



Board of Trustees Meeting
December 2, 2022 2:00PM
SC First Steps
636 Rosewood Drive Columbia, SC 29201
Minutes

Members Present (10):

Rep. Paula Calhoon
Dr. Shelley Canright, Vice Chair
Jacque Curtin
Mary Lynne Diggs
Dr. Michelle Fry
Tim Holt
Dr. David Mathis
Jennifer McConnell
Dave Morley, Chairman

Dr. Amy Williams

Members Absent (12):

John Hayes
Sen. Greg Hembree
Robert Kerr
Mike Leach
Jessica Mackey
Sen. Gerald Malloy

Janie Neeley
Alexia Newman
Roger Pryor
Dr. Edward Simmer
Sue Williams
Nicole Wynkoop

Attendees (47)

Georgia Mjartan
Avian Jones
Chelsea Richard
Kaitlyn Richards
Mark Barnes
Karen Oliver
Martha Strickland
Derek Cromwell
Beth Moore
Lexi Jones
Duchett Hylton
Dwana Doctor
Anita Singleton
Cindy Riley
Candi Lalonde
Kathy Jenkins
Jade Wright
Kenna Hoover
Shayla Pettigrew
LC Baker
Kathy Fitzgerald
Jon Artz
Joy Mazur
Tiffany Outlaw
Dorian Young
Cindy Galloway
Carletta Isreal
Kim Chariker

Van-Kim Lin
Samantha Ingram
Rachal Hatton-Moore
Jennifer Williams
Michelle Bowers
Rochelle Gamble
Shakira Fulton
Felicia Patrick
Pernerva Thomas
Betty Washington
Sarah Eargle
Valencia Johnson
Kerry Cordan
Kate Roach
Elizabeth Dudek
Santasha Highley
Sheila Jones
Shekiah Reese
Felicia Battle



Ms. Jones conducted a roll call.

A quorum was not met. Mr. Morley addressed the attendance and participation of meetings going forward. The annual meeting is required in the SC First Steps Board bylaws. Mr. Morley reflected on his participation in the Local Partnership Executive Directors meeting that was held that morning.

Ms. Mjartan provided information on First Steps 4K + Siblings. She thanked Michelle Bowers of DSS, and Martha Strickland, 4K State Director for their partnership on ensuring the successful implementation of First Steps 4K + Siblings. Ms. Mjartan introduced Ms. Sheila Jones, grandparent recipient of the 4K + Siblings vouchers. Ms. Jones shared her experience with First Steps and how her family has benefited from the 4K + Siblings program.

Dr. Chelsea Richard reported on the Strategic Planning and Evaluation Committee. She provided an update on the new First Steps data system and the revisions to data reported in the annual report.

Ms. McConnell acknowledged the success on Summit on Early Childhood Summit that was held the day before. Mr. Cromwell reported on work of the Local Partnership Program and Grants Committee.

Mr. Holt reported on the Finance and Administration Committee. He shared that the agency is in a strong financial position.

Mr. Morley invited Dr. Fry to provide an introduction. He acknowledged trustees who have left their seat on the board. The trustees were Walter Fleming effective March 3, 2022, Rep. Rita Allison effective February 25, 2022, and Rep. Jerry Govan effective November 8, 2022. He also acknowledged Dr. David Mathis who will leave the board in January 2023.

Ms. Mjartan thanked all of the Executive Directors of Local Partnerships that were present. She acknowledged Executive Directors that retired or resigned and welcomed new Local Partnership Executive Directors. Ms. Mjartan shared an update on grants awarded to local partnerships and how these grants have impacted their communities. Ms. Mjartan shared that Sen. Hembree and Sen. Turner cosponsored a prefiled bill that would end SC First Steps sunset and make it a permanent agency. She also shared that the Pritzker Foundation awarded SC First Steps a \$200,000 grant which would allow SC First Steps to share First5 with other states and municipalities. She provided an overview of the 2021-2022 Annual Report. An update staffing, and vacancies was provided.

The meeting ended at 2:53pm.