

**The Broward Reads Coalition - Campaign for Grade-Level Reading
Meeting Minutes
April 6, 2022**

9:30 a.m.

Meeting conducted via Zoom

I. Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m. Commissioner Beam Furr welcomed everyone and then asked for a motion to approve the February minutes. Caryl Hattan gave the motion to approve, it was seconded by Lori Canning and passed with no objections.

II. Partner Updates

a) Early Learning Coalition (Renee Jaffe, Allison Metsch)

Renee Jaffe spoke briefly about a partnership with CSC of Broward County where the CSC is funding a recruitment campaign for Early Childhood educators. Andrew Leone (CSC) played the campaign video ad for meeting attendees. The campaign features TV and print ads as well as outdoor advertising (billboards, buses). Ms. Jaffe also reported that childcare providers are able to post their vacancies on the ELC website's job board. The ELC works closely with CareerSource Broward to help connect providers with resources. *Commissioner Furr suggested that the ELC work share the video with all municipalities.*

On April 2nd, the ELC hosted the Broward Early Childhood Education Conference 2022, with over 300 attendees. The conference was hosted virtually.

Allison Metsch reported the launch of the ELC's workforce initiative – Broward Above and Beyond which will see the ELC working with specific early learning centers to provide coaching/mentoring for persons new to the field of early learning.

b) HandsOn Broward (Katharine Ospina)

Katharine introduced Jenny Del Valle as the organization's new Literacy Outreach Coordinator. Carolina Bosco has transitioned to a new role within the company.

c) CSC of Broward County (Cindy Arenberg Seltzer, Dr. Sharetta Remikie, Andrew Leone)

Andrew Leone reported that 145 men read on Real Men Read day on March 11th. The activity took place at ten locations. The Florida Panthers also participated in the initiative. A recap video was shared. The video can be viewed [here](#).

Dr. Sharetta Remikie reported that the Read for the Record book has not yet been released but active discussions are underway with Jumpstart regarding order quantities and other related logistical matters. She also shared that additional funding was secured from a private donor to help with securing books.

d) Broward County Library (Kimberly White)

Kimberly White shared that there would be several activities to commemorate National Library Week (April 3 – 9, 2022) to include a Black Women Leaders Leadership event at AARLCC on 4/8.

Upcoming events to note:

- [AARLCC Arts & Activism Festival April 30th](#)
- Dia de Los Ninos – April 30th (morning activities at Northwest
- Earth Day Fun Day & Beach Clean up at the Hollywood Beach Branch on April 23rd at 8:00 am until noon. More information available [here](#). The event will serve as a lead up to the Summer Learning Program, *Oceans of Possibilities*.
- Children’s BookFest will launch on June 4th at West Regional Library (the official kick-off to summer). Registration will open in May.

The recently concluded Alvin Sherman Library StoryFest videos are available for viewing [here](#).

Summer Learning Program: This year the libraries will provide 14 summer Breakspot locations. The Florida Panthers will be working along with BCL on these activations.

e) Broward County Public Schools (Dr. Lori Canning)

Dr. Canning shared that the annual Countdown to Kindergarten Day event will be hosted on April 30th at the Parker Playhouse. The goal is to have two groups of 1,100 each. Ms. Penny will be present and accompanied by *Pete the Cat*.

Book distributions and in-person events are back in earnest. Distributions were done recently in City of Davie and City of Tamarac (Water’s Edge Park Story Trail).

Dr. Canning reported that the Florida’s Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) will replace the FCAT/FSA next year. The assessment will begin at VPK and will be an aligned assessment across the board and is also a progress-monitoring assessment. The assessment will be administered through a secure web browser. More information is available at <https://www.fldoe.org/fast/> . Allison Metsch added that FAST will include CLASS observation for classroom assessment of interactions between the students and teachers in VPK programs. Next year (2022/2023) will be regarded as the base line year and so, there will not be accountability based on results. Accountability will begin for the 2023/2024 school year.

The State Attorney's Office will host a middle-school focused initiative dubbed **State Attorney's Office (SAO) Reads**. Their goal is to visit every Title 1 Middle School (intensive reading classes) between April 19th and 20th and read a section of the book *Seedfolks*. Each child will get a copy of the book and will also get the opportunity to get a second book of their choice from the options available on the day.

III. Other Discussions

A group screenshot was captured of participants wearing blue in honor of Child Abuse Prevention Month. The image will be shared on the CSC of Broward County's social media channels.

Commisioner Furr invited meeting participants to introduce themselves before closing.

CSC of Broward County: Cindy Arenberg Seltzer, President and CEO of the CSC of Broward County announced that the next Broward Reads Coalition meeting will be held in person at the CSC Offices, 6600 W. Commercial Blvd., Lauderhill, FL on June 1st.

FIU: The FIU Summer Reading Explorers program at the Center for Children and Families is seeking certified teachers to be summer reading tutors. The dates of employment will be eight weeks from June 14 through Aug. 7. Tutors will work a minimum of eight hours per day, Monday through Friday. For more information and to apply for this position, please visit careers.fiu.edu and search **Job ID 520570**.

IV. Meeting Schedule for FY 21-22:

The next meeting is scheduled for June 1st.

Subsequent meeting dates: August 3, October **(TBD)**, December 7

V. Adjourn Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 10:56 a.m.