



# Early Learning Coalition

Of Brevard County, Inc.

Minutes: Board of Directors Meeting

Date/Time: September 16, 2025, 4pm

Location: 2671 W Eau Gallie Blvd. Suite 102, Melbourne, FL 32935

Members Present: Alan Bergman, Terri Barlow, Shelli Buckley, Phil Scarpelli, Robin Buckmaster, Dee Helbig, Caroline Joseph Paul, Vince Donato, James Box, Michael Cadore (V), Traci Klinkbeil (V), Linda Graham (V)

Absent: Bill Drexler, Michael Blake, Avida Rosa, Adrea McDonough, Caitlin Rice

Guests: Age Of Learning – Susan Provost and Dr. Hee Jin Bang, Just For Kids – Palm Bay

Staff present: Laura Gambino, Jeannie Williams, Amaris Rosario

Start Time: 4:00pm

Agenda Item	Summary/Discussion	Action/Follow-up
Welcome and Call to Order	Alan Bergman called the meeting to order at 4pm.	No Action
Pledge of Allegiance		
Mission Moment	Just For Kids - Palm Bay	
Presentation	Age of Learning – Susan Provost, Dr. Hee Jin Bang (V)	
Public Comment	None	
Chair Report Alan Bergman	<p>June 17, 2025 - Board Meeting Minutes</p> <p>Rule update (SMI) 2024-25</p> <p>FDOE-DEL Financial Monitoring Report (No Findings)</p> <p>FY 25.26 Conflict of Interest Due</p> <p>FY 25.26 Board Ethics Due</p> <p>Impact Report</p>	<p>Phil Scarpelli motions to approve the June 17, 2025 minutes. Dee Helbig seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>No Action</p> <p>No Action</p> <p>No Action</p> <p>No Action</p> <p>No Action</p>

<p>CEO Report Laura Gambino</p>	<p><b><u>State Board of Education and Division of Early Learning Updates</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Florida Grade-Level Reader July 2025</li> <li>• DEL Summer Literacy Conference July 2025</li> <li>• Florida Chamber Foundation Learners to Earners June 2025</li> <li>• PanAmerica Conference June 2025</li> <li>• Department of Education Division of Early Learning - Rule Workshops</li> </ul> <p><b><u>ELCB Coalition Update</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Division of Early Learning 2025-2026 Budget discussions being held in Tallahassee. Both the Senate and House are reflecting a <b>decrease</b> for education and early learning funding. Preliminary – AELC and statewide initiative to educate and advocate for full funding. AELC (statewide coalition association) 2025 Legislative Priorities attached. <b>UPDATE:</b> June budget projected award reflected 22.9% decrease (estimated \$6.4 million lost); July and August waiting period to measure the revert and reappropriate funding. August 27<sup>th</sup> final award after AELC Compression Model projections shared with DEL and SR funding <b>reverted to \$8.3 million</b> new award amount (amount includes June monthly SR payment from prior year).</li> <li>• Legislative Session begins January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026 with ELC Brevard represented during session. Additionally, James Box able to initiate ELCB speaking to the Brevard Legislative Delegation at their meeting on September 30<sup>th</sup> from 2pm to 6pm. The Request to Speak has been submitted in conjunction with Senator Mayfield’s office and aide.</li> <li>• Developing local county, state and federal legislative relationships to increase ELCB awareness, successful outcomes and funding support post-election shift. <b>DISCUSSION:</b> Developing multi-year strategic planning and partnership with Results 1<sup>st</sup> to develop a defined Results Framework.</li> <li>• Age of Learning program, modeled after Palm Beach County success, estimated to begin October 1<sup>st</sup>. Presentation to Board September 16, 2025.</li> <li>• Community Conversation event held August 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Center for Collaboration with 35+ attending. Building a series of events as community awareness campaign for legislators and community leaders – next proposed event partnership with WeVenture at FIT as a Business Briefing in Oct/Nov.</li> <li>• Developing and promoting Soar by Four in conjunction with VPK program assessment models now release from DEL. Initiative includes Launch into</li> </ul>	<p>No Action</p>
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<p>CFO Report Amaris Rosario</p>	<p>Literacy events, Little Free Libraries and Learning Trails (initial trail in Provost Park in Cocoa). Key sponsors identified Orlando Health and Nemours Children.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Space Coast Health Foundation grant application in process with the request of \$250,000. The grant process has been enhanced with an expanded application process that identifies organizational and impact results as a priority. We are able to work with Results 1<sup>st</sup> partner to bring training and engagement with a focus on results and impacts of the grant/programs.</li> </ul> <p>Finance Report</p> <p>FY 25-26 Budget Amendment</p>	<p>No Action</p> <p>Phil Scarpelli motions to approve the FY 25-26 Budget Amendment. Michael Cadore seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>
<p>Adjournment</p> <p>Next meeting</p>	<p>Wednesday**, November 12, 2025 4pm (virtual)</p> <p>**Note day of the week change</p>	<p>Terri Barlow motions to adjourn. Michael Cadore seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>