

Early Learning Coalition of Manatee County, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
June 17, 2026

The Early Learning Coalition of Manatee County, Inc. held a Board of Directors Meeting in person and/or via Zoom on June 17, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. at 600 8th Avenue West, Palmetto, Florida.

Board of Directors Present at ELC

Adam Mohammadbhoy
Robert Bell
Denise Marzullo
Annette Larkin
Peggy Sammons
Misty Ritch
James Disbro
Michael Mackie

Board of Directors Present via Zoom

Christina Riggio
Gary Scott
Chantal Porte
Jennifer Passmore
Kathy Patreka
Nicole Kammer
Rachel Kendzior
Sheila Halpin
Tim Pye
Xtavia Bailey

Board of Directors Excused

Ana Peele
Bryan Rench
Kristin Gallagher
Leslie Wells
Sirrnest Webster
Zack Kallis

ELC Staff Present

Darrell King, CEO
Kerry Gaylord, COO
Gabriela Macías, CFO
Maria Esparza, BOD Liaison

These minutes summarize the Early Learning Coalition of Manatee County Board of Directors meeting on June 17, 2026.

Welcome and Roll Call

Adam Mohammadbhoy, Chairman

Darrell King, CEO, conducted a roll call; a quorum was present.

The meeting was called to order at 11:00am.

Citizen Comments

There were no citizen comments.

Financial Committee, Report

Robert Bell, Chair

Gabriela Macías, CFO

Ms. Macias's updates were as follows:

- **Budget to Actual Report July 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026.**

Ms. Macias reviewed the Budget-to-Actual Report and reported that the ELC is on track overall. Items exceeding 75% of budgeted revenues were primarily related to the OEL Disaster Relief Grant and the Bishop Parker Foundation Grant.

Ms. Macias reviewed year-to-date expenditures and noted that amounts exceeding 75% of budget were primarily attributable to hurricane relief funds being utilized for provider training and quality improvement initiatives for providers.

- **Statement of Activities July 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026.**

- Ms. Macías reviewed and presented the statement activities, indicating this report shows all the activity per grant. She also updated OEL's dashboard as of the latest closed month-end, April 2026.
- SR Direct Services:
 - Required 78% - ELCMC 79.6%
- Administration:
 - VPK required: 5% - ELCMC 4.3%
 - SR required: 5% - ELMC 4.9%
 - MTCY – On track – Please note this grant runs from October 01 to September 30 and is based on even spending amounts rather than cost reimbursement.

Based on current projections, the organization remains on track to achieve its fiscal year targets. As of today, the ELC is projecting to spend 98% of the current grant, with 14 days remaining in the fiscal year.

- **Draft Budget FY 26/27 Board Approval.**

- Ms. Macias presented the draft Fiscal Year 2026/2027 budget, which is similar to the current budget. She noted that School Readiness (SR) funding is expected to decrease based on current conversations with other ELCs. ELC Manatee prepared the budget using a conservative approach. Please note, the Governor has not yet signed the final funding figures, the budget remains preliminary and will be updated once final amounts are received.

- Approval of ELC staff 403(B) contribution for FY 25/26 - \$150,000.
 - The estimated retirement contribution totals \$150,000, based on earnings for employees active as of June 30, 2026. Approval is requested for the \$150,000 allocation for ELC employees' 403(b) retirement benefit, as funding is available in the budget.

Contracts and Procurement Report, Mrs. Kerry Gaylord, COO

Mrs. Gaylord provided the report:

- Procurement:
 - Spot On – Contract from 7/1/26 - 6/30/27 – Contract amount \$100,000. Partner therapy continuation for Spot-On program.
 - Learning Beyond the Bell – Contract from 7/1/26 - 8/31/27 – \$100,000. This contract will implement a new afterschool curriculum for providers.
 - Straighterline – Contract from 7/1/26 - 12/31/26 - \$60,000. For a new professional development program through the end of the calendar year.
 - FL Early Learning Corps – Contract from 7/1/26 - 6/30/27 – Contract amount \$80,000. For continuation of our early learning tutoring program.
 - Reach out and Read – Contract from 7/1/26 – 6/30/27 – Contract amount \$60,000. This amount will be allocated to support after-school and summer learning programs.
- Amendments:
 - Gardner Media – Increases the total amount to \$995,000 and the third-year amount to \$220,000.

Chief Executive Officer Report, Mr. Darrell King

- New Board Liaison.
 - Mr. King announced the appointment of Maria Esparza as the new Board Liaison.
- State Funding 26/27.
 - Mr. King reported that the School Readiness budget for the upcoming fiscal year initially included a \$31 million funding gap. Through advocacy efforts by AELC and support from Senator Jim Boyd, the \$31 million in funding was restored. He also shared that the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) budget will increase to \$8.4 million.
- Manatee County CSAB grants.
 - The Manatee County CSAB grants will run from October 1, 2026 through September 30, 2027. CSAB allocated ELC of Manatee a total of \$3,394,780 in funding for Fiscal Year 2026/2027, representing an increase of approximately \$130,000 from the previous fiscal year. The grants will support the Subsidy and Match, CATCH, Sleep Baby Safely (SBS) and Nemours programs. The CSAB is funded through property tax millage and the property tax measure scheduled to appear on the November ballot could result in funding reductions, depending on the outcome of the vote.
- Bishop Parker Foundation.
 - ELCMC has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$150,000. The funds will be used to support the Spot-On program.

- Bradenton Kiwanis.
 - ELCMC has been awarded an \$18,000 Reading Pals grant for FY 2025/2026. The program will serve approximately 150 VPK students and involve 100 volunteers.
- Ms. Cohen Estate Request.
 - Mr. King shared that the ELC was the beneficiary of a \$10,000 donation from Ms. Cohen's Estate. The funds will be used to support the VPK age children in the Reading Pals initiative.
- VPK Calendar Project.
 - The VPK Calendar Project has been ongoing for nine years and has been a huge success. Currently, 23 coalitions participate, collectively purchasing approximately 100,000 bilingual calendars. The VPK Calendar project yielded an estimated profit of \$120,000 for ELCMC.
- Nextgen Review.
 - NextGen has been in operation for 12 years. The revenue for NextGen has declined over time, decreasing from approximately \$250,000 to \$100,000. Mr. King shared that a new approach is currently being developed to address the decline. Board members suggested exploring options such as publishing biannually, incorporating QR code or transitioning to a digital format, while recognizing the important role the magazine serves in the community. NextGen will evaluate these options and provide an update in the fall.
- Palmetto Building.
 - The City of Palmetto is no longer pursuing the purchase of the building and is instead considering the construction of a new facility near the Palmetto Police Department. The ELC is currently in the third year of its 10-year lease agreement, with seven years remaining. The building remains for sale.
- DCF Board Position.
 - Mr. King shared that Kristin Gallagher is the new DCF board position replacing Eljida Mujic. Ms. Gallagher works with the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and currently serves on the Sarasota Early Learning Coalition (ELC) Board.
- AELC Chair Appointment.
 - Mr. King announced that he has been appointed Chair of AELC effective July 1, 2026.
- Stand For Children Gala 5.30.2026/Golf Tournament.
 - Mr. King reported that the Stand for Children Gala held on May 30, 2026, was a great success and a well-attended event. The Gala generated approximately \$50,000 in profit and provided positive public relations opportunities for the organization. The 2026 Golf Tournament is scheduled for Friday, December 11, and will once again be hosted by State Senator Jim Boyd.

Items for Approval Consent.

1. Spot-On
2. Learning Beyond the Bell
3. Straighterline
4. FL Early Learning Corps
5. Gardner Media
6. Reach out and Read

Upon motion, made by Ms. Larkin and seconded by Ms. Ritch, the Board of Directors unanimously approved the items for approval on the Consent Agenda.

Items for Approval Non-Consent Agenda

1. Budget to Actual Report July 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026.

Upon motion, made by Ms. Riggio and seconded by Ms. Passmore, the Board of Directors unanimously approved the Budget to Actual Report July 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026.

2. Statement of Activities July 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026.

Upon motion, made by Mr. Bell and seconded by Ms. Riggio, the Board of Directors unanimously approved the Statement of Activities July 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026.

3. Draft Budget FY 26/27.

Upon motion, made by Ms. Passmore and seconded by Ms. Kendzior, the Board of Directors unanimously approved the Draft Budget for FY 26/27.

4. 403B Contributions

Upon motion, made by Ms. Ritch and seconded by Ms. Sammons, the Board of Directors unanimously approved the 403B contributions.

Approval of Board of Directors Meeting Minutes from March 18, 2026.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Bell and seconded by Mrs. Larkin, the Board of Directors unanimously approved the minutes of the March 18, 2026, meeting.

Old Business

None

New Business

1. Mr. King shared that a total of \$52, 000 in stipends will be awarded to teachers for participation in quality programs.
2. Mr. King reported to the Board that, as per approval given at the March 18th Board meeting, the Executive and Finance Committee approved by majority vote, on April 9th, to purchase from Lakeshore Learning supporting Providers with new supplies.
3. Mr. King reported that the ELC has been awarded a \$1 million grant from Google for AI and technology initiatives. The ELC will utilize the grant to fund a new mobile education vehicle and support the Boys & Girls club and Beyond Program after-school curriculums.
4. CEO Annual Review and FY 26/27 contract. Mr. Mohammadbhoy requested that ELC staff leave the meeting so that the Board of Directors could discuss the CEO's performance, goals, and contract for FY 26/27, as well as staff performance metrics and targets.

Public Comments

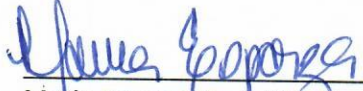
There were no public comments.

Adjournment

There was no further business for the Board of Directors. The meeting was adjourned at 12:09.

Minutes prepared by:

Minutes approved by:

 9/14/24

Maria Esparza, Board Liaison Date

 9/14/24

Adam Mohammadbhoy, Chair Date