



**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Friday, March 1, 2019**

*The mission of Children First/Communities In Schools is to empower children and their families to reach their full potential through advocacy, education and services. As Communities In Schools, we surround children with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life.*

**Mission Highlights**

Student Support Specialists

Served 2,600 students at 5 schools (1 in Asheville City Schools at Claxton Elementary and 4 in Buncombe County Schools at Emma, Estes, Johnston Elementary Schools and Eblen Intermediate).

- Worked one-on-one or in small groups with 246 students.
- 80% of case managed students improved attendance,
- 88% of case managed students improved academics
- 99% of case managed students were promoted to the next grade.

\*SY 2017-2018 Data\*

| Topic  | Desired Outcomes   | Who/Time              |
|--|--|-----------------------|
| <b>1. Welcome</b><br><b>2. Review Mission Statement</b><br><b>3. Consent Agenda</b>  | 1. Acknowledge Attendees<br>2. Reminder of Mission<br>3. Address Approval of:<br>a. February Meeting Minutes | Cecilia<br>8:30       |
| <p><i>Discussion:</i> Members and Guests/Interns introduced themselves; three interns are in placement with CF/CIS helping out with advocacy and with direct service work. The organizational mission was read by Cecilia for all to hear.</p> |  |                       |
| <p><i>Outcome/Next Steps:</i> A motion to approve February meeting minutes as presented was made by Sallie; motion was seconded by Cecilia. Motion was unanimously approved.</p>   |  |                       |
| <b>4. Mission Moment</b>   | 1. Supportive Service Success Story  | Natasha/Audra<br>8:40 |
| <b>5. Equity &amp; Inclusion</b>   | 1. Racial Justice Coalition Update   | Cecilia<br>8:55       |
| <p><i>Discussion:</i> Cecilia reported that the RJC recently met with Buncombe County Sherriff Quentin Miller and will be meeting with the interim Asheville Police Department Chief as well.</p>  |  |                       |
| <p><b>Ensure organization has strong infrastructure to support our mission.</b></p>  |  |                       |

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| <b>6. Board Development Committee</b>   | 1. Identify Board Development Opportunities – <i>An email will be distributed to full board for feedback/input on topics of interest and new officer opportunities as we plan for next year.</i> | Laurie<br>9:05          |
| <i>Discussion:</i> A survey will be sent out to the Board to obtain feedback prior to the next Board Meeting. Plan to explore possibility of hosting a full Board Training in June or August.   |  |                         |
| <b>7. Fundraising/Resource Development Committee Update</b>   | 1. Resource Development Committee Meeting<br>2. Grants Update (non-Advocacy)   | Natasha<br>9:15         |
| <i>Discussion:</i> Natasha will be reaching out to Resource Development Committee members individually to gather feedback about our current Resource Development Plan and to identify additional opportunities to raise funds; Audra, Morgan, and Natasha are working on numerous grants with immediate due dates. Natasha has met with a grant writing firm to provide assistance for the rest of the current fiscal year and into next fiscal year as needed. |  |                         |
| <i>Outcome/Next Steps:</i> Provide updates as they come about.  |  |                         |
| <b>Increase and diversify revenue sources and maintain strong financial oversight to meet the mission of the organization and provide long-term sustainability.</b>   |  |                         |
| <b>8. Finance Committee Report</b>  | 1. January Financials<br>2. 990 Review & Comment Reminder  | Jonathan/Morgan<br>9:25 |
| <i>Discussion:</i> Jonathan unable to attend the meeting so Morgan provided the agency financial report; A draft of the 990 will be presented to Finance Committee March 19 in the morning – once the 990 is approved by the committee it will be filed. The April board meeting will include a highlight of the report.  |  |                         |
| <i>Outcome/Next Steps:</i> A motion to approve the January financials as presented was made by Shawn; motion was seconded by Jennifer. The motion was unanimously approved.   |  |                         |
| <b>Expand Advocacy efforts to educate and empower the community to take action.</b>   |  |                         |
| <b>9. Success Equation Update</b>   | 1. 2019 Policy Agenda<br>2. FFAB   | Greg & Laurie<br>9:35   |
| <i>Discussion:</i><br>Greg reported on two policy agenda successes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City Council recently approved a plan to provide down payment assistance for qualifying individuals. Also working on the development of an improved transit plan.</li> </ul>   |  |                         |

- Buncombe County has earmarked more funds toward housing affordability, including a new development in East Asheville.
- Buncombe County is recruiting committee members for the newly formed Early Childhood Fund and the first committee meeting is set for next week.

Family Friendly Affordable Buncombe (FFAB) – representatives recently met with the Asheville Citizen Times Editorial Board and anticipate media exposure in the coming weeks.

Greg was recently in Raleigh to hear about the Governor’s Early Childhood Action Plan.

On April 1<sup>st</sup> at MAHEC Greg will be presenting at the Health Equity In Action Conference.

*Outcome/Next Steps:* Greg will distribute link to the Early Childhood Action Plan and for the Health Equity In Action Conference to the full board.

**Ensure organization has strong infrastructure to support our mission.**

|                                      |  |                 |
|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------|
| <b>10. Executive Director Update</b> | 1. Staffing Updates<br>-Resource Development Recruitment<br>-Addressing Resource Development Tasks<br><br>2. General Updates<br>-Strategic Planning Next Steps<br>-Melvin R. Lane Next Steps | Natasha<br>9:45 |
|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------|

*Discussion:*  
 Staffing: Resource Development position is posted, several interviews have occurred, the job posting will be kept open at this time. Immediate Resource Development work is being shared by staff.

The Strategic Planning Retreat was a huge success; a summary of the retreat findings will be shared with the full board. This information will be used to inform next steps. A staff session will be scheduled in March.

Melvin R Lane – A full board info/planning session will be held as is required of the fund. It is possible that this meeting will occur at the April board meeting with extension to 12/noon. Judy Futch will be facilitating the process with the board.

*Outcome/Next Steps:*

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|-----------------------------|---|-----------------|
| <b>Confirm Next Meeting</b> | Friday, April 5 <sup>th</sup> , 8:30 am | Cecilia<br>9:55 |
|-----------------------------|---|-----------------|

**Engagement Opportunities  
For  
March**

-Visit, Shadow or Assist a Student Support Specialist. *If interested, please contact Audra at [audram@childrenfirstbc.org](mailto:audram@childrenfirstbc.org) to coordinate.*