

Cincinnati Preschool Promise
Board of Managers
Minutes Board Meeting May 23, 2023
United Way of Greater Cincinnati Convening Room
4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Board Members Present:

Deborah Mariner Allsop, Verline Dotson, Marcia Futel, Christine Fisher, Anthony Hobson, Micah Kamrass, Ross Meyer, Kristi Phillips, Laura Sanregret, and Bishop Ennis Tait

Board Members Absent:

Terri England, Jalissa Hutchins, Sallie Westheimer, Michelle Hopkins, and Nikita Anderson

Guests:

Jacob Purcell, Manley Burke

Observers Present:

Vera Brooks – Director of Early Childhood, Cincinnati Public Schools (CPS)

Observers Absent:

Moira Weir – CEO, United Way of Greater Cincinnati
Jennifer Wagner - Cincinnati Public Schools
Greg Landsman – Promise Forward

Cincinnati Preschool Promise Staff Present (CPP):

Chara Fisher Jackson – Executive Director & CEO
Hector Polanco – Finance Director
Kenetra Mathis- Deputy Director
Tanya Del Valle – Senior Administrative Assistant
Laura Carr- Public Relations Strategist
Florence Malone Crump – Outreach & Enrollment
Brittnii Pina – Quality Improvement Manager
Anyssa Selkirk, Program & Evaluation Manager

Members of the Public:

Brandy Harris – MetrixIQ
Vanessa Freytag, 4C for Children
Patti Gleason, Learning Grove
Kim Ginn, 4C for Children

1. Welcome, Roll Call, and Approval of Agenda

Micah Kamrass welcomed Board members and members of the public, officially opened the meeting at 4:02 PM, and completed the roll call.

2. Review and Approval of Minutes for March 28, 2023

A motion was requested to approve the minutes for March 28, 2023.

ACTION: A motion to approve the minutes for March 28, 2023, was made by Laura Sanregret and seconded by Bishop Ennis Tait. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. Executive Director's Report

Public Policy

Chara Fisher Jackson said that Ohio's FY24-25 budget has moved through the House and is now before the Senate. Investment in early childhood education is uncertain. Groundwork Ohio and the Ohio Legislative Children's Caucus have led efforts to mobilize the early childhood education community, family, and business community. Board members are encouraged to sign up for Groundwork Ohio's weekly alerts to become more engaged in opportunities to support early childhood education policies.

Enrollment Update

- **Tuition Assistance Application Status**
 - Enrolled Students – 809
 - Withdrawn – 107
 - Denied – 226
 - Address not in the district – 81
 - Income too high (over 301% FPL) – 20
 - Too old – 29
 - Too young – 96

Report Back

Provider Recruitment Rally - CPP hosted its first in-person recruitment rally of the year to meet new community providers, recruit potential providers, and introduce current providers to the Quality Improvement team of CPP staff, coaches, and vendors.

National Provider Appreciation Day- The City of Cincinnati recognized May 12th as Provider Appreciation Day with a proclamation. Each Council Member shared the impact quality early childhood education had on their lives. A group of CPP Providers joined our partners at 4C for Children to receive the proclamation presented by Council Member Liz Keating.

4. Committee Reports

Executive

Micah Kamrass shared that the committee had positively reviewed the FY24 Draft Budget, and he would let the Finance & Audit Committee provide the details.

Governance

Deborah Mariner Allsop presented Christine Fisher with a plaque to thank her for years of service and wished her and her family success as they move to a new city. She introduced Pam Bowers, which CPS nominated to complete the Class of 2024 term of Christine Fisher.

- Election of Pam Bowers to complete the Class of 2024 term of Christine Fisher

ACTION: A motion to elect Pam Bowers to complete the Class of 2024 term of Christine Fisher was made by Deborah Mariner Allsop and seconded by Laura Sanregret. The motion was unanimously approved.

Cost of Quality

Chara Fisher Jackson shared the analysis completed by the Cost of Quality committee on the actual cost of quality for community providers. The information included models built by other organizations and data collected from CPP community providers. All the models show a greater cost to provide a high-quality preschool education than CPP's Tuition reimbursement covers. The Cost of Quality Committee recommended a one-time 10% increase in Tuition Assistance to bring reimbursement closer to the actual cost.

Communications

Chara Fisher Jackson shared that CPP now had a team of five individuals through a vendor that attends large events like Cinco De Mayo, Taste of Cincinnati, and Black Family Reunion and gives out enrollment cards and talks to the community.

The Communications community has reviewed drafts of the new philanthropy and gift solicitation policies. They are also working on strategies and the submitted suggestions to honor Dr. Owens.

The first CPP blog has been posted to the website and will be a new way for CPP to share information with parents, families, and the community.

Promise Readers launched the first video with Representative Greg Landsman. A new video will be released every two weeks. It includes the mayor, several board members, authors, and other community members.

Finance & Audit Committee

Anthony Hobson, Finance & Audit Chair, said that FY24 Draft Budget had been presented once already. The Quality Improvement program has reduced spending due to a more streamlined ordering process with new staff capacity. He said one of the most significant differences in the budget was a reduced contingency fund of \$250,000 and for CPP to be fully staffed. The proposed one-time 10% increase in Tuition Assistance is included in the budget. Kristi Phillips shared the process that the Cost of Quality used to calculate the cost and consider the best method to help close the gap between the cost and the current Tuition Reimbursement rate. Chara Fisher Jackson said that the analysis had included models and reports from the Center for American Progress, an updated 2022 Rand research report, and data collected directly from CPP community providers.

Deborah Mariner Allsop requested that the language clearly state a one-time 10% increase, so there would be no confusion among the community. Micah Kamrass said that in the presentation to Cincinnati Public School Finance & Budget Growth Committee, it was made clear that this was a one-time 10% increase in Tuition Assistance included in the budget.

ACTION: A motion to approve the FY24 Budget was made by Christine Fisher and seconded by Ross Meyer. The motion was unanimously approved.

5. Committee Appointments

Micah Kamrass asked for a motion to approve the appointment of Ross Meyer to the Finance & Audit Committee and Pamela Bowers to the Communications Committee.

ACTION: A motion to appoint Ross Meyer to the Finance & Audit Committee and Pamela Bowers to the Communications Committee was made by Anthony Hobson and seconded by Bishop Ennis Tait. The motion was unanimously approved.

6. Observers' Comments

Vera Brooks welcomed Pam Bowers. She said that Cincinnati Public Schools were continuing to work on enrollment for kindergarten and said her team is available to assist in person at any community provider to help parents apply and navigate the system to register at CPS.

7. Adjourn

ACTION: A motion to adjourn was made by Laura Sanregret and seconded by Bishop Ennis Tait. The motion was unanimously approved.

Future CPP Board of Managers Meetings

- June 20, 2023 – 4:00 to 6:00 PM
- August 22, 2023 – 4:00 to 6:00 PM
- September 19, 2023 – 4:00 to 6:00 PM Annual Meeting
- September 26, 2023 – 4:00 to 6:00 PM Special Meeting for Year 6 Evaluation Results
- October 24, 2023– 4:00 to 6:00 PM
- November 28, 2023 – 4:00 to 6:00 PM

Submitted by Tanya Del Valle, Senior Administrative Assistant, Cincinnati Preschool Promise