# BOARD MEETING
# THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2026
# 9:00 AM
# JUVENILE WELFARE BOARD
# 14155 58TH STREET NORTH
# EDMONDS NERI CONFERENCE ROOM
# CLEARWATER, FL 33760

# MINUTES

## I. CALL TO ORDER

JWB Board Chair, Division Chief Jim Millican, called the Juvenile Welfare Board (JWB) meeting to order at 9:00 AM and asked Commissioner Chris Latvala to lead the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

JWB Staff Present: Karen Boggess, Laura Peele, Saby Guidicelli, April Putzulu, Becky Albert, Megan Seales, Jomar Lopez, Jeanine Evoli, Lorrayne Hayes, Danielle Hintz, Mindy Taylor, Michele Hummel, Nehemiah Warner, Desmon Newton, Gayle Ingraham, Katie Dills, and Bria Bostick.

JWB Attorney: Colleen Flynn, Esq.

| Attendee Name | Title | Status |
|---|---|---|
| Jim Millican | Board Chair | Present |
| Kristen Gnage | Board Vice Chair | Present |
| Bruce Bartlett | Board Secretary/State Attorney | Present |
| Kevin Hendrick | Pinellas County Schools Superintendent | Present |
| Chris Latvala | Pinellas County Commissioner | Present |
| Sara Mollo | Public Defender | Absent |
| Brian Aungst, Jr. | Board Member | Present |
| Patrice Moore | Board Member | Present |
| Renee Chiea | Board Member | Present |
| Alicia McShea | Board Member | Present |

## II. CONSENT ITEMS

A. Approve Board Minutes from September 9, 2026
B. Approve First TRIM Hearing Minutes from September 9, 2026
C. Approve Final TRIM Hearing Minutes from September 22, 2026
D. Accept Financial and Investment Report from August 2026

**ACTION: Mr. Brian Aungst, Jr. made a motion to approve the Consent Items; The Honorable Bruce Bartlett seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

## IV. ACTION ITEMS

### A. Approve Support and Maintenance Agreement with AVI-SPL LLC

Ms. Laura Peele, Chief Information Officer, requested approval for the support and maintenance agreement with AVI-SPL LLC for the period from December 15, 2026, through March 5, 2028, in the amount of $3,927.99 to maintain audiovisual and recording equipment used in its primary conference rooms. This equipment supports the broadcasting of JWB public meetings and delivery of conferences, trainings, and other meetings and events.

Ms. Peele stated that project and maintenance expenditures since October 1, 2024, total $47,841.66. These additional funds bring total expenditures to $51,769.65, triggering Board approval. In FY26, JWB upgraded the main console control panel and control processor, both of which had reached the end of their supported life cycles. The project also required reprogramming the software that operates the video and audio systems in JWB's primary conference rooms. This agreement consolidates three existing agreements under a common expiration date. As a result, the amount has been prorated for the period from December 15, 2026, through March 5, 2028, a term of approximately fifteen months.

**ACTION: Superintendent Kevin Hendrick made a motion to approve the Support and Maintenance Agreement with AVI-SPL LLC; Mr. Aungst seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

### B. Approve Budget Amendment for the Bridging Families Program at St. Vincent de Paul CARES, Inc.

Mr. Nehemiah Warner, Senior Program Consultant, noted that St. Vincent de Paul CARES, Inc. (SVdP) recently changed its name to Vincentian Cares, Inc. He stated that the agency received a capital grant through the FY26 Non-Operating Capital Request for Applications to renovate the family common area at its St. Petersburg family shelter. The project was delayed due to permitting challenges. Vincentian Cares, Inc. requested that JWB carry forward the $57,425 unspent FY26 award balance to FY27 to complete the renovation. Mr. Warner asked for Board approval.

**ACTION: JWB Board Vice Chair Kristen Gnage made a motion to approve the Budget Amendment for the Bridging Families Program at Vincentian Cares, Inc.; Ms. Alicia McShea seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

### C. Adopt FY27 January through July Regular Board Meeting Schedule

Ms. Karen Boggess, Interim Chief Executive Officer (CEO), presented proposed Board meeting dates for January 2027 through July 2027. She noted that the September meeting date will be determined around the TRIM hearing schedule. Ms. Boggess stated that the proposed meetings are all on Thursdays at 9:00 AM and do not conflict with Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners meetings or Pinellas County Schools (PCS) Board meetings and 2027 Spring Break.

**ACTION: Mr. Hendrick made a motion to adopt the FY27 January through July Regular Board Meeting Schedule; Commissioner Latvala seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

Chief Millican asked to move the previously scheduled Board Special Meeting date of November 9th because he now has a conflict. Board members briefly discussed their availability and agreed that identifying an alternative date during the meeting would be difficult. The Board agreed to

cancel the existing meeting date and directed staff to distribute a scheduling poll to identify a replacement date.

### D. MGT Recruitment Report Presentation and Selection of Finalists for CEO Position

Ms. Sarah McKee, MGT Recruitment Lead, reported that MGT received nearly 150 applications and identified 14 qualified candidates through its initial screening. Four candidates later withdrew, including Candidate 6 in the Board members' packets, leaving 10 under consideration. Ms. McKee conducted individual interviews to gather information beyond the candidates' resumes. Topics included executive leadership, governing board relations, strategic planning, organizational accountability, community partnerships, financial management, and governmental relations.

Ms. McKee outlined MGT's two screening categories. Tier One included candidates whose experience and qualifications substantially aligned with the position announcement and whose interviews provided further evidence of relevant executive leadership and experience. Tier Two included candidates who met the minimum qualifications but generally had less relevant experience or backgrounds less closely aligned with JWB's responsibilities.

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| **TIER 1 CANDIDATES** | | | | |
| 1 | Tara Chalakani | Preferred Behavioral Health Group | Chief Executive Officer | Lakewood, New Jersey |
| 2 | Mary Harper | Texas Association for the Education of Young Children | Executive Director | Cedar Park, Texas |
| 3 | Jennifer Katzenstein | Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital & Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine | Co-Director, Center for Behavioral Health, Director of Social Work, Director of Psychology, Director of Neuropsychology | St. Petersburg, Florida |
| 4 | Richard Semancik | Covenant Learning Solutions | President | Georgetown, Texas |
| **TIER 2 CANDIDATES** | | | | |
| 5 | Sheron Brown | City of St. Petersburg | Director of Education & Youth Opportunities | St. Petersburg, Florida |
| 6 | Diane Gullett | Marion County Public Schools | Superintendent/CEO (Former) | Ocala, Florida |
| 7 | Andrea Krieger | Pensacola State College | Executive Director of Institutional Development | Pensacola, Florida |
| 8 | Amy Orman | Florida Network of Youth & Family Services | Chief Operating Officer | Tallahassee, Florida |
| 9 | Heather Petrus | Southside Behavioral Health & Community Services Board | Chief Executive Officer | Clarksville, Virginia |
| 10 | Amy Sams | Charter Schools USA, Southshore Charter Academy | Principal (Former) | Riverview, Florida |
| 11 | David Shaffer | National Wheelchair Basketball Association | Chief Executive Officer | National |

Ms. McKee reviewed the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) candidates listed in the table above, except Candidate 6, withdrew before the meeting. Board members emphasized JWB's role as a governmental funding organization, not a service provider, and identified government and special district experience, program accountability, contract oversight, community partnerships, and organizational leadership as priorities. Ms. McKee confirmed that MGT would conduct background and reference checks only for candidates the Board selects to advance.

Mr. Aungst recommended including Ms. Boggess in the interview process. Board members expressed support, and Ms. Boggess confirmed her interest when asked by Chief Millican.

**ACTION: Mr. Aungst made a motion to interview Tara Chalakani, Mary Harper, Jennifer Katzenstein, Andrea Krieger, Amy Orman, and Ms. Boggess; Commissioner Latvala seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

During discussion, Commissioner Latvala asked whether Ms. Boggess would need to apply and undergo the same screening as other candidates. Ms. McKee said she would like Ms. Boggess to complete the full process because MGT's contract provides JWB with a one-year guarantee.

**ACTION: Mr. Hendrick made a motion to conduct all CEO candidate interviews virtually with Board members meeting in person; Mr. Aungst seconded**. **The motion passed unanimously.**

During discussion, the Board directed staff to identify a suitable location with appropriate technology provisions and circulate a poll for a new CEO interview date. Board members discussed a possible second round with in-person finalist interviews and opportunities for provider and community input; no final second-round arrangements were established.

**ACTION: Mr. Aungst made a motion to extend the Interim CEO's Employment Agreement through December 31, 2026; The Honorable Judge Patrice Moore seconded**. **The motion passed unanimously.**

MGT will provide sample interview questions for Board review, including topics related to local government and special districts. The Board will finalize questions at the start of the interview meeting. Counsel clarified quorum and remote participation requirements and noted that any employment contract would require subsequent Board approval. Chief Millican departed, and Ms. Gnage continued chairing the meeting.

## V. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

**JWB's 80th Anniversary:** Since the last Board meeting, JWB attended city council/commission meetings in Kenneth City, Dunedin, and the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners, where Commissioner Latvala praised JWB's mission-driven focus and Commissioners Dr. Rene Flowers and Kathleen Peters shared their connections with JWB. Ms. Boggess thanked Board member, Ms. Renee Chiea, for attending several of these proclamation meetings over the last few weeks.

**CEO Circle:** JWB held a gathering of funded agency CEOs and Executive Directors to foster connection, collaboration, and forward-looking discussion.

**Program Contracts:** Ms. Boggess reported completion of all 87 contracts and thanked the teams for their collaboration, dedication, and follow-through.

**Out-of-School Time Conference:** JWB's seventh annual conference, *Minds of All Kinds*, provided professional development and recognition for staff working directly with children. Ms. Boggess thanked Board Member Ms. McShea for attending the full conference.

**Mindshift Summit:** JWB, Evara Health, and PCS hosted the second Youth Behavioral Health Summit, *Strong Minds and Strong Futures*. Keynote speaker, Mr. Tony Gaskins, shared personal stories; Evara Health leaders Dr. Nichelle Threadgill and Mr. B.J. Daniels discussed wellness and personal growth.

**Infant Safe Sleep Awareness:** JWB partnered with St. Petersburg Fire Rescue to host a First-Year Safety Fair, connecting more than 60 community members with safety resources. Families received Pack 'n Plays when needed.

**Cribs for Kids National Conference:** JWB Strategic Initiatives Director Rebecca Albert and JWB Child Safety & Prevention Lead Mindy Taylor presented JWB and Pinellas County's prevention framework and learned lessons at the national conference in Pittsburgh.

**2026 Child Abuse Death Review Summit:** Ms. Albert emphasized coordinated, data-informed child abuse prevention and was recognized for her statewide leadership as chair and contributions to the Sleep Baby Safely campaign. She will continue chairing the Pinellas-Pasco committee.

**Upcoming Events:** JWB's Annual KidsFirst Luncheon will be held on Friday, October 23. On November 5, JWB's celebrates its 80th Anniversary and will host a joint meeting of its three community councils to present work plans and prioritize community issues. Board members will receive invitations.

## VI. INFORMATION ITEMS

There were no questions or comments.

## VII. OPEN AGENDA

## VIII. ANNIVERSARIES

Mr. Bartlett announced September 2026 staff anniversaries.

## X. ADJOURN

Chief Millican adjourned the meeting at 10:22 AM. No further discussion.

Minutes submitted by:

Bruce Bartlett
Board Secretary
11/19/2026