



Board of Trustees Meeting
February 20, 2025 2:00PM
SC First Steps
636 Rosewood Drive Columbia, SC 29201
Minutes

Trustees Present (12):

Tony Catone
Jacque Curtin
Mary Lynne Diggs
John Hayes
Sen. Greg Hembree
Jessica Mackey
Dave Morley, Chairman
Roger Pryor
Mary Anne Scott

Dr. Ed Simmer
Wes Wooten
Dr. Amy Williams, Vice Chair

Trustees Absent (9)

Rep. Terry Alexander
Dr. Robert Bank
Rep. Shannon Erickson
Dr. Matthew Ferguson
Constance Holloway
Jack McBride
Eunice Medina
Janie Neeley
Sue Williams

Attendees (74)

Ann Vandervliet
Mark Barnes
Avian Jones
Chelsea Richard
Derek Cromwell
Martha Strickland
Karen Oliver
Kaitlyn Richards
Beth Moore
Betty Gardiner
David O'Kelly
Amber Gillum
Molly Tuck
David Lisk
Tammy Graham
Van-Kim Lin
Amira Hulwe
Anna Gray
Annie Maertens
Brenda Faulk
Carrie Trivedi
Cindy Galloway
Charshina McMillian
Crystal Campbell
Dorothy Priester
Emma Matzko

Gene Brunson
Gina Beebe
Hannah Espeleta
Jade Wright
Jaiden Branch
Jessica Fluker
Jon Artz
Julie Londergan
Kathy Fitzgerald
Kathy Jenkins
Kristine Jenkins
Kate Roach
Kenna Hoover
Kerry Cordan
Kim Trudell
Kristen Martocchio
Kristi Richardson
LaKisha Bowman
LaMyra Sanders
Laura Baker
Leah Crosby
Lexi Jones
Linda Doherty
Lyle Jacks
Madison Farley
Naya Hall

Rachal Hatton-Moore
Rachel Johnson
Reginald Williams
Sally McClellan
Samantha Ingram
Sharon McCuen
Shayla Pettigrew
SheKiah Reese
Spence Scott
Stacy Greenwalt
Stephen Gilchrist
Stephen Hickey
Susan Jones
Tamatha Kohler
Taylor Kane Tate
Teneshia Slempla
Tricia Gordon
Tyshica McConner
Valencia Primas
Valerie Berry
Vaudrien Ray
Virginia Burrows



Chairman Morley called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.

Mr. Morley requested a motion to adopt the agenda. Mr. Pryor provided the motion, seconded by Mr. Wooten and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Morley asked for a motion to approve the December 4, 2024 minutes. Mr. Wooten provided the motion, seconded by Mr. Pryor, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Morley reported on the Executive Committee where he discussed the compensation process for Local Partnership Executive Directors including the committee's recent actions on approving and denying salary and bonus requests. These actions were taken on behalf of the full board due to their time sensitivity.

Mr. Morley welcome Tony Catone to the board. Mr. Catone is the Acting Director at DSS.

Mr. Morley asked for a motion to approve the SC First Steps Board of Trustees and ECAC meeting calendar. Dr. Williams provided the motion, seconded by Mr. Wooten, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Mackey motioned to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Dr. Williams, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Wooten reported on the Local Partnership Programs and Grants Committee where he shared the committee were reviewing edits and updates to the Program and Operational Guidelines. He and Mr. Cromwell shared that some of the updates are as a result of new data from the recent evaluation of the local partnerships by Child Trends.

Dr. Williams reported on the Strategic Planning and Evaluation Committee and their review of the Child Trends evaluation of the local partnerships for FY2019-2023. Van-Kim Lin, Child Trends Senior Research Scientist, presented the results of the evaluation.

Ms. Mackey reported on the Finance and Administration Committee where they discussed the updated allocation model. Dr. Williams motioned to approve the formula allocation model for FY2025-26 that fully balances accounts over a three-year period. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wooten and unanimously approved. Ms. Mackey and Mr. Barnes briefly discussed the ongoing SLED investigation into a local partnership.

Ms. Richards provided a legislative report. There was discussion around the organization's budget request, the request for innovation funding, and child care tax credits. There was also a brief discussion about a proposed Head Start bill that directed First Steps produce a plan to make progress over 5 years to make Head Start and Early Head Start universal to all eligible families in South Carolina. First Steps was not involved in the creation of the proposed bill and reached out to the sponsors of the bill for more details.

Ms. Vandervliet provided the Executive Director's report, sharing information on Act 81 implementation, local partnerships, and 4K data. She also provided updates on resource development, 2025-2026 funding outlook, A Night to Celebrate Community fundraiser being held on May 1st, and agency staffing changes. Ms. Vandervliet discussed the goal and planning for the 2025 – 2030 Strategic Plan, inviting



the board to participate in a discussion with the Strategic Planning and Evaluation Committee on March 26th.

Ms. Mackey made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Pryor, and the motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:46 p.m. by Mr. Morley.