

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

**Francis Marion University
Florence, South Carolina**

October 23-24, 2013

MINUTES

Voting Directors Present:

Mr. Lewis Smoak, Vice-Chair
Ms. Lisa Van Riper, Secretary
Senator Mike Fair
Senator Joel Lourie
Representative Rita Allison
Representative Jerry N. Govan
Mr. Reece Yandle
Ms. Evelyn Patterson
Ms. Julie Hussey
Dr. Floyd Creech
Ms. Judith Aughtry
Mr. Walter Fleming

Voting Directors Absent:

Governor Nikki Haley, excused
Superintendent Mick Zais, excused
Ms. Linda O'Quinn, excused
Ms. Julia-Ellen Davis, excused
Dr. Francis Rushton, excused

Non-Voting Directors Present:

Ms. Susan Jones, designee for Mr. Robert St. Onge, SC DOT
Mr. Tim Ervolina, United Way Association of SC, Inc.
Ann Marie Dwyer, SC Department of Health and Human Services
Rosemary Wilson, SC Department of Health and Environmental Control
Mary Lynn Diggs, Head Start Collaboration Office (ECAC member)

Others Present:

Spencer Scott, Florence County First Steps
Dr. Max Learner
Darnell McPhearson, Darlington County First Steps
Rick Noble, Richland County First Steps
Carolyn Brooks, Spartanburg County First Steps
David Lisk, York County First Steps
Jean Pearson, Pleasant Grove Academy
Sheila Zollicoffer, Pleasant Grove Academy
Kristine Jenkins, SCFS
LaDrica Christian, SCFS
Jasminne Collins, Agapeland CDC

Kristie Musick, SCFS
Kelli Boniecki, SCFS
Russell Brown, SCFS
Mary Anne Mathews, SCFS
Richard Harrington, The School Foundation
Jenny May, Children's Law Center
Candi LaLonde, Edgefield County First Steps
Sonia Gass, Orangeburg County First Steps
Brooke Harpine, Georgetown County First Steps
Jasmine Noriega, Georgetown County First Steps
Reginald Williams, Orangeburg County First Steps
Carol Daly, Georgetown County First Steps
Betty Gardiner, SCFS
Dorothy Priester, Cherokee County First Steps
Carletta Isreal, Williamsburg County First Steps
Alexis Pipkins, Lee County First Steps
Linda Leonard, SCFS
Debbie Robertson, SCFS
Ginger Ryall, SCFS
Steve McKinney, Haynsworth, Sinkler and Boyd
David Phillips, Greene, Finney and Horton
Ken Meadows, Greene, Finney and Horton
Dan Wuori, SCFS
Susan DeVenny, SCFS

The First Steps Board of Trustees held its annual retreat on October 23-24, 2013 on the campus of Francis Marion University in Florence, SC. No action was taken during the retreat. The Board received informational presentations on the following:

Florence County's Early Childhood System: A Success Story

Dr. Floyd Creech, First Steps Board of Trustees, Florence School District 1
Debbie Hyler, Executive Director, The School Foundation
Porter Stewart, Chairman, Florence District 1 School Board
Spencer Scott, Executive Director, Florence County First Steps
Alexis Pipkins, Executive Director, Lee County First Steps and FCSD1 Board Member,
Richard Harrington, The School Foundation

Legislative Panel Discussion: The Importance of Early Childhood Education

Senator Mike Fair
Senator Joel Lourie
Representative Rita Allison
Representative Jerry Govan

Reports of the First Steps Reauthorization Work Teams

Kristie Musick, SCFS
Carol Daly, Georgetown County First Steps
David Lisk, York County First Steps
Candi Lalonde, Edgefield County First Steps
Debbie Robertson, SCFS

Kelli Boniecki, SCFS
Julia Nelson, Sumter County First Steps
Susan Jones, SC Department of Transportation

Why Poverty Matters

Dr. Tammy Palowski, Director, Francis Marion University School of Education Center of Excellence to
Prepare Teachers of Children of Poverty

FY13 Audited Financial Statement

Russell Brown, SCFS
David Phillips, Greene, Finney and Horton
Ken Meadows, Greene, Finney and Horton

One Voice for Early Childhood Education

Dave Wilson, McAllister Communications

Tour of Terry/Gail Richardson Child Development Center