



**South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness
Board of Trustees Meeting
June 15, 2018**

**Inn at USC - Columbia
11 a.m.**

DRAFT MINUTES

Members Present (17):

Ken Wingate, Chair
Julie Hussey, Vice-Chair
Susan Alford
Representative Rita Allison
Josh Baker
Mary Lynne Diggs
Representative Jerry Govan
Senator Greg Hembree
Tim Holt
Senator Gerald Malloy
David Mathis
Jennifer McConnell
Rick Noble
Roger Pryor
Amy Williams
Sue Williams
David Wilson

Members Absent (4):

Judith Aughtry
Walter Fleming
Pat Maley
Alexia Newman

Staff Present:

Georgia Mjartan
Dan Wuori
Martha Strickland
Debbie Robertson
Mark Barnes
Samantha Ingram
Zack Catoe
Ginger Ryall
Bridgett Shealey
Tihsa Brown
Althea Benson
Adrienne Waymer
Angie Ebert
Lavinia Tejada

Clarissa Zimmerman
Tanvi Solanki
Russell Brown
Teiarose Sanders
Nikkia Rogers
Karen Jenkins
Latoya Palmer-Graves
Sherrell Cue
Ayesha Smith
Serena Salmans
Tenille Salliewhite
Cassandra Legette



Others Present:

Quane Pressly
Daniel Smalls
Betty Smalls
Johnetta Perkins
Francina Wright
Kim Baker
Kristen Smalls
Breana Chriscoe
Teneka Thompson
Alexandria Pickney
Deloris S. Broughton
Deb Padgett
Lunda Green
Lanise Green
Marcia Bacon
Kimberly R. Taylor
Annette Bethel
Dorothy Priester
Elaine Cooper
Alexis Pipkins
Lashandia Wright
Nicole L. Jenkins
Kiki Billings
Ashleigh Holland
David Lisk
Norman Dover
Alfreda Roseborough
Zeico Roseborough
Dustin Cockrum

Katharina Cockrum
Pierce McNair
Kyle Lacio
Mia Lacio
Beth Ann Rochelear
Julie Edwards
Kim Ford
Benita McCullum
Sheria Williams
Sam Edwards
Nina Grey
Cari Moyer
Lisa Dial
Jason Myers
Khadyah Stokes
Ellen Still
John A. Gregory
Kenneth Wright
Sherry Adger
Sandra Isaac
Kim Chariker
Jackie Young
Lillian Wright
Shirleen Lewis
Tim Smith
Lindy Scott
Joy Dickerson
Sonya Gass
Lillie Wright

Mr. Ken Wingate calls the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m. and stated that a quorum was present.

Mr. Wingate calls for a motion to approve the agenda for the meeting. After a motion by Mr. Tim Holt and a second by Mr. Josh Baker, the agenda was unanimously approved.

Mr. Wingate calls for a motion to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2018 meeting. After a motion by Senator Greg Hembree and a second by Ms. Judith Aughtry, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Mr. Ken Wingate gave the report for the Executive Committee and stated that the committee had met to discuss the Early Head Start – Child Care Partnership grant and the committee had prepared a motion for the full board to consider. Mr. Wingate read the motion related to the Early Head Start – Child Care Partnership grant. The motion reads:

To relinquish Round One and Round Two Early Head Start – Child Care Partnership Grants on July 31, 2018 with a closeout plan which supports parental choice in childcare for all; asks DSS to make available, as appropriate, vouchers for eligible children who are enrolled

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in South Carolina First Steps' Early Head Start – CCP program on July 27th and would have remained enrolled next year (those under the age of 3 on September 1, 2018); seeks to assist all parents in our program with transitioning their children if needed; addresses the completion of capital projects at childcare partners; and commits to volunteering lessons learned, data, and other non-monetary resources to facilitate a smooth transition to a new grantee or grantees.

Mr. Wingate asked for comments or questions from the Executive Committee or Board of Trustees. Mr. Roger Pryor noted that he had voted against this motion during the Executive Committee meeting. Mr. Tim Holt posed the question of why Round One and Round Two were combined. Mr. Wingate responded by stating that he would defer back to that question at another point in the meeting due to the nature of the business at hand.

Mr. Wingate announced to the full group that members of the public would have an opportunity to speak to the board. Mr. Wingate stated that each person who spoke would have two minutes to make their statement. The public comment period began.

The following people spoke during the public comment period: Tyler Johnson, Sandra Isaac, Kim Chariker, LaShondia Wright, Kiki Billings, Quane Pressley, Kristin Smalls, David Lisk, Norman Dover, Alfreda Roseborough, Erica Roseborough, Loreen Creque, Dustin Cockrum, Joy Dickerson, Kyle Lacio, Beth Ann Rochelear, Kim Ford, Elaine Cooper, Benita McCullum, Rev. Nina Grey, Sam Edwards, Jason Myers, Kim Baker.

The public comment period ended after approximately 50 minutes.

Mr. Wingate addressed the public and stated that the board would move into executive session in another room on the premises. Mr. Tim Holt made a motion for the board to move into executive session and Ms. Jennifer McConnell seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Wingate called the meeting back to order and addressed the board members and members of the public after executive session. Senator Gerald Malloy asked Mr. Wingate to acknowledge that no votes were taken in executive session.

Mr. Wingate, again, read the motion from Executive Committee as related to the Early Head Start – Child Care Partnership grant.

Ms. Georgia Mjartan briefly addressed the public on the situation and the timeline of the events that led up to the decision at hand. Ms. Mjartan reminded the board of the notice of findings issued by the Office of Head Start to SC First Steps in December 2017 and explained that three additional incidents had occurred at another center in another county subsequent to the issuance of the findings. Because of this, the Office of Head Start has deemed the deficiencies identified in December to be “uncorrected.” Uncorrected deficiencies can result in a termination of the grant. The Office of Head Start has notified SC First Steps that because these deficiencies are, in their evaluation, uncorrected, the Round 1 grant will be terminated unless the board votes to relinquish the grant. Mjartan noted that in all three of the situations that occurred at the center subsequent to the issuance of non-compliance, the center fired the teachers, self-reported the incidents to SC First Steps and to DSS, and SC First Steps self-reported the incidents to the Office of Head Start. The structure of the Early Head Start – Child Care Partnership grant is such that the individuals involved in these incidents were private employees of the childcare centers, not employees of SC First Steps.



Ms. Mjartan explained that the Board of Trustees must decide whether to relinquish the grant to the Office of Head Start or appeal the termination of the grant by the Office of Head Start. It was stated that termination of the grant would deem SC First Steps ineligible to receive federal grants from the Administration for Children and Families for five years and could leave the fate of the children in the program in limbo for an extended period of time. Relinquishment would allow SC First Steps to apply for grants from the Administration for Children and Families and would enable the funds to more immediately be recompeted in South Carolina.

Mr. Ken Wingate acknowledged that he must leave soon and directs the public to address any questions for him to his email: kbw@swblaw.com.

Mr. Ken Wingate addressed the board and asked for all presiding in favor of the motion. Mr. Wingate cited that the children are the top priority for all members present. Mr. Wingate further acknowledged the funding model pertaining to Early Head Start (EHS), and how SC First Steps is working with the SC Department of Social Services to secure childcare vouchers for eligible children enrolled in SCFS' EHS-CCP program.

Ms. Julie Hussey elaborated on her and Georgia's phone call with Head Start Region IV Coordinator, Captain Robert Bialas. Captain Bialas informed Ms. Hussey that the funds for the EHS-CCP grant would remain in the state of South Carolina. Captain Bialas continued by stating that no further help would be dispatched to aid in the resolution of issues within the Early Head Start – Child Care Partnership grant managed by SC First Steps. Ms. Hussey also acknowledged that an effort was made to have the South Carolina Association of Community Action Partnerships (SC CAP) accept responsibility for the grant; however, Captain Bialas stated that the decision of where funds are administered remains the responsibility of the Federal Office. Ms. Julie Hussey concluded her statement by thanking the Department of Social Services for their assistance and proclaimed that her vote would be in favor of the motion.

Mr. Roger Pryor posed a question of what happens to the money should SC First Steps relinquish the grant. Ms. Mary Lynne Diggs explained that the money from Head Start will not be taken from the state of South Carolina, but rather the administrator of Head Start funding will be different. She noted that the funds follow the children even if the grantee changes. Mr. Josh Baker clarified that First Steps would no longer be responsible for the administration of EHS-CCP funds should the grant be relinquished or terminated.

Mr. Josh Baker, Mr. David Wilson, Mr. David Mathis, Ms. Sue Williams, and Ms. Mary Lynne Diggs abstained from voting due to their status as board members who are also state agency executive. Ms. Susan Alford also abstained from voting and stated that she remains committed to the provision of vouchers to EHS-CCP children.

Senator Gerald Malloy calls the question to move on the motion. The motion passes with a majority vote. There is a call for division among the votes: 8 members voted in favor of the motion, 1 member voted in opposition, and 6 abstained from voting.

Mr. Wingate asks Mr. Rick Noble to stand. Mr. Wingate recognized Mr. Noble for his time and dedication to the children of the state of South Carolina while serving as a Local Partnership Executive Director and board member amongst other positions. Mr. Ken Wingate and Mr. Rick Noble departed from the meeting due to previously scheduled engagements.



Ms. Julie Hussey now presided over the meeting.

Senator Gerald Malloy asks to move to the next item on the agenda where a motion is needed.

Ms. Jennifer McConnell presented the report from the Program and Grants Committee and brought forth the motion:

Partnerships whose carry forward exceeds 15% for two or more consecutive fiscal years will not receive any carry forward funds in excess of 15% of their state allocation, effective for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018.

Along with this motion, Ms. McConnell explained that the plan would be for the Board to direct that these funds be reallocated to local partnerships through a competitive grant process approved by the Programs and Grants Committee and the Board of Trustees.

Ms. Georgia Mjartan acknowledged that a provision already exists in the program standards that provides the Board with the ability to limit local partnerships from continuing to receive carry forward over 15% after two years of excess carry forward. While this provision exists, it has never been put into effect by the board, which is why this motion is being proposed.

Mr. Roger Pryor read the motion (stated above) and Mr. Josh Baker seconded. The motion passes unanimously.

Ms. Julie Hussey read the second motion brought forth by the Program and Grants Committee. This motion read:

The Program and Grants Committee recommends that the State Board approve the committee recommendations regarding the FY19 grant renewals as detailed in the attached document.

The motion passes unanimously.

Senator Gerald Malloy makes a motion to adjourn. Representative Govan seconds the motion and the meeting is adjourned at 2:00 p.m.