

**BOARD MEETING**

**THURSDAY, JULY 12, 2018**  
**DIRECTLY FOLLOWING THE 9:00 AM**  
**FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**JUVENILE WELFARE BOARD**  
**14155 58TH STREET NORTH**  
**CONFERENCE ROOM 191**  
**CLEARWATER, FL 33760**

**MINUTES**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Brian Aungst, Jr., Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM. He asked Division Chief Jim Millican to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Aungst asked for a point of personal privilege to announce the birthday of Mr. Art O’Hara, Executive Director, R’Club Child Care, Inc.

Mr. Aungst reviewed the public comment procedures. He asked members of the public who wished to address the Board before a vote on an Action Item, or during the Open Agenda, to complete a public comment card.

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Brian Aungst, Jr.	Board Chair	Present
Susan Rolston	Board Vice Chair	Present
Rick Butler	Board Secretary	Present
Bob Dillinger	Public Defender	Present
Michael Grego	Superintendent	Present
Bernie McCabe	State Attorney	Present
Michael Mikurak	Board Member	Present
James Millican	Board Member	Present
Patrice Moore	Sixth Judicial Court Judge	Present
Karen Seel	Pinellas County Commissioner	Present
James Sewell	Board Member	Present

**II. CONSENT ITEMS**

- A. Approve Board Minutes for May 10, 2018
- B. Accept Financial Report for May and June 2018
- C. Accept Finance Committee Meeting Minutes for June 5, 2018

Mr. Aungst asked for a motion to approve the Consent Items.

The Consent Items passed unanimously without questions or discussion.

**ACTION: Dr. James Sewell moved to approve the Consent Items as presented; seconded by Mr. Michael Mikurak. No further discussion, all in favor; motion carried.**

### III. ACTION ITEMS

#### A. Approve FY18 Budget Amendment for Faith-Based Literacy Program

Mr. Aungst read the recommended action to approve a budget amendment for \$120,000 for FY18 to reallocate funding for the Faith-Based Literacy Program from the James B. Sanderlin Neighborhood Family Center (NFC) to the YMCA of Greater St. Petersburg.

Mr. Aungst said that in March as a result of routine Program Monitoring activities, JWB staff has been working with the Sanderlin NFC regarding some financial and operational components. As a result, it has been agreed by the Sanderlin board and JWB staff that the Faith-Based Literacy Program should be reallocated for the remainder of the fiscal year to the YMCA of Greater St. Petersburg.

Dr. Marcie Biddleman, Chief Executive Officer explained how the decision to make the recommendation was determined. She highlighted the priority to keep the children participating in the summer programs and the staff at the NFC stabilized. She outlined her discussions with the Sanderlin board and the leadership at the YMCA of Greater St. Petersburg.

Mr. Aungst asked if the Sanderlin board supported this recommendation.

Dr. Biddleman said they, along with Dr. Celeste Thomas, the newly named Interim Executive Director of Sanderlin, support the recommendation.

The Board discussed the details of the recommendation, pertaining to the employment status of the current faith-based staff and leadership by the YMCA to carry out the programming for the remainder of the fiscal year. Dr. Biddleman said it is expected that the staff, upon satisfactorily completing an application process and Level 2 background screening, will continue in their positions with the faith-based program.

Board members asked about the inclusion of confidentiality language in the proposed employment contract between the YMCA and Ms. Donna Welch, the former director of the Sanderlin faith-based program. Members cautioned about JWB becoming too involved with the hiring processes at funded agencies. Ms. Colleen Flynn, JWB's legal counsel, confirmed JWB's funded agencies contracts only require Level 2 screening. JWB does not get involved in human resource activities of funded agencies.

The discussion continued on the importance of staying true to JWB's focus on the children.

Mr. Aungst asked Ms. Flynn if anyone requested to address the Board prior to the vote on the recommended action. Ms. Flynn said there were several requests submitted and the following individuals provided their comments:

- Pastor Clarence Williams, Cross & Anvil Human Services
- Ms. Cassia Evans, parent of a faith-based participant
- Ms. Angelique Evans, faith-based participant
- Ms. Rene Robinson-Flowers, Pinellas County School Board Chair
- Mr. Kenneth Welch, Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners Chair
- Dr. Riccardo Davis, Concerned Organization for Quality Education of Black Students, Inc., (COQEBS)

Mr. Aungst clarified if the funding is reallocated to the YMCA, the current faith-based staff will complete Level 2 background screening and reference checks, but not be held to a higher standard than current YMCA staff.

- Mr. Ricardo Welch, Prayer Tower Church of God In Christ
- Ms. Shirin Vesely, Esquire, legal counsel for Ms. Welch.

Mr. Aungst expressed concern because Ms. Welch is no longer a Sanderlin employee and is unemployed. He said if the Board does not take action today, that the next opportunity is the September 2018 Regular Board meeting. He restated his support of the recommended proposal to fund the program through FY18 but moved to the YMCA and the YMCA retaining Ms. Welch in a leadership role.

Board members asked for more information on the possible confidentiality language in the proposed employment contract. Ms. Vesely, attorney for Ms. Welch, said the contract discussion has not yet taken place between her client and the YMCA. Board members suggested that the length of the contract and the possible confidentiality language could be immediately addressed and negotiated.

The Board then discussed upcoming contract negotiations and the possibility of JWB taking over the faith-based administration for the remainder of FY18 while opening a solicitation for continued operation of the program in FY19.

Mr. Bob Dillinger made a motion to table the discussion.

Mr. Aungst asked to continue with public comment before addressing the motion to table the discussion.

Public comment continued:

- Mr. Frank Peterman
- Ms. Deborah Figgs-Sanders

Mr. Aungst reread the recommendation to approve the budget amendment for \$120,000 for FY18 to reallocate funding for the Faith-Based Literacy Program from the Sanderlin Neighborhood Family Center to the YMCA of Greater St. Petersburg.

He explained JWB does not have the power to reinstate Ms. Welch as a Sanderlin NFC employee at the faith-based program. He said if the motion to table passes, the program could continue under the direction of the JWB staff until a potential special Board meeting in August, or the September 2018 regular Board meeting.

Ms. Flynn said the YMCA's proposed contract with JWB ends in September 2018.

Mr. Aungst asked Mr. Tim Staley, Executive Vice President, YMCA of Greater St. Petersburg, to address the Board. Mr. Staley said the recommended action will result in a 75-day contract, but the YMCA has every intention to continue the faith-based program in FY19. He added that the YMCA has not discussed the proposed employment contract with Ms. Welch. He also said the YMCA plans to meet with the faith-based community to discuss their ideas and concerns.

The Board asked for clarification on the proposed confidentiality language in the employment contract. Mr. Staley said it is not unusual for certain YMCA employees to have a limitation on talking to the media about past employment, but specific language mentioning Sanderlin was added to Ms. Welch's proposed contract.

The Board commented on the collaborative possibilities of nonprofits and the faith-based community for the benefit of the children. They discussed teachable moments, integrity, and fairness.

Mr. Dillinger withdrew his motion to table the discussion from the floor.

The Board, once again, considered the possibility of releasing a Request to Negotiate (RTN) in spite of the urgency of the situation to maintain operations.

Mr. Jaruszewski explained there is not enough time to complete the RTN process prior to October 1, 2018.

Chief Millican suggested scheduling a meeting with the faith-based community in August 2018.

Mr. Aungst read the recommended action for a third time and called for a vote.

Dr. Grego commented on rushing this decision before having a discussion with the community. He stated his support for a RFN or RFP.

Judge Moore expressed the importance of bringing everyone to the table, and her concern that Ms. Welch is not getting paid.

Mr. McCabe stated that JWB does not undertake service delivery and continuing to have JWB staff operate the Faith-Based Literacy Program is service delivery. Administratively, we no longer have an agency. Finance says there is not enough time for a RFN or RFP. If we move it again, don't we want the community to bid on that?

Chief Millican said it seems we have come to an agreement with the YMCA and Ms. Welch. To allow her to lead the program. In the meantime, we can figure out where it is best to run it.

Mr. Mikurak said it is an opportunity for everyone to come together and look at what needs to be done. Ms. Welch is the right person. Keep the program running today, and take some additional right steps.

Mr. Aungst announced the motion and a second to reallocate \$120,000 for FY18 funding for the Faith-Based Literacy Program from the Sanderlin Neighborhood Family Center to the YMCA of Greater St. Petersburg. He said it is consistent with the direction given to staff and to the YMCA regarding the employment and the expectations related to the employees of the program including Ms. Welch, but also all the other employees who are affected. He called for additional comments. There were none. He called a vote. That motion passes unanimously.

**ACTION: Mr. McCabe moved to Approve the FY18 Budget Amendment for Faith-Based Literacy Program; seconded by Dr. Sewell. No further discussion, all in favor; motion carried.**

After the vote, Mr. Aungst requested a five-minute recess.

The meeting resumed at 10:42 AM.

B. FY19 Preliminary Budget and Adoption of the Proposed Millage Rate

Mr. Jaruszewski read the recommended action. He explained the certified value provided by the Property Appraiser reflects an 8.04 percent increase, resulting in a \$5.06 million increase in ad valorem revenue from FY18. He announced the proposed FY19 budget at \$65,775,591 and the proposed millage rate at 0.8981.

Mr. Jaruszewski confirmed there is no change to the millage rate.

**ACTION: Mr. McCabe moved to Adopt the FY19 Preliminary Budget and the Proposed Millage Rate; seconded by Dr. Sewell. No further discussion, all in favor; motion carried.**

C. Approve Quality Early Learning Site Request for Qualifications

Mr. Jaruszewski explained the purpose of the recommended action is to find a candidate qualified to open a Quality Early Learning site in Lealman. He expects the funding to be awarded in January 2019.

An audience member suggested in her opinion that 3,550 to 4,000 square feet would be needed to accommodate services for 58 children and the Pinellas County Licensing Board has regulations pertaining to square footage per child. Commissioner Karen Seel recommended the selected agency talk with Pinellas County officials to see if there is available space at the Lealman Community Center.

**ACTION: Mr. McCabe moved to Approve the Quality Early Learning Site Request for Qualifications as presented; seconded by Mr. Millican. No further discussion, all in favor; motion carried.**

D. Allocation Increase for myON<sup>®</sup> Reading Platform

Mrs. Susan Rolston said that after looking this item over it appears to be community wide every child in Pinellas for \$600,000 and it appears like we are \$50,000 short.

Ms. Judith Warren indicated it was her understanding that Shana Rafalski from Pinellas County Schools has been working directly with myON<sup>®</sup> and they will accept the current funding level.

**ACTION: Mr. McCabe moved to Approve an Allocation Increase for the myON<sup>®</sup> Reading Platform as presented; seconded by Dr. Sewell. No further discussion, all in favor; motion carried.**

E. Adopt FY19 JWB Board Meeting Schedule

Mr. Aungst called for a vote.

**ACTION: Mr. McCabe moved to Adopt the FY19 Board Meeting Schedule as presented; seconded by Dr. Sewell. No further discussion, all in favor; motion carried.**

**IV. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

Dr. Biddleman announced new efforts to consolidate several leadership meetings attended by the same stakeholders without losing the specifics of each meeting's purpose. The first effort was made on Monday, July 9, 2018 at the Mental Health System of Care Meeting. The Administrative Forum and the Community Alliance meetings will also be looked at for consolidation purposes.

There were no further questions or comments from the Board.

**V. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**V.A. Status Report on Sanderlin Neighborhood Family Center**

Dr. Biddleman introduced Mr. Ray Sanderlin, Jr., a member of the Sanderlin board. He then introduced three other members of the board: Ms. Dianna King, Mr. Pierce Brunson, and Ms. Christa Williams. He spoke about the process to hire a new executive director and the importance of keeping the children and their families first during this transition. He mentioned plans for a staff retreat with the board in August and governance training for the board once a new executive director is hired.

JWB Board members asked about the plan to make up the deficit. Mr. Sanderlin mentioned fund raising as a solution.

Dr. Biddleman explained with the turnover in leadership staff at Sanderlin, a salary lapse slightly under the cost of deficit is projected.

Ms. King, Sanderlin Chair, addressed the remedies to improve operations at Sanderlin.

Dr. Biddleman said Dr. Mary Grace Duffy, a consultant to JWB, is providing governance training to the Sanderlin board, and Dr. Barbara Morrison Rodriguez, a consultant to JWB, will provide additional training.

Mrs. Rolston said she read all of the training that is planned. It is vital that if JWB is going to make the investment that Ms. King encourage her fellow Sanderlin board members to attend the training.

Judge Moore commented that she was born and raised near the Sanderlin Center Area. For the Center to say that they were wrong it is enough. She said she respected the decision that they made as a board and encouraged more dialogue.

## **VI. OPEN AGENDA**

Mr. Rick Butler announced staff anniversaries.

Mr. Aungst said there is no Regular Board meeting in August. The next Regular Board meeting is Wednesday, September 5, 2018 at 3:30 PM.

He announced Mr. Scott Goyer, President/CEO YMCA of the Suncoast, was giving a zSpace demonstration right after the Board meeting in Conference Room 105.

## **VII. ADJOURN**

**Mr. Aungst moved for adjournment at 11:19 AM. No further discussion, all in favor; motion carried.**

Minutes Submitted by:

Rick Butler  
Board Secretary  
09/05/18