



ORANGE COUNTY GOVERNMENT  
 HEAD START  
**POLICY COUNCIL**  
**MEETING MINUTES**



Holden Heights Community Center  
 1201 20<sup>th</sup> Street  
 Orlando, FL 32805  
 August 22, 2024

Call to Order by: Darnellion Brown, Chairperson 7:00 p.m.  
 Roll Call by: Crystal Burrell, Secretary

**Attended By:**

Jaclyn Stringer	Bithlo	Representative
Darnellion Brown	Callahan	Chairperson
Nayeli Guzman	Dover Shores	Representative
Sharron Jacob	Hal P. Marston	Representative
Elvina Alexandra	John Bridges	Alternate
Crystal Burrell	Lila Mitchell	Secretary
Viviana Escalente	McCoy	Representative
Octavia Gibson	Pine Hills	Representative
Daniel Hernandez	SOYMCA	Representative
Stefani Chalkova	Southwood	Representative

**Staff:**

Polly Bouler	Hal Marston
Zhor Elmekali	Lila Mitchell
Yolanda Soto	Millennia
Natalie Colon	Main Office
Tayona Stephens	Main Office
Avis McWhite	Main Office
Sonya Hill	Main Office

**Chairperson Brown called for a motion to adopt the agenda**

Motion: Sharron Jacob, Hap Marston Representative

Second: Octavia Gibson, Pine Hills Representative

Motion carried with no objections

**Director’s Report by Sonya Hill -**

- Training and technical assistance representatives from the Office of Head Start visited the OCHS office to provide training and technical assistance instructions, ensuring the program was prepared to move forward in accordance with federal regulations. This was needed to complete the corrective action plan for the two non-compliance issues from the Focus Area 2 federal monitoring.
- CLASS scores for Orange County have been released, indicating the program’s classrooms are recognized as high-quality. OCHS scores place the classrooms in the top 10% or above the national average.

- Main office staff held a mental wellness event which included topics on office culture, etiquette, customer service, and expectations.

**HR Report by Avis McWhite, Sr. Program Manager** – Ms. McWhite listed candidates and qualifications for hire.

**Chairperson Brown called for a motion to adopt the HR report**

Motion: Octavia Gibson, Pine Hills Representative

Second: Daniel Hernandez, SOYMCA Representative

Motion carried with no objections

**Budget Report by Sonya Hill** - % of budget used 90% we are not returning any money to the federal government. Requesting additional funds from the county for salaries and operations.

**Unit Updates**

ERSEA report by Natalie Colon

**New Business:**

Changing of the Guard – the last meeting of this years' council will be September 30, 2024 and also the changing of the guard where the 2024 – 2025 members will be brought in. If anyone would like to continue on the Policy Council after their children leave the program, a community representative application may be submitted.

**Unit Reports:**

ERSEA report by Natalie Colon – there were 780 children attending the summer program.

OCHS is still recruiting for the new school year. There are approximately 100 openings.

**Chairperson Brown called for a motion to adjourn the meeting**

Motion: Daniel Hernandez, SOYMCA Representative

Second: Jaclyn Stringer, Bithlo Representative

Motion carried with no objections

Meeting Adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

**Next Policy Council Meeting: September 30, 2024**