



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

January 23, 2017
(via teleconference)

ELC Main Office
10 SE Central Parkway, Suite 200
Stuart, FL

Present: Brandon Tucker (via teleconference) Donna Rivett (via teleconference)
Will Laughlin Deborah Schooley (via teleconference)
Tom Peer (via teleconference)

Excused: Cathleen Blair

Staff: Migdalia Rosado Pat Houston
Angela Davis-Green Loretta Toth
Zack Hackley

Others: Laura Haase Tony Loupe
Sarah Gosney
Other members of the public joined the meeting via teleconference.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Brandon Tucker at 1:30 p.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA - None

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion to adopt the agenda was made by Donna Rivett, seconded by William Laughlin and passed unanimously.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Further Discussion on Potential Merger – Mr. Tucker informed the Committee that he met with ELCIRMO's Leadership Team on Thursday at which time he was updated regarding the Leadership's findings with regard to a potential merger. A tentative meeting was previously scheduled for Friday between Leadership Teams of both ELCIRMO and St. Lucie ELC, however ELCIRMO's Leadership Team felt another meeting was not necessary. Mr. Tucker stated the purpose of today's Executive Committee meeting is only to make a recommendation to the ELCIRMO Board of Directors for further discussion regarding the recommendation of today's Committee meeting.

Ms. Rosado reviewed the memo that was included in the packet which outlined their findings and their conclusion.

Mr. Peer commented the findings were one-sided. There was no mention how Indian River could be better served or any attempt to negotiate the Gold Seal rate. The task was to explore whether there would be any substantial gain in a merger, and he did not think that was done.

Clarifying the confusion, Mr. Tucker explained that ELCIRMO's staff has met with St. Lucie's staff and ELCIRMO's findings were presented today. It is up to the Executive Committee to make a recommendation to the board if there is interest in continuing to pursue.

Motion was made by Tom Peer to recommend to the board to continue to pursue potential merger discussions. A roll call was taken to identify all members of the Executive Committee. There being no second, the motion died. Discussion pursued.

Ms. Rivett questioned whether there were other issues to be addressed besides those listed and what the most important items are for the children and families served.

Ms. Schooley shared concerns that were addressed at some of the provider meetings, including the concern that standards would decline.

In response to Mr. Peer's comment about Indian River joining the St. Lucie ELC, Mr. Tucker advised that would be a discussion for another time.

Mr. Tucker questioned whether ELCIRMO and St. Lucie ELC have enough information to present to both boards on Thursday. Both teams agreed.

Motion was made by Donna Rivett to invite the Leadership Team of St. Lucie ELC to do a presentation alongside ELCIRMO's Leadership Team to the full board about further discussions of a potential merger. Motion was seconded by Tom Peer and passed unanimously.

Mr. Tucker opened the floor to public comments.

Ms. Grall encouraged conversations between both boards. Commenting that decisions should not be made by those with a vested interest, Ms. Woodhouse suggested an outside consultant be hired.

Mr. Tucker stated the importance of having a transparent conversation, no matter how long it takes, which may include tabling the item until a later date. Before any decisions are made, a clear and complete picture is required.

Questioning whether the childcare providers have any influence or whether they are just on the sidelines, Mr. Tucker assured Ms. Alkayaly that providers will have an opportunity to make comments at the board meeting. With reference to the 2014-15 letter that Ms. Woodhouse talked about, Ms. Alkayaly commented that it was not a coalition issue but rather due to personal conflicts.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further comments, the meeting was adjourned at 1:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved 2/21/17

Brandon Tucker, Chair
BT:lt