

Frigo, Victoria (COE)

From: Frigo, Victoria (COE)
Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2012 4:01 PM
To: McQueen, Jane (CAHSD)
Cc: Centorino, Joseph (COE)
Subject: Policy Council (INQ 12-68)

Ms. McQueen,

As we discussed, the parents who form part of the Head Start Policy Council may vote on matters affecting the agencies they represent because the parents have no financial interests in these agencies and their children will not be affected by the vote in a manner distinct from the Head Start population generally.

Sincerely,

VICTORIA FRIGO, STAFF ATTORNEY

Phone: 305 350-0601

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Miami, FL 33130

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From: McQueen, Jane (CAHSD)
Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2012 2:55 PM
To: Frigo, Victoria (COE)
Cc: Benford, Russell (Office of the Mayor); Martinez, Lisa M. (Office of the Mayor); Davis-Raiford, Lucia (CAHSD); Johnson-Stacks, Cynthia (CAO); Resnik, Estephanie (CAO)
Subject: FW: Policy Council Question

Ms. Frigo:

I am requesting a response to an inquiry from the Chairperson of the Head Start Policy Council. The Policy Council will be voting tonight on the recommendations to fund 17 delegate agencies to provide services for the 2012-2013 year. Six members (parents) of the Council represent delegate agencies that will be among those recommended. Ms. Ferguson (PC Chairperson) is requesting if these six members are able to vote for their delegate agency or should they refrain from voting for their agency. If additional information is needed, please advise. I appreciate your prompt response.

From: Resnik, Estephanie (CAO)
Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2012 1:33 PM
To: McQueen, Jane (CAHSD)
Cc: Benford, Russell (Office of the Mayor); Martinez, Lisa M. (Office of the Mayor); Davis-Raiford, Lucia (CAHSD); Johnson-Stacks, Cynthia (CAO)
Subject: RE: Policy Council Question

Hi Jane,

I do not believe the Head Start regulations address the matter of a delegate parent member of the Policy Council voting on the selection of that delegate agency for the following fiscal year. The regulations do prohibit a delegate staff member from serving on the Policy Council, and it would seem the policy reasoning for that would be to prohibit those with a potentially conflicting financial interest from serving. Following that logic, although a delegate parent's child may attend a particular delegate agency's program, it would seem that the parent cannot be said to have a financial interest in the agency the way that an employee of the agency might, because isn't it correct that the parent's eligible child would still receive a Head Start spot should a different delegate agency be selected? Thus, it seems that a delegate parent member could vote on the selection of the delegate, though of course, the parent member may choose to excuse himself/herself from the vote. All that said to provide a perspective on the federal regulations, but please note that the Miami-Dade Ethics Commission is really the appropriate entity to weigh in on conflict in voting matters, and I defer to their opinion. I would suggest CAHSD contact the Ethics Commission for their guidance (information below). If it is too short of notice for a formal ethics opinion, then I would suggest requesting at least an informal email response.

Miami-Dade Ethics and Public Trust Commission

19 West Flagler, Suite 820

Miami, Florida 33130

Phone: (305) 579-2594

Ethics Hotline: (786) 314-9560

To Request a Speaker: (305) 350-0630

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Estephanie Resnik

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From: McQueen, Jane (CAHSD)

Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2012 11:57 AM

To: Resnik, Estephanie (CAO)

Cc: Benford, Russell (Office of the Mayor); Martinez, Lisa M. (Office of the Mayor); Davis-Raiford, Lucia (CAHSD)

Subject: Policy Council Question

Hi Estephanie:

Tonya Ferguson, the Policy Council Chair has requested that I reach out for an opinion if delegate parents who serve on the Policy Council can vote for their own delegate agency to be awarded funding as a delegate for the 2012-2013 year. The Policy Council meeting is tonight and she would need a response as soon as possible in order that she might set the rules at the beginning of the meeting. Thanks.

Jane W. McQueen

Head Start/Early Head Start Director

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