

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
SOUTH CAROLINA FIRST STEPS TO SCHOOL READINESS
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
A SOUTH CAROLINA NONPROFIT CORPORATION**

June 18, 2009

Via Conference Call and Webinar

MINUTES

- Voting Directors Present: Mr. Lewis Smoak, Vice Chair
Rep. Jimmy Neal
Rep. Rita Allison
Rev. Reece Yandle
Mr. Floyd Creech
Ms. Marileen Chapman
Ms. Linda O'Quinn
Ms. Sabine Lang
Ms. Nicky Wallace
Ms. Julia-Ellen Davis
Ms. Judith Aughtry
Dr. Francis Rushton
- Voting Directors Absent: Superintendent Jim Rex
Governor Mark Sanford
Senator John Matthews
Ms. Linda O'Quinn
Ms. Katherine Davis
Ms. Lisa Van Riper (excused)
Sen. Mike Fair
Ms. Kristin Hook (excused)
Mr. Henry Parr Jr. (excused)
- Non-Voting Directors Present: Ms. Susan Jones (designee, SC DOT)
Ms. Jennifer Buster (designee for Mr. Stan Butkus, SC DDSN)
Ms. Cindy Sweigart (designee for Mr. C. Earl Hunter, Director, SC DHEC)
Ms. Lane Jeselnik (designee for Dr. Garrison Walters, SC Commission on Higher Education)
- Non- Voting Directors Absent: Ms. Angela Flowers (designee, for Ms. John McGill, SC DMH)
Dr. David Goble, Director, SC State Library
Ms. Kathleen Hayes, Director, SC DSS)
Ms. Emma Forkner, Director, SC DHHS
Mr. Lee Catoe, Director, DAODAS
Mr. Jim Griffith, Director, Transportation Assn. of SC
Dr. Paul Krohne, President, SC School Board Association
Mr. David Potter, SC Education Oversight Committee
Dr. Nancy Freeman, Regulatory Advisory Committee
Mr. Bobby Bowers, Director, SC B&CB/ORS
Mr. Tim Ervolina, President/CEO, United Way of SC, excused

Ms. Stephanie Frazier (designee for Mr. Barry Russell, President, SC Tech College System)

Ms. Lane Jeselnik (designee for Dr. Garrison Walters, SC Commission on Higher Education)

Others Present:

Ms. Susan DeVenny, SC First Steps

Dr. Dan Wuori, SC First Steps

Ms. Kim Aydlette, SC First Steps

Mr. Rodney Jenkins, SC First Steps

Ms. Debbie Robertson, SC First Steps

Ms. Betty Gardiner, SC First Steps

Ms. Betsy Marshall, SC First Steps

Ms. Rogers Hewitt, SC First Steps

Ms. Grace Stewart, SC First Steps

Ms. Mary Anne Matthews, SC First Steps

Ms. Barbara Black, SC First Steps

Mr. Russell Brown, SC First Steps

Ms. Tamala Toney, SC First Steps

Call to Order

Mr. Lewis Smoak called the meeting to order. Mr. Smoak thanked everyone for joining the meeting by phone and computer. Mr. Smoak read a letter from Gov. Mark Sanford to the State Board pertaining to the 10th anniversary of SC First Steps.

Approval of Minutes

A motion and a second was made to approve the minutes from the previous meeting, held March 26, 2009. The motion was approved unanimously.

Strategic Planning and Evaluation Committee

Ms. Susan DeVenny reported in Ms. Lisa Van Riper's absence. Ms. DeVenny reported no action items from the committee. Ms. DeVenny stated that the final plans are under way for wrapping up the state's strategic plan, VISION 2013, and that a specially-called work session is planned for Sept. 2009.

Ms. Susan DeVenny also reported that the external evaluation process has begun.

Program and Grants Committee

Dr. Floyd Creech offered a report from the Program and Grants Committee. Dr. Creech reported that the Program and Grants Committee recommended the board approve the FY10 program strategies as outlined in the staff recommendation.

Dr. Floyd Creech stated that the State Office has reported that most counties with a conditional approval have taken actions to rectify the problems within their conditionally-approved strategies.

Dr. Floyd Creech commended the County Partnerships and the State Office staff for their diligent work with bringing the strategies into compliance with the program standards.

Dr. Floyd Creech asked Dr. Dan Wuori to explain the conditional approvals and answer any questions that the board may have at that time.

Dr. Dan Wuori reported that this was the second year that board has taken a strategy by strategy look as opposed to a county by county look of the renewal applications. Dr. Wuori reported 224 separate strategies have been proposed for FY10. Dr. Wuori stated that it was the recommendation of the Program and Grants Committee that the board approve 200 of the proposed 224 statewide strategies for FY10 and

that conditional approval be given to 19 strategies on the basis of their standards performance and to the remaining five strategies, which are considered non-standard or non-prevalent strategies. Dr. Wuori also stated that any County Partnership with a conditional approval will be required to attach a formal corrective action plan, outlining the technical assistance that would be available and any steps necessary to bring that strategy into compliance, to their FY10 Grant Agreements.

Dr. Dan Wuori said the January 2010 board meeting will entail a review of the conditionally approved strategies with the option of discontinuation or reallocation of funds should any of the conditionally approved strategies not come into compliance.

With no questions, the recommendation was approved unanimously.

Finance and Administration Committee

Ms. Judith Aughtry reported that her committee would need board approval on the FY10 budget. Ms. Susan DeVenny gave an overview of the difference in funding between FY09 and FY10. Ms. DeVenny stated that the agency took an overall cut of 20.3%. Ms. DeVenny said that County Partnership's took a budget reduction ranging from 2% - 12.2%. Ms. DeVenny stated that the State Office took a 36% budget reduction.

Ms. Susan DeVenny said that the agency will not directly receive stimulus funds; however the County Partnerships will receive some stimulus funding through their school districts.

With a motion, the recommendation to accept the FY10 budget was approved unanimously.

Ms. Judith Aughtry stated that the committee recommended that the board approve administrative waivers for 16 counties whose budgets exceed the legislated 8% administrative cap. With a motion, the recommendation to approve the 16 administrative waivers was approved.

Ms. Judith Aughtry stated that finance ad hoc committee is continuing to work on the performance criteria and will update the board on that progress.

Ms. Judith Aughtry also referred the board to information pieces in their packets pertaining to the immigration laws and County Partnership contracts.

Director's Report

Ms. Susan DeVenny thanked everyone for joining the webinar portion of the meeting. Ms. Susan DeVenny then presented the powerpoint presentation, "Ten Years at SC First Steps".

Mr. Tim Ervolina thanked Ms. Susan DeVenny for the ten year reflection presentation and noted the remarkable strides that the agency has taken since inception and reminded Ms. DeVenny that the United Way was a partner of the agency.

Mr. Rodney Jenkins gave the Finance report.

Ms. Susan DeVenny reminded the board of their meeting on Aug. 20. Ms. DeVenny stated that she anticipates that meeting being a Board to Board.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.