Committee Members in Attendance: Keith Liederman, Rhonda Taylor, Kristi Givens, Joyce Ridgeway, Joy Mitchell, Thomas Lambert, Kate Mehok, Jen Roberts, Maria Blanco, Thelma French, Emily Wolff

Committee Members Absent: Carole Elliot

Community Members in Attendance: Aimee Grainer, Gabby Izzo, Suzanne Torregano, Kenneth Francis, Anna Williamson, Emily Madeira, Teresa Falgoust, Jillian Delos Reyes, Gabrielle Izzo, Lindsay Weixler, Shavonne Hampton

I. CALL TO ORDER
   a. At 2:05 am Jen Roberts called the meeting to order.

II. COORDINATED FUNDING
   a. Aimee Grainer provided an update on the Coordinated Funding Request (CFR).
      i. City Seats Program Outlook
         1. City Seats funding for year 20-21 is unknown due to City of New Orleans’ need to financially navigate the COVID-19 pandemic.
         2. City Seats providers met earlier in the week; discussed potential options for ways to utilize recently received PDG funding.
      ii. Preschool Development Grant (PDG) Allocation
         1. NOEEN was awarded $854,205 through PDG funding. This amounts to roughly 74-80 seats for children birth-3yr old.
         2. Discussed three separate proposals on how to utilize funds.
         3. Voted to protect rising students and create a limited number of new seats for the 20-21 program year.
   b. LA4 & NSECD ALLOCATION
      i. LA4
         1. NOEEN was awarded 1,607 of 1,771 requested LA4 seats.
         2. Allocations awarded based off successful enrollment for majority of the previous school year.
      ii. NSECD
         1. NOEEN was awarded 387 of 482 requested NSECD seats.
         2. Allocations awarded based off successful enrollment for majority of the previous school year.

III. COORDINATED ENROLLMENT AND INFORMATION CAMPAIGN
   i. Thomas Lambert provided an update on the status of enrollment.
      1. NOLA-PS is working to utilize an online verification tool for early childhood seats. Expected to be online week of May 18th, 2020.
IV. COORDINATED OBSERVATIONS & SUPPORT
   a. Aimee Grainer provided an update on coordinated observations.
      i. LDOE has suspended all CLASS observations for the Spring semester.
      ii. Approach for CLASS observations for Fall 2020 are to be determined.

V. READY START NETWORK UPDATE
   a. Jen Roberts / Aimee Grainer provided general NOEEN updates.
      i. State of the Sector
         1. Early Learning Centers are in crisis due to restricted ratios, financial instability, decreased demand, workforce concerns.
         2. Discussed liability concerns as centers begin opening their doors; hopes for partnership with LDOE to address.
      ii. Strong Start 2020
         1. LDOE is releasing a “Strong Start 2020 planning guide” that will include priorities and guidelines for safely reopening the sector.
         2. The Committee expects to discuss and work on a community crisis response plan for Orleans in June.
      iii. Lead Agency Request for Application
         1. For the 20-21 school year, Agenda for Children & NOLA Public Schools will apply together for the Lead Agency contract.
         2. The application is due May 22, 2020. The contract will be awarded in June 2020.
   b. Respite Child Care During COVID-19
      i. Agenda for Children, NOEEN have operated as a unified organization responding to the Governor’s call to provide emergency respite child care services during the COVID-19 crisis.
   c. Pritzker Application
      i. NOEEN is in the final stages of applying for a grant with the Pritzker Foundation. An early May site visit was positively received.
   d. Upcoming News & Next Steps
      i. Aimee Grainer provided an overview of upcoming dates, deadlines.
      ii. Kenneth Francis provided a brief overview of Orleans zoning changes.

VI. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 1:18 pm.

Action Items

- **Action Item No. 1**: On the motion of Mitchell, seconded by Givens, the Committee approved the minutes from January 29th.
- **Action Item No. 2**: On the motion Kristi Givens, seconded by Rhonda Taylor, the Committee moved to utilize PDG funding to preserve enrollment of current City Seats students.