

**Kids Hope Alliance – January Finance Meeting Minutes**

**January 15, 2025**

**1. Introductions and Instructions**

Cynthia Nixon, Finance Chair

Mrs. Nixon called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and then wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Members Present: Cynthia Nixon, Kevin Gay, Carson Tranquille

**2. Public Comments**

Mrs. Nixon explained that public comments would be taken specifically for each item on the agenda. At the end of the meeting the public will also have an opportunity for general public comments.

**3. Approval of November Minutes**

Mrs. Cynthia Nixon, Finance Chair

Mrs. Nixon asked if there were any revisions to the minutes. There were none. She then asked for a motion to approve the November minutes.

Motion: Kevin Gay

Second: Carson Tranquille

Approved: 3-0

**4. New Business**

Dr. Saralyn Grass, Chief Executive Officer

**a. Mayor’s Book Club RFP**

Dr. Grass provided background information on the development of the Mayor’s Book Club which was created during Mayor John Peyton’s administration. The Book Club was later transitioned to the Jacksonville Children’s Commission and then the Library Foundation. In recent meetings Mayor Deegan and former Mayor Peyton, have worked with KHA to reimagine the Book Club which will support Mayor Deegan’s literacy goals.

The contract will be managed by KHA, who will partner with the Public Library, Early Learning Coalition, Mayor’s Office and Library Foundation. The Book Club will be marketed in libraries, childcare centers, and the Bookmobile. Books will be delivered primarily through childcare centers and online requests.

Funding is intended to provide monthly book distribution to young children in Duval County from birth to age 4, quarterly community outreach events, and accompanying activities for young children (i.e. celebrity readers, accompanying activities, take-home supplement/extended learning, and professional development for staff and parents/guardians). The books are age appropriate and include a Newsletter and marketing information. Success will be measured by the number of books distributed, school readiness rates, parent/provider surveys and attendance at literary events. It is expected that 4,500-5,000 children will be served on an annual basis. Subsequent years of services will include fundraising by Contractor to supplement direct services and are dependent on the organization’s success during the first year. The RFP will allow for up to 4 years of programming based on successful annual outcomes.

Up to $200,000 in KHA funding is being made available for the Mayor’s Book Club RFP and will be appropriated to a bidder based on the breadth of applications received. In addition, a minimum of $300,000 will be provided through The Public Library Foundation, secured through private donations. Mrs. Nixon asked for a motion to approve the Mayor’s Book Club RFP, there were no public comments.

Motion: Carson Tranquille

Second: Kevin Gay

Approved: 3-0

Jeanne Ward expressed her appreciation for the partnerships which enabled the Bookmobile to come to fruition. In the upcoming weeks, members of the City Council will identify underserved communities that will benefit the most from the services offered on the Bookmobile. These communities will be the first to experience the Bookmobile. Subsequent visits will be made to special events such as Family Reading Day and then to students in afterschool and summer programs.

**b. KHA Financial Reports**

Jessica Pitts, Finance Director

Cynthia Nixon, Finance Chair

Mrs. Pitts reviewed the following reports and explained encumbrances and remaining funding for the period of October 1 – December 31, 2004: American Rescue Plan Fund, Jax. Upward Mobility Program, Youth Travel Trust Fund, Mini Grants Trust Fund, Jax. System of Collaborative Care, SAMSHA ReCast Grant, SAMSHA Create Grant, Comprehensive Anti-gang Youth Program, Criminal Justice Reinvestment Grant, DOJ – Project Rise, KHA Fund with Year End Projections.

**5. Finance Activities**

Cynthia Nixon, Finance Chair

a. Mid-Year Review w/ Projections

b. Preliminary Discussion on Budget Priorities

In March, Board members will be provided with recommendations for contract renewals. This data will allow the Board to review contracts and the rate at which providers have spent their allocated funding. Unspent funds will be identified for reallocation to programs which have the capacity to maximize these funds.

**6. Public Comments**

Mrs. Nixon asked providers to share priorities the Board should consider when developing this year’s budget. Mr. Leon Baxton, Communities in Schools, shared that after-school programs and case management should continue to be prioritized as research has shown positive outcomes. Increased funding will also allow providers to expand seating capacity and reduce student waiting lists. Mr. Darity commended KHA staff for their dedication and professionalism when conducting site visits.

**7. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned by Mrs. Nixon at 3:00 p.m.