



# Board of Trustees Meeting MINUTES

February 27, 2024

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Virtually on Zoom

because the first 5 years matter

<b>Chair:</b>	Debbie Feldman
<b>Note Taker/Time Keeper:</b>	Allana Bell
<b>Members Present:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deborah Feldman <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Malcom Keith <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brian Heitkamp <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anissa Lumpkin <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jane McGee-Rafal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dwan Tarrance <input type="checkbox"/> Angeline Washington <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chanel Winston - joined after approval of minutes
<b>Members Absent:</b>	
<b>Guests:</b>	Marie Giffen, Kristine Johnson, Shannon Karr, Ashley Marshall, Jen Brauer, Sandra Raye-Redmond, Anita Craighead
<b>Vision:</b>	All Montgomery County, Ohio children are ready for kindergarten.
<b>Mission:</b>	Preschool Promise ensures that children are ready for Kindergarten by equipping Preschools and families with exceptional support, coaching, and education.

## CALL TO ORDER

### CALL TO ORDER

1. Meeting was called to order at 12:02 p.m. on Zoom by Deborah Feldman.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

2. The Board reviewed minutes from the meeting held on December 5, 2023, December 21, 2023, December 22, 2023 and February 7, 2024.  
*Anissa Lumpkin motioned for approval.*  
*Jane McGee-Rafal seconded the motion.*  
*All in favor; none opposed; motion passed (6-0).*

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Robyn Lightcap introduced Kristine Johnson the new Grant Project Manager for the Federal Education Innovation Research (EIR) Grant. The EIR Grant will concentrate on conscious discipline, specifically working with children of color. We will be working with an outside evaluator Abt that will be doing more sophisticated analysis than we have been able to do in the past.

Robyn Lightcap shared about the first Annual Lunch and thanked all of the Board Members that were able to attend. It was the first time we were able to host an event specifically to share about Preschool Promises' work. We heard great feedback from funders and are considering making this an annual event at the start of the school year. Board members shared that they thought it was a wonderful event and thought it was a great view of what Preschool Promise has accomplished.

Robyn Lightcap shared information on the Readiness Summit happening this Friday, March 1st 2024. This will be the 15th annual Readiness Summit, this year we are focusing on the Science of Reading and focusing on changing how some are teaching reading to make sure we are aligned with the latest teaching strategies. We are bringing in Susan Neuman and she will be helping to explain what the science of reading is. All board members are invited to attend if available.

Robyn Lightcap shared information on Issue 6, this is the renewal that supports many things in the city of Dayton and is on the ballot March 19th. We appreciate the support and assistance getting others out to vote in the election.

## MISSION MOMENT

Shannon Karr joined Preschool Promise in September with 10 years of experience in the education field and a love of empowering teachers. She works with 15 teachers in various areas in Montgomery County. Shannon shared how she works with the teachers and her coaching strategy, specifically one example of working with Ms. Tasha at PUP whose teaching focuses on social emotional learning which is part of the KRA. Shannon developed a coaching plan that could help her achieve her goals by getting out in the community. Shannon shared the quarterly plan that she developed with Ms. Tasha to get the families connected with their community and how they bring together wonderful relationships between parent to child and teacher to child.

## FINANCE

Marie Giffen reported on new revenue received since the last board meeting:

- The Kettering Family Foundation in the amount of \$50,000 to be used for the Scholars Program.
- Charles D. Berry Foundation in the amount of \$15,000 to be used for the Star Attendance program.

## REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF FINANCIALS

3. The Board approved the presented financial statements as of December 31, 2023.

*Brian Heitkamp motioned for approval.*

*Anissa Lumpkin seconded the motion.*

*All in favor; none opposed; motion passed (7-0)*

## ACTION ITEMS

### CONTRACT APPROVAL - ABT GLOBAL LLC

4. The Board approved a contract with Abt Global LLC to be the outside evaluator for awarded Federal Education Innovation Research (EIR) Grant in the amount not to exceed \$643,959.

*Jane McGee-Rafal motioned for approval for items 4. With flexibility to make contractual changes to writing with no changes to the amount.  
Dwan Tarrance seconded the motion.  
All in favor; none opposed; motion passed (7-0)*

### CONTRACT APPROVAL - SUSAN NOLAN

5. The Board approved a contract with Susan Nolan to perform planning, facilitation and materials for the Ready to Read program professional development in the amount not to exceed \$10,500.00.

### CONTRACT APPROVAL - SINCLAIR COLLEGE

6. The Board approved a contract with Sinclair College to be venue for Readiness Summit and provide Facilities and Catering in the amount not to exceed \$20,500.00.

*Anissa Lumpkin motioned for approval for items 5-6.  
Jane McGee-Rafal seconded the motion.  
All in favor; none opposed; motion passed (7-0)*

## DISCUSSION ITEM

Debbie Feldman introduced the initiative currently known as Thrive by 5 stating this name may change as the project develops. We know that the first five years are the most important in a child's life and if we get them to age five thriving they are more set up for a successful life. In our area we do not have a cohesive plan that brings together cross-sector organizations to show how parents can prepare their child to thrive by five. We as a community need to come together to create a platform and communication system so that parents know what they need to do to help their child thrive. Debbie stated that Preschool Promise was in a unique position to drive this initiative stating that the same barriers to education are the same barriers to health. This is the beginning of an initiative to ensure that this is the best place for a child to be able to thrive by 5.

Robyn Lightcap explained that there are 12 partner groups coming together to create a cross-sector partnership that ensures children enter kindergarten healthy & ready to learn. Robyn discussed the 3 key strategies of the project; well-child visits, evidence-based home visiting and high-quality childcare and preschool. These three metrics will drive the strategy. We are having the partners sign an MOU for this work. This project includes working with **Boom Crate** to create a communication campaign and not have all the partner agencies individual messaging. All of that individual messaging can bombard parents so our goal is to create a unified campaign to get a greater chance of connecting parents with tools to help their young children.

Robyn shared that South Carolina has completed a model similar and they are willing to assist and partner with us. Debbie highlights that just the list of all of the services in the area shows why this approach is needed. One great thing about the webpage that South Carolina put together is that it can be viewed at night on the web when parents have the most time.

## **ACTION ITEM**

### **SCOPE OF WORK APPROVAL - BOOM CRATE**

7. The Board approved a scope of work to engage Boom Crate to serve as communication consultant in “Phase 1” to research existing communication tools and initiatives, and prepare recommended strategies to create a wholistic and engaging communication campaign for children birth to age five and their families. This project is part of the new “Thrive by 5” prenatal to 5 partnership. Preschool Promise will serve as the fiscal agent and facilitator for the Thrive by 5 Partnership work. Dayton Children’s Hospital will provide \$20,000 and Learn to Earn Dayton \$10,000 toward the total \$40,000 contract for Phase 1 of the work.

*Anissa Lumpkin motioned for approval for item 7.*

*Jane McGee-Rafal seconded the motion.*

*All in favor; none opposed; motion passed (7-0)*

## **DISCUSSION ITEM**

Jen Brauer and Anita Craighead shared on the pilot, Connecting the Dots. The pilot is attempting to address the mental health crisis that is happening in our centers.

Teachers are seeing more challenging behaviors than ever before. Not only are there more behaviors but the behaviors are also more severe. Connecting the Dots is a collaboration between The Village Network, Youthland Academy and Preschool Promise to support Early Childhood Mental Health.

The program is using a tiered approach, the base is what all children are getting and as needed children are getting other tiers of service. Anita and Jen shared details on the Tiers of care available and how they function.

Anita shared the importance of using conscious discipline in the teaching of students. Each month the teachers learn about a different piece of conscious discipline and how to use it in their classrooms. The Neurosequential Model works hand in hand with conscious discipline and is also utilized in the pilot.

Anita spoke on the improvement that is being seen specifically in the children that are in day treatment where they are getting intensive support. When these children go back in the classroom after day treatment they are able to self regulate much better.

Going forward with this work Jen is focusing on how to make similar projects sustainable and how it could get off the ground without a grant.

## **ADJOURN**

Debbie Feldman adjourned the meeting at **12:53** p.m.