



**South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness  
Board of Trustees Meeting**

10 a.m.  
October 16, 2014  
The Inn at USC

**Minutes**

**Trustees present:**

Ken Wingate, Chairman (Designee for Governor Nikki R. Haley)  
Mellanie Jinnette (Designee for Supt. Mick Zais)  
Representative Rita Allison  
Lisa Van Riper, Secretary  
Julia Ellen Davis  
Mary Lynn Diggs  
Walter Fleming  
Amber Gillum  
Timothy Holt  
Julie Hussey  
Tracy Lamb  
Jennifer McConnell  
Alexia Newman  
Rick Noble  
Roger Pryor  
Sue Williams  
Reece Yandle

**Trustees absent:**

Senator Mike Fair (excused)  
Senator Joel Lourie (excused)  
Representative Jerry Govan (excused)  
Judith Aughtry (excused)  
Beverly Buscemi (David Goodell and Jennifer Buster respresented)  
Tony Keck (Bryan Kost represented)  
Catherine Templeton (Beth DeSantis represented)

**Others Present:**

Jennifer Buster, DDSN  
David Goodell, DDSN  
Bryan Kost, DHHS  
Beth DeSantis, DHEC  
Ken Meadows, Greene Finney and Horton  
Norman Dover, Thornwell Home for Children  
Brooke Robinette, Thornwell Home for Children  
Carol Daly, Georgetown County First Steps  
Brooke Harpine, Thornwell Children's Home

Baron Holmes, Children's Law Center  
Dave Wilson, McAlister Communications  
Susan DeVenny, SCFS  
Dan Wuori, SCFS  
Debbie Robertson, SCFS  
Betty Gardiner, SCFS  
Linda Leonard, SCFS  
Mary Anne Mathews, SCFS  
Russell Brown, SCFS  
Samantha Ingram, SCFS  
Ginger Ryall, SCFS

Mr. Ken Wingate welcomed the Board and asked for introductions. Mr. Wingate gave the 2015 calendar of the Board of Trustees and the Early Childhood Advisory Council and briefed the trustees on the day's agenda and purpose.

Mr. Wingate gave opening remarks to the group.

Mr. Wingate asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the June 26 meeting. It was suggested that minutes be tabled until the next meeting until the Trustees has had a chance to review. Mr. Wingate agreed and the minutes from June 26 were tabled.

Ms. Julia Ellen Davis gave the report for the Program and Grants Committee. Ms. Davis reported that the board is charged by law with the development of school readiness descriptions intended to add depth to the legal definition of "school readiness" established in First Steps 2014 reauthorization (H.3428). To support the board in this requirement, Greenville's Institute for Child Success convened meetings designed to gather input from stakeholders. The committee received a report by telephone from ICS Director, Jamie Moon, and ICS Director of Research and Grants, Katy Sides, who are currently preparing a written support for transmission. Mr. Moon and Ms. Sides reviewed the group's feedback across each essential readiness domain with the committee.

Ms. Davis reported as information that SC First Steps has applied for two federal preschool grants which, if funded, would bring roughly \$88 million funding for SC preschoolers over the next five years. Ms. Davis also brought two new partnership strategies forward as recommendations to the board. Discussion of the grants ensued.

Ms. Davis brought two reallocation requests from two county partnerships (Horry and Charleston) as recommendations to the Board. The board unanimously approved the reallocation requests for Horry County First Steps and Charleston County First Steps.

Ms. Lisa Van Riper gave the report for the Strategic Planning and Evaluation Committee. Ms. Van Riper briefed the group on the ongoing external evaluation with COMPASS and the process by which the external evaluation would be finalized by the external evaluation panel.

Ms. Van Riper also talked about the new requirements, per the reauthorization law, surrounding the state's strategic plan. Ms. Van Riper stated that a RFP has been released to seek help on creating the strategic plan due in 2020.

Mr. Russell Brown gave a financial summary to the board on behalf of the Finance and Administration Committee. Following the report by Mr. Brown, Mr. Ken Meadows gave a presentation of the recently-completed state-level audit which was received by the board as information only.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.