



# Early Learning Coalition

## Of Brevard County, Inc.

Minutes: Board of Directors Meeting

Date/Time: January 20, 2026, 4pm

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

Members Present: Alan Bergman, Terri Barlow, Robin Buckmaster, Caroline Joseph Paul, Michael Blake, James Box, Traci Klinkbeil, Linda Graham, Bill Drexler, Adrea McDonough, Phil Scarpelli, Dee Helbig, Avida Rosa, Vince Donato (Alex), Shelli Buckley

Absent: Michael Cadore, Caitlin Rice

Guests: Nicholas Pereda, Chris Bobek (Moss Krusick), Insef Delboccio

Staff present: Laura Gambino, Jeannie Williams, Amaris Rosario, Sondra Mofitt, Harriet Paredes, Beth Arthur

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
Public Comment	None	
Chair Report Alan Bergman	<p>November 12, 2025 - Board Meeting Minutes</p> <p>Independent Auditors report (Moss Krusick)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No Findings</li> </ul> <p>CEO Evaluation</p>	<p>Bill Drexler motions to approve November 12, 2025, minutes. Robin Buckmaster seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>Dee Helbig motions to accept the Independent Auditors report as presented. Terri Barlow seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>No Action</p>
CEO Report Laura Gambino	<p><b><u>State Board of Education and Division of Early Learning Updates</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legislative Session – Jan-March</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>• Operational decision to approve a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) of 3% to all staff effective January 1, 2026.</li> </ul>	No Action

<p>CFO Report Amaris Rosario</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legislative Session begins January 12, 2026 with ELC Brevard represented during session. Initial funding projections for Early Learning show no increase. AELC statewide is working with ELCB's to gain support for continuation of the funding methodology used at the end of last session. They are also working on maintaining a "back of the bill" concept whereby funds may be set-aside to support early learning.</li> <li>• Continuing to monitor federal activity related to welfare and early learning programs throughout the country. Keeping informed and current as a communication strategy and insure ELCB is managing the message timely and transparently.</li> <li>• Developing a working strategy with Results First program to build initiative and success models for internal leadership and staff leads.</li> <li>• Age of Learning program will launch with Brevard Public Schools this month with over 1600 licenses being activated in public and private VPK classrooms through June.</li> <li>• Proposal submitted to Orlando Health to sponsor Age of Learning for entire county = \$139,000 ask.</li> <li>• Developing and promoting Soar by Four in conjunction with VPK program assessment models now release from DEL. Initiative includes Launch into Literacy events, Little Free Libraries and Learning Trails (initial trail in Provost Park in Cocoa). Key sponsors identified Orlando Health and Nemours Children.</li> <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. <b>UPDATE:</b> Expecting notice of award first quarter of calendar year 2026.</li> </ul> <p>Finance Report Reobligation/Deobligation</p>	<p>No Action</p>
<p>Adjournment</p> <p>Next meeting</p>	<p>Tuesday, April 21, 2026, 4pm</p>	<p>Shelli Buckley motions to adjourn. Terri Barlow seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>

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