



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



Holden Heights Community Center  
1201 20<sup>th</sup> Street  
Orlando, FL 32805  
December 19, 2024

Call to Order by: Octavia Gibson, Chairperson at 6:40  
Roll Call by: Shondra Greggs, Secretary

**Attended By:**

Stephanie Soler	Aloma	Representative
Nicole Charette	Aloma	Alternate
Alicia Bermudez	Bithlo	Representative
Melissa Myers	Dillard	Representative
Chai'neal Jarvis	John Bridges	Alternate
Leslie Dipre	Millennia	Representative
Marie Registe	Millennia	Alternate
Shondra Greggs	Pine Hills	Representative
Luisa Acevedo Morillo	SOYMCA	Representative
Jeinilett Figueroa	Taft	Representative
Lucia Vasquez Castillo	Three Points	Representative
Tytiana Francis	WS/ELC	Alternate
Jada Moore	WS Elementary	Representative
Fitta Jeanniton	West Oaks	Representative
Darnellion Brown	Past Parent	Community Rep

**Guests:**

Karen Neff	OCPS
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**Staff:**

Brittany Kwarteng	Main Office
Valentine Palmer	Main Office
Sandra Moore	Main Office
Avis McWhite	Main Office
Sandra Ruff	Main Office
Natalie Colon	Main Office
Sonya Hill	Main Office
Zhor Elmekali	Lila Mitchell
Yolanda Soto	Millennia

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

Motion: Jada Moore, W/S Elementary Representative

Second: Leslie Dipre, Millennia Representative

Motion carried with no objections

Secretary's Report by Shondra Gregg

**Chairperson Gibson called for a motion to accept the Secretary's report**

Motion: Jada Moore, W/S Elementary Representative

Second: Luisa Morillo, SOYMCA Representative

Motion carried with no objections

**HR Report by Avis McWhite** – Ms. McWhite listed terminations and vacancies by center.

**Budget Report by Sandra Ruff**

**Director Report by Sonya Hill** –

- Ms. Hill highlighted training and events including Trauma Smart for all staff, CDA course, Cybersecurity and Title VI courses. Hispanic Heritage month was recognized in each classroom and at the main office.
- Ms. Hill attended the Oath of Office Ceremony for three County Commissioners including the new Commissioner for District 5, Kelly Martinez Semrad.
- The playground at John Bridges has been completed.
- Ms. Hill informed the group about an incident that occurred at a center that caused a Pre-determination Hearing for two staff members and resulted in suspensions without pay for both. Ms. Hill will update the group on what the Office of Head Start's conclusion of the matter is. Ms. Hill assured the group that changes have been made to ensure that type of incident does not happen in the future.

**New Business:**

**Community Representative Vote** – Karen Neff, Early Childhood Resource Teacher from OCPS submitted an application. She listed her experience and personal history that qualifies her to serve as Community Representative. She also served on the 2023-2024 Policy Council. There was a unanimous vote to accept her in the role.

**2024-2025 ERSEA Eligibility Selection Criteria Presentation** by Natalie Colon, Sr. Family Services Worker. Ms. Colon reviewed the newest criteria and went over the points given for each category and explained how the points add up to determine the most needy families to be accepted into the program.

**Chairperson Gibson called for a motion to accept the 2024-2025 Selection Criteria**

Motion: Melissa Myers, Dillard Representative

Second: Luisa Morillo, SOYMCA Representative

Motion carried with no objections

**Health Unit Training** by Valentine Palmer, Registered Nurse.

**QA Self-Assessment Review** by Brittany Kwarteng, Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator

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

Motion: Melissa Myers, Dillard Representative

Second: Leslie Dipre, Millennia Representative

Motion carried with no objections

Meeting Adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

**Next Policy Council Meeting: January 16, 2025**