



**Approved on May 11, 2026, Board Meeting**  
**Early Learning Coalition of Broward County, Inc.**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**March 9, 2026, at 10:00 AM**  
Hybrid

Members in Attendance	Chair Laurie Sallarulo; Dawn Liberta; Cindy Arenberg-Seltzer (virtual); Ellie Schrot; Sharonda Bailey; Krystie Castillo (virtual); Jodi Davidson (virtual); Amy Hauser (virtual); Maria Hernandez (virtual); Carol Hylton; Renee Podolsky (virtual); Dr. Amoy Reid (virtual); Jessica Rodriguez (virtual); Traci Schweitzer; Karen Taveras; Rebecca Thompson; Megan Turetsky (virtual); Julie Winburn (virtual)
Members Absent (Excused)	Michael Asseff; Kirk Englehardt; Zachary Talbot
Members Absent (Unexcused)	
Honorary Members	
Staff in Attendance	Renee Jaffe, CEO; Christine Klima, CAO; Hubert Cesar, CICO; Howard Bakalar, CPO; Melody Martinez, Board Liaison; Lizbeth DelVecchio, Executive Assistant & Special Projects Coordinator; Allison Metsch, Senior Dir. of Education & Quality; Amy Moore, Senior Dir. of Family Services and Customer Services; Ancel Pratt III, Senior Dir. of Communications; Alesia Davis, Dir. of Family Services; Ayme Hamoui, Dir. of Education Program Assessment; Andres Calero, Accountant; Daniel Hollenbaugh, AP and Payroll Manager; Gracy Haladjian, Dir. of Family & C.S.; Irene Ramos, Office Coordinator; Magdalena Laino, Quality Assurance Manager; Megan DeGraaf, Purchasing & Procurement Specialist; Reinier Potts, Financial Analyst; Roy Persaud, Accountant; Joseph Fike, Jr. System Administrator
Others in Attendance	Julie Klahr, Legal Counsel (virtual); Alex Auguste, Managing Director, Engagement Partner at Citrin Cooperman; Andria Dewson, CSC Staff Member

Item	Action/Discussion
Welcome & Call to Order	Chair Laurie Sallarulo called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. Roll was called, and a quorum was established.
Chair Report	Chair Laurie Sallarulo congratulated Cindy Arenberg Seltzer for receiving the Excellence Award at this year’s Community Care Plan Awards, hosted by 211Broward. She also recognized Renée Jaffe, who was one of three nominees and was honored as Nonprofit Organization Leader of the Year.
CEO Report	CEO Renee Jaffe thanked Cindy Arenberg Seltzer for her Excellence Award from 211Broward, and all board members who attended Read for the Record. She acknowledged Dawn, Amoy, and Traci for attending the in-house event, thanked board members who donated to the Popcorn Foundation, and recognized Amoy for coordinating that effort. She then provided an update from the CEO report, focusing on the legislative report.
Mission Moment – Read for the Record	Read for the Record Video shown
<b>Consent Agenda</b> 1. Approve February 9, 2026, Meeting minutes 2. B264CA1 – Accept Draft FY25 Financial Statement Audit Report and DRAFT 2024 Form 990	A <b>Motion</b> was made by Dawn Liberta and <b>Seconded</b> by Rebecca Thompson to move the Consent Agenda. The <b>Motion was unanimously approved. Motion Passed.</b>

<p><b>Finance Committee</b></p> <p>1. B264FIN1 – Approve January 2026 Interim Financial Statements</p> <p>2. B264FIN2- Approve FY 2026 Amendment #4</p>	<p><b><u>January 2026 Interim Financial Statements</u></b></p> <p>CAO Christine Klima presented the January 2026 Interim Financial Statements.</p> <p>The Finance Committee brought forth a <b>Motion</b> to Approve January 2026 Interim Financial Statements, Pending Approval of an Annual Audit Performed by a Qualified Independent Certified Public Accountant. The <b>Motion was unanimously approved. Motion Passed</b></p> <p><b><u>FY 2026 Budget Amendment #4</u></b></p> <p>CAO Christine Klima presented the FY2026 Amendment #4.</p> <p>The Finance Committee brought forth a <b>Motion</b> to Approve FY2026 Budget Amendment #4. The <b>Motion was unanimously approved. Motion Passed</b></p>
<p><b>Audit Committee</b></p> <p>1. B264AUD1- Update on IRS Voluntary Correction Program application for ELC Retirement Plan</p>	<p><b>For information and discussion only</b></p> <p>Committee Chair Renee Podolsky thanked Christine and Stephanie for their hard work with the auditing team. She also extended special congratulations to Christine for her work on the IRS Retirement Plan.</p> <p>Christine reported that the Coalition has continued addressing historical compliance issues related to the 403(b) Retirement Plan through the IRS Voluntary Correction Program. She noted that the Board approved a corrective action plan in February 2021 after staff reviews identified several compliance concerns, which led to adopting a new IRS-approved plan document, adjusting employer match policies to meet ERISA requirements, and submitting a VCP application to the IRS in March 2023. She explained that the IRS began reviewing the application in March 2025, and staff and legal counsel worked with the assigned IRS agent to finalize corrective actions addressing plan document restatements, plan eligibility administration, employer contribution practices, and prior contribution testing. On February 11, 2026, the IRS accepted the Coalition’s proposed corrective action plan in full and issued a Compliance Statement on February 18 confirming the Plan remains eligible for tax-favored status. To complete the process, the Coalition must adopt three retroactive plan amendments and pay the related excise tax by July 10, 2026. The amendments will be brought to the Governance Committee and Board for approval, and Citrin Cooperman Advisors is calculating the tax amount due.</p> <p>Legal Counsel Julie Klahr congratulated Christine on her hard work, noting the significant amount she had to learn and the considerable effort she dedicated to successfully managing the matter.</p> <p>CEO Renee Jaffe congratulated Christine and thanked her for her tenacious efforts and dedication in working on the matter.</p>
<p><b>Regular Business</b></p> <p>1. B264RB1- Reorganization Plan</p>	<p><b><u>Reorganization Plan</u></b></p> <p>For information only</p>

	<p>CEO Renee Jaffe reported that, in anticipation of Howard’s upcoming retirement and following the organization’s separation from the COO position at the end of July, leadership evaluated the organizational structure to determine the best path forward. She noted that while Howard’s departure leaves big shoes to fill, the organization benefits from a strong and experienced team.</p> <p>As part of this transition, the program division has been restructured into two areas: Family Services and Education. Renee announced that Amy Moore will serve as Vice President of Family Services and Community Engagement, overseeing Eligibility, Customer Service, Child Care Resource and Referral, and Community Engagement and Outreach.</p> <p>Allison Metsch will serve as Vice President of Education, overseeing the education department, inclusion, Help Me Grow, and provider relations, and will also support efforts to expand programmatic funding for educational training, boot camps, conferences, and other training opportunities.</p> <p>Renee expressed appreciation for Howard’s many contributions and shared that the organization looks forward to celebrating him with the Exec Team and Board members, as his last day is on April 6. Be on the lookout for an invitation.</p> <p>Board members and staff members shared their appreciation for Howard, congratulating him on his retirement and expressing that he will be greatly missed. Many shared their gratitude for his leadership, dedication, and the positive impact he has had on the organization, offering their appreciation and well-wishes.</p>
<b>Governance Committee</b> Update from Committee Chairs	None
<b>Audit Committee</b> Update from Committee Chairs	None
<b>Ad Hoc Fundraising</b> Update from Committee Chairs	None
<b>Program Review Committee</b> Update from Committee Chairs	None
<b>Provider Representatives</b> Update from Provider Representatives	None
<b>Old Business</b>	None
<b>New Business</b>	Cindy Arenberg-Seltzer provided an update regarding property taxes. A discussion was held regarding property taxes and their potential impacts.
<b>Matters from the Chair</b>	None
<b>Matters from our Partners</b>	None
<b>Public Comments</b>	None
<b>Next Meeting</b>	<b><u>May 11, 2026, at 9:30 AM</u></b>
<b>Adjourn</b>	Rebecca Thompson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:40 AM

*These minutes contain the action items of the Board meeting of the Early Learning Coalition of Broward. They do not include all of the Committee’s discussions or comments on each matter or issue raised during the meeting. A tape recording of the meeting is held in the Coalition office. Corrections from the Committee will be taken before approval at the next meeting.*