign. She encouraged meeting attendees to sign up for the FGLRC newsletter if they hadn't yet done so. Ms. Faber shared the following updates:

- The Supporting Literacy in School-Age programs five-hour training module has now been incentivized. The program will be available through July 30th. Persons who complete the five hour SLSA training

course for \$10 through the DCF training portal, and send their certificate along with the application form to FGLRC, will receive a \$50 Barnes and Noble gift certificate so you can purchase books for your program. There are about three hundred slots available.

- Summer Literacy Acceleration Grant: Special mention was made of ASP Broward, the recipients of the grant. An allocation of \$45,000 was made available for the summer for grants to summer camps. There were 58 applications and nine were awarded across the state of Florida in grade-level reading communities.
- No Small Matter Documentary is still being offered for viewing. The director of the film will be in attendance at the Florida Chamber Foundation Education Summit. Danny Alpert – the director and coproducer of the documentary will also be in attendance and have a chat with Faber as part of the conference.
- Pilot program called La Fuerza de Familias which is a family engagement training and conversation with parents. The program is designed to support parents and caregivers to promote their children's early learning, social emotional growth and school readiness. Faber shared that so far, the department at Broward Schools has offered the workshop twice and is currently in the midst of a third training. The program results will be available at the end of August.
- Special thanks to Lori Canning, Layne Polakoff and Allison Metsch who served as co-presenters with Jenn at the OEL Summit.
- FGLRC recently completed their PSa around the importance of summer learning and it will be launched within the next few days. Attendees were asked to share the PSA widely.
- A PSA series focused on the importance of attendance will be available in August for launch. It intends to help parents understand the importance of getting their children back into the routine of showing up for school on time everyday.
- National GLR Week is July 26th to 30th and will be a virtual event this year. There will be a multitude of selection of webinars through the national campaign that will be advertised by early July. The events roster will be shared once it becomes available.
- Florida residents have access to the Reading IQ platform (offered in conjunction with ABC Mouse), which is an online digital book source for two year olds to 12 year olds. Parents can go in and sign up absolutely free and gain access to 5,000 books that are in English and Spanish with some available as audiobooks. This is complimentary to any Florida resident through the end of this year.

Cindy Arenberg Seltzer requested a motion be made for approval of the April meeting's minutes. Caryl Hattan made a motion to accept and was seconded by Lori Canning. There was no opposition and the motion passed unanimously.

CLI Match Funding: Sandra Bernard-Bastien reported that the Children's Literacy Initiative requested match funding from the CSC and the request was approved by the Council. This means that CSC will continue to support CLI's current work in seven elementary schools and also, their new project focused on pre-K curriculum and professional development for teachers.

Read for the Record: Broward: Read for the Record will be October 28th and it will be a virtual event again this year for Broward.

Back-to-School Extravaganza: Planning is underway for the event which will be executed between end of July and the beginning of August. It will be largely funded by the CSC. A grant was also received from the Jim Moran Foundation. As usual, backpacks, shoes, uniforms and books will be distributed.

Legislative Update: Megan Turetsky shared the following updates though she will email a full legislative wrap-up to the respective chairs of the strategic planning committees and CSC partners:

- The Governor is expected to sign the budget today, June 2. The budget is \$101.5 B which is approximately \$10B more than previous year.
- House Bill 3: there a lot of opportunities for the Department of Education to put out some rulemaking and the processes for that.
- VPK Accountability Bill was passed
- The two general economic self-sufficiency bills were passed.

HandsOn Broward: Kate Ospina has begun biweekly Literacy League meetings. She shared further that HoB is working with the Reading LYF Club through Broward College who write their own children's books. HoB's literacy team members are also working on creating their own children's books that can be self published, to help provide books to the community for Story Walks, that can have publisher permission (publisher permission has been a hurdle for previous efforts).

d) Broward County Libraries (Kimberly White)

Summer 2021: The Summer learning program is live and it provides flexible opportunity to complement what other partners are doing and extra supplemental

activities. So far, 4,000 readers have registered thus far (typically there are at least 20,000).

My Digital Summer Learning Program: This is a grant BCL received from CARES Act. The program provides 60 fully loaded iPads available to certain zip codes and certain eligible K to three students that can borrow it for the summer in an effort to continue to bridge the digital divide.

Summer Breakspots: This year there will be 13 locations. The grab and go model will be observed where students can get breakfast and lunch boxes. This will begin on June 14th.

Other Updates:

- Author Program: there was a virtual visit with Joanna Ho. With that visit, 35 hardcover books were distributed and 500 students were able to join the program with her.
- Conference on Children's Literature 2021 will be held on Friday, September 24th. The Read for the Record author, Kat Zhang will be part of the conference as well as Salina Yoon.

All information about Broward County Libraries Summer Learning Program can be found at www.Broward.org/Library/Summer .

III. Partner Update

Penny Bernath: KidVision has partnered with MoDS and did seven STEAM activities which will serve as the summer learning program. These will be on broadcast. Live events will be done once a week for July and August. Miss Bernath also shared that a drowning prevention campaign was just concluded which will air all summer. Air time has already been scheduled, the campaign just needs to be approved by Sandra Bernard-Bastien and Andrew Leone.

City of Parkland: Bob Mayersohn shared he was able to participate in the El Dia los Ninos at the end of April where he read to the bilingual class at Riverglades.

Early Learning Coalition (Pablo Calvo): Mr. Calvo asked meeting attendees to keep the ELC in mind with events they may be having. The Coalition is available to participate in events and they also have books available for distribution if anyone has the need, the books are for the 0 to 5 year age group. He reminded persons that the ELC is also available to help families enroll in either school readiness or enroll for VPK.

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IV. Meeting Schedule for FY 20-21:

Meetings will be conducted virtually unless otherwise stated. August 4, October 6

V. Adjourn Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.