



EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
Kings Kidz Academy: Appeal Hearing Minutes
March 3, 2017
8:00 am

Purpose: Review the Coalition’s decision to terminate School Readiness contract with Kings Kidz Academy, 330 W. Mariana Avenue, N. Fort Myers, FL 33903

Executive Committee Members Present:

- Dr. Denis Wright**, *Charlotte Campus President and VP of Economic and Community Development, Florida Southwestern State College (College System Representative)*
Dr. Trina Puddefoot, *Early Steps Program Coordinator, Healthy Planning Council of SW Florida*
Ashley Houk, *Preschool Director, First Presbyterian Preschool*

Appellant Present: **Leon Walsh**, *Kings Kidz Academy Attorney*; **Reverend Tim Richter**; **Sherry Pritcher**, *Director*; **Lois Strasbaugh**, *Church Member*

Coalition Staff Present: **Susan Block**, *CEO*; **Gayla Thompson**, *Chief Quality Officer*; **Virginia McHale**, *Executive Administrative Assistant. to CEO*; **Greg Urbancic**, *Coalition Attorney, Coleman, Yovanovich & Koester, P.A.*

Agenda Items	Discussion	Action/Assignments
Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chairperson, Dr. Denis Wright, led introductions beginning at 8:00 am. 	
Review of Hearing Procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Wright, chair, reviewed the appeal hearing procedure, referring to the agenda provided to all participants. Ms. Virginia McHale, Notary Public, swore all those testifying including: Gayla Thompson, Susan Block, Leon Walsh, Rev. Tim Richter, and Sherry Pritcher 	

<p>Presentation by Early Learning Coalition Staff</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gayla Thompson, presented an overview of the decision to terminate the contract with Kings Kidz Academy. • Ms. Block clarified the rationale for termination was based on failure to maintain the terms of probation. At the November 10, 2016 Appeals Hearing, the Committee overturned the Coalition’s decision to terminate the School Readiness Contract. Kings Kidz Academy was on probation for a six-month period from 11-11-16 through 5-11-17. Any Class 1 Violation in the next six months was grounds for termination of the School Readiness contact for the maximum five year period. 	
<p>Presentation of Kings Kidz Academy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kings Kidz Academy presented their appeal. Attorney Leon Walsh presented evidence. Sherry Pritcher presented the incident. Pastor Richter presented how the Academy is important to the community. 	
<p>Conclusion of Appeal Hearing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Wright stated those present could stay during the deliberation or leave. All left except committee members. • The committee members deliberated and came to a determination. 	<p>The committee drafted minutes for the appeal hearing and approved them. The original draft was approved by all three members of the committee.</p>
<p>Committee Decision</p>	<p>The Committee upheld the Coalition decision to terminate School Readiness contract with Kings Kidz Academy. If the Class One Violations are overturned by DCF in an upcoming hearing, Kings Kidz Academy could re-appeal this decision.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee specifically stated these reasons in support of its decision: 	<p>Motion to accept the committee ruling by Trina Puddefoot, second by Ashley Houk. Motion Approved.</p> <p>Ms. Block will communicate with the Provider within 24 hours. Dr. Wright will present findings at the March 22, 2017</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kings Kidz Academy received two Class One Violations following the Nov. 10, 2016 requirement of no future Class One Violations in a six month period. 2. Kings Kidz Academy failure to provide adequate training to employees concerning child abuse and neglect. 3. The Committee recognizes Kings Kidz Academy's actions to install video cameras and promptly report the violation to the Abuse Hotline, DCF, and the Early Learning Coalition of Southwest Florida. 	<p>Board Meeting.</p> <p>A letter will be sent to Kings Kidz Academy with the committee's determination by Ms. Block.</p>
Preparation of Appeals Hearing Committee Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee prepared a final draft of the minutes of the appeals hearing. 	<p>Motion to accept the appeal hearing minutes by Trina Puddefoot, second by Ashley Houk. Motion Approved.</p> <p>The Committee charged Ms. Block with typing of the minutes, as written. Ms. Block will post the approved minutes to the Coalition's website.</p>
Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Wright thanked the members for their participation and adjourned the meeting at 9:17 am. 	