

KIDS CENTRAL, INC
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
FEBRUARY 15, 2005
ESSERVILLE, VIRGINIA

Call to Order

Chairman Donald Baker called the meeting of the board of directors of Kids Central, Inc. to convene at 11:05 am with a quorum of the membership present consisting of: Mr. Paul Buchanan, Dr. Jewell Askins, Mr. Bill Davis, Mrs. Heather Strong, Mr. Edward Hutchinson, and Mr. Donald Baker.

The following members were absent: Rev. George Aichel, Mrs. Donna Raines, and Mrs. Shirley Rogers.

Others in attendance were: Staff members: Mrs. Donna Meade, Mrs. Lisa Barton, Mr. Chris Austin; Members of the Public: Parents of Hilary Chandler and the daughter of Mrs. Strong

Minutes

Secretary Hutchinson moved to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2005 meeting pending corrections. Paul Buchanan supplied the second. No corrections were found to be in order and the board approved the minutes.

Financial Report

Comptroller Lisa Barton presented the agency's financial reports for the period ending January 31, 2005 showing that 58% of the Head Start funds had been spent and 57% of the Early Head Start funds had been spent. She stated that funds were being held in reserve due to under enrollment issue and that there were 411 children enrolled to date. We have a grant application in progress.

The Chair called for a motion to accept the report. On the motion and second by Paul Buchanan and Bill Davis, the board unanimously passed the motion.

Policy Council Report

Heather Strong reported on the recent Policy Council meeting. The members heard about the meeting that the Executive Director Edwards had with Dr. Basham, the Family Crisis Center, and DSS. She related that the Policy Council had received the Goals and Objectives for 2005-2006 and had been asked to look them over and give feedback at their next meeting. She reported that a lot of members had been attending and has resulted in Mrs. Aichel had devised a new procedure for keeping up with reimbursements that involved check writing that the Policy Council had approved.

The Policy Council had addressed a personnel issue involving an employee's dismissal and had approved the dismissal of Hilary Chandler.

Old Business

Report on the Meeting with Wise County Schools:

Executive Director Edward stated that he and George Aichel had met with Dr. Basham and Mrs. Donna Bates at the Wise County School Board Office recently in a meeting that lasted an hour and fourteen minutes. They discussed their agendas and outcomes for the purpose of helping each other. For the last 7 or 8 menthes, we had no communication with each other. Mrs. Bates expressed that she felt being squeezed and that was the reason that she resigned from the board. The good news is that she is coming back to the board and it is up to the board to reinstate her as soon as she makes application and the board moves for acceptance.

We asked for another representative from the school system to join the board.

We had a frank and open discussion that we believe will be the beginning of a fruitful relationship where we are on a first name basis and can just pick up the phone and talk to each other. We are working for the same interest. He has a natural way to serve 4 year olds. We talked about ways to serve children that are unserved because of income guidelines. One of the things that we are going to work on is filing our program first and filling their program second by working together. We don't have any formal proposal, but later on we will have.

We did meet with the Family Crisis Service Center so as to fulfill the emergency needs of the organization for children and families. Recently during the Christmas season, a fire destroyed a child's bedroom destroying it, toys, and clothing. We had no means in place to help that family. FCSC will assist us in the event of an emergency with much needed items of food, clothing, and furniture even after hours.

We went to the Department of Social Services who had basically washed their hands of us. We had had a \$10,000 contract from them that we didn't spend. We wanted to spend it on things that they didn't approve. So, the grant had to be returned. We believe that we are now on sound footing in that we have presented to them our program goals and where Kid Central wants to go.

Permission for Chandlers to make comments:

Mrs. Chandler expressed the desire to be allowed to make comments. She handed out a three (3)-page statement to the board that she read from concerning the dismissal of her daughter Hilary Chandler. She related circumstances as to her daughter being a diabetic and was under great stress after losing her job. She spoke for three (3) minutes.

Mr. Baker related to her that the board didn't know about all the related circumstance and that the board would talk about it. After both Mr. and Mrs. Chandler had aired their views to the board, Chairman Baker again stated that the board would take all that they had said into consideration and that the board would talk about it. Mr. Edwards did not address the Chandlers.

Goals and Objectives:

Director Edwards asked that adoption of the Goals and Objectives for 2005-2006 be tabled. The Chair agreed to table adoption until the next meeting.

New Business

New Hires and Dismissals:

Chris Austin reported that Jenny Parsons had been offered the job as bus monitor for Appalachia II and requested board approval. On the motion and second by Hutchinson and Askins, respectively; the board passed the motion to hire Mrs. Parsons. The board had earlier heard of the dismissal of Chandler and was not willing to consider until later.

Enrollment Reduction Proposal:

Lisa Barton stated that the agency was on hold. Edwards stated that the proposal is for 356 children and a \$ 2.7 million dollar Head Start budget is what we were working to fulfill , the requirements that Philadelphia had sent down to us and that we did that - in our report it was mentioned that we had officially made a request for the 449 children, but nothing had changed yet.

The Yearly Calendar:

Chairman Baker related that the Yearly Calendar wasn't ready and that action on it would be tabled until next month.

For the good of Kids Central Inc.

Director Edwards asked Dr. Askins if she had any chance to look at the information from Philadelphia- especially about the October date. This is about the Blended Program that Kids Central dropped. Dr. Askins related "essentially the report said that Head Start had corrected the monitoring procedures- that there was a lack of cooperation on the part of the school system in allowing that monitoring to occur. Therefore, we have the October date. But, as of that date Kids Central made a motion or movement to drop the program". She didn't know about the system not cooperating in terms of not monitoring. Mrs. Donna Meade related that Barnhouse had said that about his concern – that as long as we continued to have the blended program, with all the information that he could get – in his opinion, we would always be out of compliance with that program.

Dr. Askins and board members stated that the opinion made "no sense - at all". She said that we definitely need to cooperate with the school system that we work with and build relationships with them. We have work to do that we cannot refuse to do. We need to cooperate in terms of what services we do have to offer. We need to understand why the blended program ended the way that it did. Building relationships take time and we must be sensitive – seeing the others' perspective.

Bill Davis thanked the board for allowing him to take the leave of absence though things did not work out as he had hoped.

Closed Session

Dr. Askins moved that the board of directors convene in closed session to discuss appropriate disciplinary action to take against an employee for violation of the agency's policies and procedures pursuant to the personnel exemption as authorized by Section 2.2-3711(A)(1). Members of the Senior Management staff were invited to stay. Paul Buchanan seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to go into closed session.

After the closed session, Hutchinson moved that the Board reconvene in open meeting. Askins seconded the motion. The motion to reconvene passed.

Certification of Closed Meeting

This body, The Board of Directors of Kids Central, Inc., certifies that to the best of each member's knowledge that only public matters lawfully exempted from FOIA and identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were discussed, heard, and/or considered.

Vote: Ayes: Baker, Askins, Strong, Buchanan, Davis, Hutchinson.

Nays: None

Next Meeting Date: The Board set its next meeting date as March 16, 2005 and the place as the auditorium of Kids Central in Esserville, VA at 11:00 am.