**Kids’ Corps, Inc.**

**Policy Council Meeting Minutes**

**January 30, 2017**

**Members Present: Members Absent:**

Tracy Peters, President Raquel Ferrero

Linndsi Strong, V.President Rose Justiniano

Raheel Asghar Stephanie Brown, Secretary

Maria Muldoon

Tiria Young

Pauletta Delgado

Noreen White

**Guests:**

Suzanne Whittle, Board of Directors, Secretary

Jesse Lynch, WC

Faafouina “Enuh” Velega RT

**Staff Present:**

Dirk Shumaker, Executive Director

Ronnie Brown, FCES

**Meeting called to order at 6:10 p.m. Quorum is present.**

Welcome and introductions made.

Suzanne Whittle was introduced and gave a training on the reading of financials and what to look for to keep KCI accountable. She passed out an overview summary of terms and used KCI’s financials to walk the PC parents through the numbers, budget, assets, liabilities, etc. Liabilities are bills, Assets are what you have. Deferred revenue, depreciation, allowances were all discussed to make the budget and financial statements more meaningful. She told the parents to always look at the credit card expenditures and if something seems too high, ask about it. She discussed why it is important to compare profit and loss and the budget over a couple months’ time to make sure overages are coming back into line and will not be a problem covering budget items in the upcoming months. Look for comparisons, look for explanations. Look for reasonableness month after month. You will start to recognize patterns and see when things are out of the ordinary.

Suzanne then talked about Fred Meyer percentage rewards that can be earned by connecting your rewards card to KCI. No rewards, coupons or gas credits are taken from the parent, however, KCI receives a small percentage from Fred Meyers as a way to build funds. Every few months, KCI will receive a check to put where it’s needed in the budget. Carrs also has the percentage rewards program. Ronnie will forward the Fred Meyer information out to the PC to present to their parents at their February Café/PCM.

**Minutes:**

Minutes were reviewed, no questions as this time. Pauletta motioned to accept the minutes, Raheel seconded the motion. Motion approved.

**New Hires:**

Ronnie explained the reason for phone votes (get the new hire working as soon as possible) and the need to bring the same new hires before the body for any questions, concerns or statements and general approval by the body as a whole. All parents are encouraged to be on an interview committee at least once to see the process. Pauletta motioned to accept the new hires, Raheel seconded. Motion approved.

**United Way Grant Proposal:**

Dirk explained that KCI has been receiving a United Way Grant for about 20 years. This grant is unrestricted and could be used wherever it was needed. Question was asked about this grant being with the National United Way or local United Way. Dirk explained that it is with the local United Way of Anchorage. Raheel motioned to apply for the United Way grant, Maria seconded. Motion approved.

**Seat New Members:**

Visiting parents were asked if they were interested in being seated to represent their center. Both Jesse from Willow Crest and Enuh from Ridgeline agreed to be seated at this time. Lynndsi motioned to seat the new parents, Maria seconded. Motion approved. It was explained that they get a binder to keep their monthly PC information in. If they bring that binder to the meeting, their names is entered for the drawing.

**Executive Directors Report:**

Health Insurance – Dirk went over the graphs covering health insurance for staff in previous years and as it is now. Showed the increases and how hard it was to keep decent health care coverage for staff. Question about why the steep incline in premiums and staff costs. Dirk explained that only a few companies cover Alaska, not a large company with lots of employees, and some staff may have medical issues that are long term.

**CLASS report**--Dirk asked PC what the mission of KCI was. Family well - being and getting children ready to be successful in Kindergarten. Next Dirk asked “how do we know if we are doing that?” Dirk then brought everyone’s attention to the graphs on CLASS. The national average, the lowest 10% and KCI, for Emotional support, classroom support and instructional support. Questions were asked and answered about where KCI is comparably, why this is so and what we do to increase the numbers if low. We then looked at the score differences between the new teachers and experienced teachers and the gap is extensive when it come to the instructional support. As teachers gain experience and learn to use the tools available, their scores will increase as well. Questions were asked about being able to see if there is a difference by the end of the school year. Dirk explained that we measure in October to see where we are and again in May to see where we grew. Another report will be available with the new scores in May.

**Juneau report:**

Raheel reported on his visit with the legislators while in Juneau. He was very honored to be chosen to represent KCI and his fellow peers. He was thankful for the opportunity. He stated most legislators understood Early Childhood education and the need for it, but have budget constraints. Dirk mentioned that the Juneau legislators staff complimented him on being a great advocate for children. They were friendly to what they had to say, told parents that now is the time to let your legislators know what you want. Ronnie will email everyone their legislators names and phone/email address so they may contact them when they want.

**PCM reports:**

Jesse reported that Willow Crest had the health coordinator there to show how they do vision screenings and it was very interesting. Not the old way of covering the eye and reading a chart but looking into a goggle like head set that read the eyes and gave a diagnosis. Very interesting. A few more parents than normal were there.

Pauletta reported that Gladys Wood also had the health coordinator there. Had 5-6 new parents that don’t usually come while the regulars were absent this time. She went on to say that parents don’t really understand all it means to be in Head Start. All the work and energy, assessments for best tools to use, the opportunities for families to come together to form a community; it all takes a lot of work that goes unnoticed to teach our children and ensure their success.

Lynndsi reported that at Chester Valley, they enjoyed visiting about the uniqueness of names. Where they got them, what it meant to the family.

Noreen reported that Muldoon had a make a take event. Lots of fun sensory things were made and the kids got to take them home. Lots of fun.

**Family and Community Engagement:**

Ronnie shared a fun sheet with figures on it and had parents tell what they see. Each person according to their own experiences may see something different, it’s all in perspective. Parents in your center may have different ideas, thoughts and suggestions according to their own experiences. Nothing is right or wrong when having a discussion looking for ideas on what would be good for their center. All ideas are considered.

Ronnie also shared a page of free tax places and a few internet sites to do taxes for yourself that are free.

Ronnie handed out a page on budgeting (a four letter word?) and spoke on how we all do it to some extent, in our heads, when we write down the bills needing to be paid for this or that paycheck. She talked about just extending it to include what we pay for gas, food, insurance, and then take the balance (In writing) to see what’s left for fun stuff and decide as a family to give up one or two cups of latte and go to a movie or put in the savings account. A budget (even in its most basic form), is a way to free up our minds, give us confidence and hope that we can do family things and put $5 in the savings account.

Ronnie also handed out a page showing Kids Yoga, Relaxing Yoga that we can teach our children to do when they are full of energy and stuck inside, or feeling frustrated and showing negative behaviors. These moves help children do something constructive with their bodies and helps the mind to calm down and think through a situation or problem they are having. She cautioned not to try and teach them when the child is upset. But to teach the activities now and do every day as fun and then when it’s needed, we only have to remind and do with the child to help them overcome and be successful in calming themselves. All handouts can be shared with their parents at the next PCM/Café

Next meeting will be held on February 27th, from 6-8pm. Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted by;

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Ronnie Brown, FCES