



EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

Marroquin's Learning Center: Appeal Hearing Minutes

October 17, 2016

8:00 am

Purpose: Review the Coalition's decision to terminate School Readiness contract Marroquin's Learning Center, 1220 State Rd. 29 South, Labelle, FL 33935

Executive Committee Members Present

Damaris Boone, *Early Education Outcome Analyst, Redlands Christian Migrant Association (RCMA) – Provider Representative*

Dr. Denis Wright, *Charlotte Campus President and VP of Economic and Community Development,, Florida Southwestern State College*

Dr. Maureen Ungarean (via phone) *Director of Early Learning Programs, Collier County School District*

Appellant Present: Ms. MaryAnn Marroquin, **Director/Owner, Marroquin's Learning Center**, Cecelia Rivera, staff, **Marroquin's Learning Center**

Coalition Staff Present: **Susan Block**, *CEO*; **Gayla Thompson**, *Chief Officer*; **Ginger McHale**, *Executive Administrative Assistant. to CEO*

Agenda Items	Discussion	Action/Assignments
Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chairperson, Denis Wright, led introductions beginning at 4:07 pm. 	
Review of Hearing Procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The chair reviewed the appeal hearing procedure, referring to the agenda provided to all participants. 	

<p>Presentation by Early Learning Coalition Staff</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gayla Thompson, Chief Quality Officer, reviewed the background of the Coalition’s decision to terminate the School Readiness (SR) contract with Marroquin’s Learning Center. The basis for termination was two (2) Class 1 licensing violations by the Department of Children and Families. Class I Violations are the most serious in nature, pose an imminent threat to a child including abuse or neglect and which could or does result in the death or serious harm to the health, safety or well-being of a child. • Ms. Block explained the Coalition’s rationale for determining the 3 year period when Marroquin’s Learning Center would be unable to contract with the Coalition to provide SR and VPK programs. The statewide contracts for both SR and VPK allow up to a five year termination period for programs violating the contract terms. The Coalition determined that the provider’s actions created an unnecessary and potentially serious threat to children, forgoing the basic responsibilities required by contract and in the care of young children. The Provider’s actions breached the trust of the Coalition in their ability to keep children healthy and safe. The Coalition is concerned about the ability of this provider to make sound decisions. 	
<p>Presentation of Marroquin’s Learning Center</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Marroquin presented her appeal. The key points were presented and she has a great deal of support from her families. 	
<p>Conclusion of Appeal Hearing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All in attendance, except the two committee members in person and the one on the phone, were excused and left the room. • 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 overturned the Coalition decision to terminate School Readiness and VPK contracts with Marroquin’s Learning Center The Provider is allowed to enroll children effective immediately with the following conditions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A written plan to correct all violations cited in the DCF reports is to be submitted. The Coalition staff will oversee implementation of the corrective action plan 2. Any Class 1 Violation in the next three years will be grounds for termination of the School Readiness Contract for the maximum five year period. <p>The Committee specifically stated these reasons in support of its decisions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ms. Marroquin actually admitted the Class 1 violations to the DCF staff who wasn’t there when they occurred. 2. Many letters of support from parent citing how safe and well-treated their children were 3. The importance of this facility to migrant worker children. 4. The new Coalition procedure as of September 13, 2016 which would have permitted the option of a corrective action plan if violations had occurred after September 13, 2016. 	<p>Motion to accept the committee ruling by Damaris Boone; Second by Maureen Ungarean Motion Approved.</p> <p>Ms. Block will communicate with the Provider within 24 hours. Ms. Houk will present findings at the September 14th Executive Committee and September 28th Board meetings.</p> <p>A letter will be sent to Ms. Marroquin with the committee’s determination by Ms. Block.</p>
<p>Preparation of Appeals Hearing Committee Minutes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee prepared a final draft of the minutes of the appeals hearing 	<p>Motion to accept the minutes by Damaris Boone; Second by Dr. Maureen Ungarean. 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>
<p>Adjournment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair thanked the members for their participation and adjourned the meeting at 5:06 pm. 	