



**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.**