
Early Learning Board

— Oct. 10, 2024 —

I. Welcome/Vision & Mission

- Vision (4/12/18) and mission (2/8/18) - read by Stephanie Shipton

Vision: Creating a sustainable early learning system that partners with families to ensure that every child is healthy, valued and successful in school and life.

Mission: To support children's academic and lifelong well-being by directing and supporting the EOEL for an effective, coordinated, high quality early learning system from prenatal to kindergarten entry.

Announcements/Roll call

Announcement:

Chair received clarification from Deputy Attorney General re: less than quorum of voting board members can attend a meeting. The law doesn't make a distinction of which "hat" the invited board member is under. Therefore, at this time, no more than 4 voting board members can attend an event. Please notify the chair if you are invited to an event and think that other voting board members may also be there.

Roll call

II. Review and approval of 9/12/24 minutes

Mahalo to Tara Castrovinci, communications for EOEL for the minutes.

- Correction: Board member Lindsey Heathcock was present.
- Others?

III. Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) Updates Director Arikawa-Cross and Staff

IV. Unfinished business: Proposed bill to amend board composition to add Head Start Collaboration position to ELB in order to comply with federal Head Start act

- Chair will entertain a motion to take this off the table and continue discussion.
- At last meeting, Dept. of Human Services (DHS) Child Care Advisory (CCA) was suggested as a way to comply with the Head Start (HS) Act. However, currently the Governor has designated ELB as the State Advisory Council (required by HS Act).
- It seems simplest to propose the bill, and ELB can be proactive and prepared to pass an internal policy to recuse the Head Start Collaboration director from any discussions regarding the EOEL director.

Information/discussion/vote

V. Unfinished business: Finance committee: Salary adjustment for EOEL Executive Director

- Chair will entertain a motion to postpone discussion until Nov. 14 meeting.
- Rationale: Finance chair Stephen Schatz unable to attend and present today.
- Finance committee needs to consider additional information.

VI. Unfinished business: Proposed standing subcommittee to handle Legislative matters

- Chair will entertain a motion to take the item off the table and continue discussion.
- Discussion: ideas on clear directive, possible structure, etc. History of how legislative matters were handled by previous board.
- Possible action: Refer to Governance for further action.

Discussion, possible action

VII. Unfinished business: Clarification and update on Act 156 (Harm to Students Registry)

- From July: Currently Dept. of Education (DOE), Hawai'i Association of Independent Schools (HAIS), and EOEL are working on implementation. Because the statute refers to education, Dept. of Human Services (DHS) licensed child care programs are not currently required to consult the registry, although they have access. The harm to students registry would have a record of complaints that do not necessarily lead to prosecution and conviction. Fingerprint and criminal history checks reflect convictions.
- Sept. update: DOE campuses with non-DOE or EOEL early childhood programs are planning to screen these teachers and aides as contractors on campus. Contractors are subject to the requirement.
- Question for discussion: How will DHS-licensed child care programs access the Harm to Students Registry?
- Update since agenda was posted: DHS doesn't have access to the Harm to Students Registry.

VIII. Finance committee: Proposed salary schedule for EOEL Executive Director

Current update:

Finance committee is working on proposed salary schedule for EOEL Executive Director. Current salary adjustment is based on Hawai'i Government Employee's Association (HGEA) Bargaining Unit 06. Finance is looking at what future salary adjustments are based on, which could be a combination of current state models.

Information

Break: 10 minutes

IX. Schedule for vice-chair election: Governance subcommittee. Dayna Luka for Matt Shim

See memo for details.

Nominations open today, 10/10, after the meeting, close 4:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 25. Voting members can self-nominate or nominate others.

Election to be held at Nov. 14 ELB meeting.

Information

X. Proposed by-laws for ELB

- Mahalo to EOEL Institutional Analyst Lane Tsuchiyama for creating initial draft. It incorporates current policies and procedures of the board. Chair and Lane did initial review and revisions.
- Governance has reviewed section 9.8, which relates to how a public member can propose an agenda item to the board.
- All board members should review the entire document. It will be up for discussion and adoption in the Nov. 14 meeting.

Discussion, questions

XI. EOEL Executive Director evaluation criteria: Governance committee, Dayna Luka for Matt Shim

See memo from Governance for 2024 evaluation criteria for the EOEL Executive Director. It's adapted from Dec. 2023 memo. Governance worked on criteria with the Executive Director. Memo presented today, to be voted on in November. Normally it would be done in July/August (according to the schedule passed at last meeting).

Discussion, questions

XII. EOEL Workforce & Enrollment Data Review: Director Arikawa-Cross and staff

Data requested:

1. Total number of EOEL teachers and educational assistants hired
2. Current number of vacant teacher and EA positions, by island and school
3. Total number of enrolled students in EOEL PreK classrooms, including update on number of accepted applications

This data can be used to provide a clear picture of staffing needs and enrollment status, so that ELB can make informed decisions on addressing workforce shortages and improving student intake processes.

Information, discussion

XIII. Proposed ad hoc or standing subcommittee: System communication and collaboration

- **Resource to read before meeting: Building Block 5 of the Hawai'i Early Childhood State Plan 2019-2024 (pp. 20-22):**
<https://earlylearning.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Hawaii-Early-Childhood-State-Plan-Comprehensive.pdf>
- Purpose is to establish what information needs to be shared, what the communication channels are, and how the information is available in order to establish and maintain an effective early learning system.
- Members would include key system stakeholders.

Outcome: Discussion/questions. Possible action: Refer to Governance for further definition and development.

XIV. Review agenda outcomes/announcements/closing

- Agenda outcomes
- Announcements (board members, members of public)
 - MAHALO NUI to Harry and Jeanette Weinberg CEED Center (Christina Cos and Lynette Kamekona) for the use of CEED. MAHALO NUI to EOEL Data Technician Kevin Kabasawa for tech support!
- Closing

Quote for today:

Teaching is the highest form of understanding.
-Aristotle

Remember to honor our early educators and the teachers in your life!