

**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.