

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Via Teleconference

Monday, February 23, 2026

MEMBERS PRESENT: Judge James Cecile (President/Development Chair), Eric Caballero, Michael LaFlair, Christopher Montgomery, Edward Perry, Robert Tackman (Finance Chair), Patricia Usherwood Fitzpatrick, Jason Wallace (EEO/ Personnel Chair)

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Nicholas DeMartino, Mitayah Donerlson, Paula Freedman, Tysha Martin, Steven Hodgens, Erich Shafer

STAFF PRESENT: Carolyn Brown, Jamie Colucci, Brenda Curinga, Todd Goehle, Kathleen O'Brien, Nancy Turo

CALL TO ORDER:

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order by President Cecile at 4:48pm.

ROLL CALL:

President Cecile noted for the record that a quorum was participating either in person or via Zoom.

MOMENT OF SILENCE:

Board members observed a moment of silence.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The President requested a motion to approve the minutes of the January Board Meeting;

Mr. Michael LaFlair moved to approve the minutes of the January Board Meeting;

Ms. Patricia Usherwood Fitzpatrick seconded the motion;

The motion carried unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Cecile asked Ms. Brown to present a pending action item to the Board. Ms. Brown reviewed an application to carryover \$115,000 from the HS/EHS budget from the previous funding year, for the purchase of playground equipment for the Baldwinsville/J-E Head Start site.

***The President requested a motion to approve the HS/EHS carryover application;
Mr. Robert Tackman moved to approve the HS/EHS carryover application;
Mr. Christopher Montgomery seconded the motion;
The motion carried unanimously.***

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT:

President Cecile reported that the committee unanimously approved recommendations to reappoint two Board members representing the Low-Income Sector whose terms expire at the end of February: Steve Hodgens (BBBS Advisory Council) and Christopher Montgomery (Workforce Development).

***The President moved to approve the reappointment of Mr. Hodgens and Mr. Montgomery each to a new three-year term as a Board member;
Mr. Edward Perry seconded the motion;
The motion carried unanimously.***

President Cecile reported that committee discussed and unanimously approved a motion to designate Shirley Copes as a Board member Emeritus.

***The President moved to designate Ms. Shirley Copes as a Board member Emeritus;
Mr. Eric Caballero seconded the motion;
The motion carried unanimously.***

President Cecile reported that he has contacted Syracuse Common Council President Rita Paniagua to invite her to join the Board. President Cecile also reported that Ms. Brown announced at the committee meeting that Ms. Turo will be honored as a Community Hero at the Crunch game on March 11th.

***The President requested a motion to accept the Development Committee report;
Mr. Jason Wallace moved to accept the Development Committee report;
Mr. Robert Tackman seconded the motion;
The motion carried unanimously.***

EEO/PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT:

Mr. Wallace reported that the committee was introduced to the new HR Generalist for the HS/EHS program, Lael Pierce. Mr. Wallace reported that the committee also reviewed the monthly summary of recruitment activity.

***The President requested a motion to accept the EEO/Personnel Committee report;
Mr. Michael LaFlair moved to accept the EEO/Personnel Committee report;
Ms. Patricia Usherwood Fitzpatrick seconded the motion;
The motion carried unanimously.***

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT:

President Cecile asked Ms. Brown to present the committee report. Ms. Brown reported that HS/EHS Early Childhood Learning Specialist Darlene Guadagna-Prickel presented the Fall 2025 Child Development report to the committee. Ms. Brown also reported that Mr. Goehle reviewed the Grants Summary Report with the committee, noting that the current success rate on grant applications is 94%.

***The President requested a motion to accept the Planning Committee report;
Mr. Eric Caballero moved to accept the Planning Committee report;
Mr. Christopher Montgomery seconded the motion;
The motion carried unanimously.***

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:

Mr. Tackman asked Ms. Turo to present the monthly financial statements for January 31st, First Close for the end of the prior fiscal year. Ms. Turo reported that the net income before depreciation is (\$241,066) versus a budget of \$347,517, that the net income after depreciation is (\$817,833), and that the net income from normal operations is \$80,443 reflecting timing differences of fixed asset purchases, revenue recognition grants, grants with revenue based on headcount, and donation cost centers. Ms. Turo also reported that the current ratio of assets over liabilities is 154%, reflecting increased liability in the reserve account due to the DSRIP/VBP CNYCC funds covering expenses from the captive reserve account.

Ms. Turo reported that as of January 31st, First Close, the line of credit balance is \$0, and the indirect rate is 23.8%.

Ms. Turo described the transfer of \$329,156 from the DSRIP/VBP CNYCC earned funds to the captive reserve account as a one-time short-term adjustment which resulted in a reserve balance of \$459,759, and reported that possible long-term solutions regarding health insurance costs are being discussed with Haylor, Freyer and Coon.

Ms. Turo updated the Board on the RFP processes for insurance broker and auditing firm.

Ms. Brown reported that after the February 10th Finance Committee meeting it was learned that the proposed settlement for a playground accident will be fully covered by insurance and does not require Board approval.

***The President requested a motion to accept the Finance Committee report;
Mr. Michael LaFlair moved to accept the Finance Committee report;
Mr. Edward Perry seconded the motion;
The motion carried unanimously.***

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Ms. Brown reported that federal funding for programs remains stable, and that New York State is planning to reallocate some weatherization grant funds to directly assist low-income households with utility bills.

Ms. Brown discussed the upcoming HS/EHS Federal Review and Improper Payment Review.

Ms. Brown reviewed options that are being discussed to reduce health insurance expenses.

Ms. Brown reported that the annual Champions of Diversity fundraiser is scheduled for May 20th at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo, and that sponsorship requests are being sent to Board members for them to forward along.

Ms. Brown reported that the 2026 Lender Expo will be held on March 11th and 12th at the Marriott Syracuse Downtown, and that Judge Cecile, Todd Goehle and Maribel Arce will be among those participating in panel discussions about local social justice issues.

PROGRAM REPORTS:

Monthly program updates for Big Brothers Big Sisters, Family Resource Centers, Senior Services, and Head Start/Early Head Start were distributed to all Board members in meeting packets for review.

President Cecile referenced the report about a past client of County West FRC, who pledged three teams of co-workers at SECNY Federal Credit Union to raise funds for PEACE, Inc. by taking the Seneca River plunge at the Baldwinsville Big Chill event on January 31st.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT: President Cecile adjourned the Board meeting at 5:14pm.



Carolyn D. Brown, Executive Director

Feb. 25th, 2026
Ms. Stephanie Sowalsky, Regional Grants Management Officer
Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families
26 Federal Plaza
Suite 4114
New York, NY 10278

Grant No. 02CH013040
Carryover application

To whom it may concern,

The PEACE, Inc. Board of Directors has reviewed and hereby grants permission for the application of a carryover budget in the amount of \$115,000 towards the purchase of playground equipment for PEACE's Early Head Start/Head Start program.

Sincerely,

Honorable James H. Cecile
President
PEACE, Inc.
Board of Directors

