

Early Learning Board (ELB)

Thursday, July 8, 2021

1:30 pm – 4:00 pm

The public may attend the meeting in any of the locations specified below:

Meeting Chair will preside via the Zoom link.

Board Members in Attendance: Scott Nakasone (for Dir. Betts), Leilani Au, Ben Naki, Wai’ale’ale Sarsona (for Jack Wong), Matt Shim (for Dir. Char), Stephen Schatz (for President Lassner), Bob Peters, Mari Uehara, Melodie Vega, Erin Henderson-Lacerdo, Cherilyn Shiinoki, Bob Davis (for Superintendent Kishimoto), Kerrie Urosevich, Justina Acevedo-Cross

Executive Office on Early Learning staff in attendance: Coleen Momohara, Alohilani Maiava, Chris Jackson, Jeff Larson, Kathryn Takakuwa, Keli Houston, Jordana Ferreira, Keopu Reelitz, Ashley Miura

Public in Attendance: Anne Horiuchi, Deborah Zysman, Dayna Luka, Kim Guieb, Jordan Smith, Mary Ann Nemoto, Vivian Eto, Brandon Lee, Kiyo Noguchi, Deanne Goya, Scott Fuji, Danny Cup Choy

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
MINUTES:		
Welcome/Introductions— Bob Peters	Bob began the meeting at 1:33 PM and asked Matt Shim to read the mission statement. Bob then welcomed Erin Henderson-Lacerdo from Keiki O Ka Aina’s (KOKA) Family Learning Center to the Board as the new representative for home-visiting programs and asked her to share a bit about herself. Erin mentioned that she has been working for KOKA for ten years and has been involved with home visiting programs for her entire career, including working as a home visitor herself. She is also a Board member of the Association for Infant Mental Health in Hawaii, and hopes to offer her perspective from that lens, as well.	

	<p>Erin was not able to receive her Oath of Office certificate in time to sign and have it notarized before the Board meeting today, so she will not be able to act in a voting capacity until the August ELB meeting. The Board, therefore, has nine seated voting members, with a quorum of 5, for today’s meeting.</p> <p>Keopu Reelitz, EOEL’s Communications Specialist and moderator of the ELB Zoom meetings, reminded everyone of Zoom etiquette and chat rules. Bob added that all votes will need to be conducted by roll call. He also announced that there was no need for an Executive Session today as was indicated on the agenda.</p>	
<p>Review and Approve 6/10/21 Minutes and 6/10/21 Executive Session Minutes—Bob Peters</p>	<p>The 6/10/21 meeting minutes were approved as distributed. (Ben/Wai’ale’ale: Y--8; N--0)</p> <p>The 6/10/21 Executive Session minutes were also approved as distributed, with one correction on page 2, to change the spelling of Deputy Attorney General Horiuchi’s name from “Ann” to “Anne.” (Bob/Ben: Y—8, N—0)</p>	
<p>Public Comment—Bob Peters</p>	<p>No public comments were offered.</p>	
<p>Executive Office on Early Learning Updates— Budget and Legislation—Coleen Momohara</p>	<p>Coleen began by asking Jordana Ferreira, EOEL’s Government Affairs Specialist, to provide legislative updates. Per Jordana, there was a special session on July 6, 2021 in which lawmakers would vote to overturn some of the bills the Governor had vetoed. Jordana did not have information to share at this time about the special session.</p> <p>The Governor released his intent-to-veto list to the Legislature on June 21, 2021. The list included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.B. 200, Executive Budget. The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) restricts states from using Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund (CSFRF) monies for general obligation bond debt services and programs that have federal fund matching 	

	<p>requirements, for which H.B. 200 makes appropriations. It is only these items that will be line-item vetoed. All other legislative appropriations remain.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.B. 613, Relating to Education. This bill appropriates federal funds from the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriation and ARPA for education related services. It appropriates \$1 million of these funds to EOEL for the purpose of the Early Educator Stipend Program. If the bill is vetoed, EOEL’s base budget would not be impacted, however the Office would not receive the appropriated \$1 million. <p>The list did not include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.B. 1362, amendments to Act 046. The bill was not included on the Governor’s intent-to-veto list. • S.B. 1384, ELB composition. The bill not included on the Governor’s intent-to-veto list. <p>Coleen followed with a presentation on the EOEL budget for SFY (School Fiscal Year) 2022-2023. During June and July, EOEL needs to begin preparation of legislative and budget priorities. While closing out the previous fiscal year (2020-2021), EOEL also needs to look ahead to the next fiscal year (2022-2023) that follows this current fiscal year (2021-2022).</p> <p>In 2021, in the middle of the pandemic, the Office shared with ELB its proposed budget reductions of 10%, 15%, and 20%. Along with anticipated reductions, positions and classrooms were also in question. However, EOEL is grateful to the Legislature that no cuts were made to its budget. Funds originally included in the anticipated budget reduction, that now remain in the Office’s budget for 2021-2022, cover travel for ELB and stakeholders/partners of the Early Childhood State Plan and State Implementation Plan, in addition to funds for the Charter Schools prekindergarten program.</p>	
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	<p>Given EOEL’s 2021-2022 budget allocation, funds are available to cover the current State Plan/SIP Program Specialist position. In addition, EOEL can move ahead to establish and staff positions for a Procurement/Contracts Specialist and a Business Management Officer/Fiscal Specialist, as earlier approved by the Board. The Office will also use the funds to bring back a Family-Child Interaction Learning program.</p> <p>In planning for SFY 2022-2023, EOEL is guided by the following priorities: maintain and stabilize early childhood programs; continue to work on foundational pieces for Act 46; recognize this is the second year of biennium and plan for the new biennium in 2023.</p> <p>For SFY 2022-2023, EOEL proposes to request position counts only: 1 FTE Procurement and Contracts Specialist and 1 FTE Business Management Officer/Fiscal Specialist. EOEL is asking for ELB’s approval in August.</p> <p>Key takeaways from the discussion that followed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Finance Subcommittee shared there were no concerns with EOEL’s proposed legislative requests. • There were no cuts to EOEL’s budget, leaving EOEL with funds to address its priorities. • Coleen will provide an organizational chart at the next meeting, as requested. 	<p>EOEL will bring its budget priorities proposal to the next meeting for the Board’s approval, as well as an organizational chart.</p>
<p>Subcommittee Reports— Subcommittee Conveners</p>	<p>Matt Shim, head of the Director Search Subcommittee, provided a progress report on the search for a new EOEL Director.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He reported that 55 people applied for the position, and that the number was narrowed down to 11 potential candidates. • The Subcommittee came together and identified six (6) semi-finalists to interview, with input from the Advisory Committee. 	

	<p>One person decided to withdraw his/her application.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Subcommittee will interview the remaining five (5) semi-finalists next Monday and Tuesday, July 12th and 13th, and will select three finalists. • At the next ELB meeting on August 12th, Board members and the public will have the opportunity to meet the three finalists, and each finalist will give a short presentation, about 5-10 minutes each. Public comments will be collected and sent to the Search Subcommittee. • Bob will convene a special ELB meeting at which time the Board will select their top and contingent candidates and send them to the HIDOE Superintendent for approval. The HIDOE Office of Talent Management will handle the hiring process once a finalist has been approved for hire. • In response to a question about the process, Matt explained that no other candidate will be selected to “replace” the one who withdrew. Matt also reminded everyone that the EOEL Director candidates’ identities and applications are confidential, so anyone who has access to this information should not be sharing it publicly as all applicants were assured that their information would be kept confidential until the finalist selection stage. An applicant’s employment, as well as the integrity of the search process, could be jeopardized if information is not kept confidential. <p>Wai’ale’ale Sarsona provided the Governance Standing Subcommittee (GSS) updates. She reminded the Board that the Act 046 Coordinator Position section on “Duties, Responsibilities, and Major Functions” still needs to be approved. The “Purpose” section of the document has already been approved with the suggested changes made. Wai’ale’ale</p>	<p>The August Board meeting will include a finalist forum to meet the three finalists for the EOEL Director position.</p>
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	<p>reported that in the “Duties, Responsibilities, and Major Functions” section, a change has been made to the fourth item under the bullet “Support the development and monitor the progress of agency implementation plans,” where it now reads, “In support of EOEL and DHS collaboration, facilitate the coordination of Legislative reporting requirements.”</p> <p>It was moved and seconded to approve the “Duties, Responsibilities, and Major Functions” section of the Act 046 Coordinator Position description. In the discussion that followed, some members expressed concern that private providers and partnerships were not included in the language. However, there was a general agreement that the first bullet, which references “Convene government agencies and stakeholders...” does imply private providers in the term “stakeholders.” The motion passed (Wai’ale’ale/Justina: Y—9; N—0). Following the Board’s approval of the Coordinator position description, the next step for the Subcommittee is to work with HIDOE’s Office of Talent Management (OTM) on moving forward with the process.</p> <p>Kerrie Urosevich provided the Systems Mapping Subcommittee (SMS) updates. She reminded the Board to complete the survey that was sent out prior to the June Board meeting as only four responses have been received to date. When more robust feedback has been received, the SMS will meet and decide how best to move forward. Barbara DeBaryshe (UH Center on the Family), Edel Baguio-Larena (Maui Family Support Services), and EOEL’s Program Specialist Alohi Maiava and Government Affairs Specialist Jordana Ferreira are now part of the Subcommittee.</p> <p>Key takeaways from the discussion that followed include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barbara DeBaryshe is also involved in an Early Childhood Resource Mapping Project – how does what she is doing align 	<p>The Board approved the Act 046 Coordinator Position “Duties, Responsibilities, and Major Functions” section.</p> <p>The GSS will work with the HIDOE OTM on moving forward with the process.</p>
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	<p>with this mapping project? Kerrie did not have enough information about the COF mapping project but wants to align efforts after having move conversation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will we be tracking growth of the EC system or Act 046 implementation (increased enrollment of 3's and 4's) through this mapping project? Will we develop policy recommendations or legislative asks in the future? • How will we sustain this mapping initiative? This will need further ELB discussion. <p>The plan is for the SMS to meet every few weeks for two months. Updates were deferred to the next meeting because of the lack of survey responses to date. Board members were tasked with completing the survey if they have not already done so.</p>	<p>Board members are encouraged to complete the survey if they have not already done so.</p>
<p>Public Comment—Bob Peters</p>	<p>No public comments were offered.</p>	
<p>Member Updates—Bob Peters</p>	<p><i>Matt Shim</i> reported that 58% of Hawaii's population is completely vaccinated, with 62% having gotten at least one dose. In response to a question, Matt elaborated that this percentage includes ineligible children (children under 12), so out of the 1.4 million people in the state of Hawaii, 70% of them need to be completely vaccinated in order for restrictions to be lifted. Today, July 8, is a special day for the safe travels program, because continental US travelers who have gotten their vaccine can bypass quarantine and COVID-19 testing, provided they bring their vaccine card. Children who are not eligible for the vaccine must still get tested in order to bypass quarantine. Inter-island travel restrictions ended on June 15, 2021. At 70% vaccinated, all travel restrictions will end, and most if not all other restrictions throughout the island will be lifted. Studies related to the vaccine's effect on children will not be ready to review until later in the year; so with schools going back to in-person learning, adults need to be responsible for protecting children.</p>	

	<p><i>Bob Peters</i> reported that while it is uncertain when the Governor will lift the pandemic restrictions on board meetings, it could be as soon as next month (August). To prepare for this, Bob investigated with KCAA-CEED the possibility of returning there for in-person meetings. The problem with the KCAA site is that Kuhio Elementary has ongoing as well as future construction planned, so parking there is no longer available. Bob is looking into possibilities near CEED, but parking would either need to be paid for or unavailable in most of these cases. If CEED is selected as the meeting location, everyone would need to have their temperatures taken at the door, they would not be able to interact with the children, and indoor mask mandates would apply. In the meantime, if Board members know of other possibilities - taking parking into account - please let Bob know.</p>	
Executive Session	No items from the AG.	
Review Agenda Outcomes—Bob Peters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EOEL’s legislative and budget requests will be brought to the Board at the August meeting for approval. An organizational chart will also be provided to the Board. • A forum to meet the three finalists for the EOEL Director position will be had at the August ELB meeting. • ELB approved the Act 046 Coordinator Position “Duties, Responsibilities, and Major Functions” section of the position description document. • The Mapping Systems Subcommittee requested members to complete the survey. 	
Announcements	None.	
Closing—Kerrie Urosevich	“Effectively, systems change is almost impossible without industry-wide collaboration, cooperation, and consensus.” –Simon Mainwaring, CEO of We First.	

Submitted by Ashley Miura and Chris Jackson