



**South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness
Board of Trustees Annual Meeting
December 6, 2017
Annual Meeting**

**The Inn at USC, Columbia
2 p.m.**

Members Present (13):

Ken Wingate, Chair
Susan Alford
Mary Lynne Diggs
Christian Soura
Tim Holt
Judith Aughtry
Julie Hussey
Alexia Newman
Jennifer McConnell
Rick Noble
Roger Pryor
Sue Williams
Beverly Buscemi

Members Absent (9):

Senator Gerald Malloy
Representative Rita Allison
Representative Jerry Govan
Superintendent Molly Spearman
Catherine Heigel
Amy Williams
Tracy Lamb
Walt Fleming
Evelyn Patterson

Others Present:

Julia-Ellen Davis
Dan Wuori
Rebecca Brown
Mary Anne Mathews
Debbie Robertson

Ginger Ryall
Lavinia Tejada
Russell Brown
Jim Riddle
Martha Strickland
Dave Wilson
Samantha Ingram
Kristie Musick
Jon Artz
Cassandra Johnson
Christie Duke
Whitney Tipton
Kim Archung
Betty Gardiner
Marley Via
Kate Roach
LaMyra Sanders
Annie Cherry
Barbara Black
Kerrie Schnake

Call to Order/Quorum Call

Mr. Wingate called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. At that time, a quorum was not present, so Mr. Wingate proceeded with the Chairman's Report.

Mr. Wingate reminded the board members of the upcoming 2016 Chairmen's Summit to be held the following day. The event is expected to have over 400 early childhood stakeholders and community members in attendance.

Mr. Wingate directed Trustees to the book placed at their table title, "30 Million Words: Building a Child's Brain," by Dr. Dana Suskind. Mr. Wingate provided background on the author, who will be a keynote speaker at the Chairmen's Summit.

At this point, a quorum was present so Mr. Wingate asked for approval of the October 21 board minutes. **Upon a motion by Judith Aughtry, and a second by Alexia Newman, the board unanimously adopted the meeting minutes of October 21, 2016.**

Finance and Administration Committee

Ms. Judith Aughtry provided the report of the Finance and Administration Committee. Ms. Aughtry noted the monthly financial report within the board packet. Ms. Mary Lynne Diggs asked about the tax check-off amount received in 2016. Mr. Russ Brown responded that the agency received \$9,200.

Ms. Aughtry asked if First Steps could join Amazon Smile in order to receive donations. Both Christian Soura and Sue Williams stated that the process for enrolling in Amazon Smile is easy and brief.

Program and Grants Committee

Jennifer McConnell gave the committee report. Ms. McConnell brought forth the committee's recommendation to approve a new strategy in Chesterfield to support Nurse-Family Partnership.

The board unanimously approved the committee's recommendation.

Dr. Dan Wuori gave a presentation on the Evidence-Based Practice Requirements, noting that Act 287 of 2014 requires partnerships to use 75% of funds designated for programs for the purpose of supporting strategies defined as evidence-based. Dr. Wuori presented a set of working recommendations that pertain to implementation, noting staff plans additional data analysis and to seek additional feedback from the partnerships prior to bringing a recommendation forward.

No action was taken.

Strategic Planning and Evaluation Committee

Alexia Newman gave the committee report. Ms. Newman attended the Cherokee County Annual Meeting and said great things were happening in that area.

Ms. Newman stated that Compass was still completing the Parent as Teachers evaluation and the board should expect in the coming months.

Early Head Start Governance Council

Mr. Roger Pryor gave the report for the Early Head Start Governance Council. Mr. Pryor noted the recent training on policy and procedures.

Executive Committee

Mr. Wingate noted that the Executive Committee has not met and had no report at this time.

Strategic Planning and Evaluation Committee

Ms. Julia-Ellen Davis gave her Interim Director's Report which included updates on the Early Head Start- Child Care Partnership, Parents as Teachers, First Steps 4K, BabyNet new hires, and facility updates to the State Office.

Ms. Davis gave mention to the final print of the Profile of the Ready Kindergartner brochure which was printed in both English and Spanish.

Dr. Wuori provided a short presentation on the agency's 2016 Annual Report.

The board recessed to the call of the chair at 3:23pm. The SC Early Childhood Advisory Council convened to receive a report on Infant-Early Childhood Mental Health from Kerrie Schnake of the Program for Infant Toddler Care at the Medical University of South Carolina. **At the conclusion of Ms. Schnake's presentation, the ECAC adjourned and the First Steps Board of Trustees reconvened. Upon a motion from Ms. Aughtry and a second from Mr. Pryor, the Board entered Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter at 4:04pm.**

At 4:50pm, the Board exited Executive Session. No action was taken. There being no further business, **the Board adjourned at 4:50pm.**