

South Carolina First Steps Board of Trustees
October 20, 2017
The Inn at USC
11 a.m.

Members Present (19):

Ken Wingate, Chair
Julie Hussey, Vice-Chair
Senator Greg Hembree
Representative Rita Allison
Senator Gerald Malloy
Representative Jerry Govan
Roger Pryor
Sue Williams
Evelyn Patterson
Walt Fleming
Tim Holt
David Wilson
Susan Alford
Amy Williams
Rick Noble
Judith Aughtry
Alexia Newman
Deirdre Singleton
Jennifer McConnell

Members Not Present (5):

Superintendent Molly Spearman
Beverly Buscemi
Mary Lynne Diggs
Tracy Lamb
Amy Williams

Others Present:

Julia-Ellen Davis
Dr. Dan Wuori
Mark Barnes
Samantha Ingram
Ginger Ryall
Rebecca Brown
Peter Balthazor

Mr. Wingate called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m. and declared a quorum present.

Mr. Wingate asked Mr. Fleming to present the report of the Finance and Administration Committee to the board. Mr. Fleming noted that the agency received a clean financial audit and asked Mr.

Barnes to review the monthly financial report. Ms. Sue Williams inquired about the agency's tax form 990 and Mr. Barnes stated that the form would be available to the board in March 2018.

Ms. Julia-Ellen Davis presented her Interim Director's report to the board. Ms. Wingate requested Mr. Roger Pryor, along with the Early Head Start Governance Council, to follow up on concerns raised about an Early Head Start provider and bring associated recommendations to the board.

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, at 12:30 p.m., upon a motion by Ms. Julie Hussey and a second by Ms. Sue Williams, the board went into Executive Session to discuss the final group of three candidates for state Executive Director. At 4:26 p.m., the board ended Executive Session.

Mr. Wingate introduced Mr. Pete Balthazor, an attorney with Riley Pope & Laney, LLC. Mr. Wingate stated that Mr. Balthazor was in the room as an outside observer of the parliamentary procedures for the selection process of the state Executive Director.

Prior to voting, Mr. Wingate polled board members about their candidate preferences. Preferences were submitted via paper, phone and text to Mr. Wingate. Mr. Wingate served as the teller and was observed by Mr. Balthazor in counting these preferences.

With an understanding of the board's candidate preferences established, a motion was made by Representative Jerry Govan, with a second by Ms. Jennifer McConnell, and the board voted unanimously to select Ms. Georgia Mjartan as state Executive Director.

To allow for time to share the decision with each candidate, Mr. Wingate requested that the board honor a two hour moratorium on speaking about the results.

Mr. Wingate thanked Ms. Davis for her leadership as Interim Director and Ms. Hussey and the search committee for reviewing over 200 applicants and narrowing the search to the final three candidates.

Rep. Govan and Ms. Williams noted that it was important for the board to show thoughtfulness about making the announcement of the new state executive director as a board.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:07 p.m.