



**South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness  
Board of Trustees Meeting**

December 4, 2014, 3 pm, Room 252, The Brown Building, Columbia, SC

**Minutes**

**Trustees present:** Ken Wingate, Chairman (Designee for Governor Nikki R. Haley)  
Mellanie Jinnette (Designee for Supt. Mick Zais)  
Senator Mike Fair  
Senator Joel Lourie (via phone)  
Representative Jerry Govan  
Lisa Van Riper, Secretary  
Judith Aughtry  
Julia-Ellen Davis  
Mary Lynn Diggs  
Walter Fleming  
Beverly Buscemi  
Timothy Holt  
Julie Hussey  
Tracy Lamb (via phone)  
Evelyn Patterson (via phone)  
Jennifer McConnell  
Rick Noble  
Roger Pryor  
Sue Williams  
Reece Yandle

**Trustees absent:** Representative Rita Allison (excused)  
Alexia Newman (excused)  
Catherine Templeton  
Amber Gillum (excused)

**Others Present:** Karama Bailey, DSS  
Bryan Kost, DHEC  
Pete Liggett, DSSH  
Rosemary Wilson, DHEC  
Roy Laney, Riley Pope and Laney  
Sarah Heinemeier, Compass Group  
Anne D'Agostino, Compass Group  
Leslie Anderson, Leslie Anderson Consulting  
Jim Riddle, Lexington County First Steps  
LaMyra Sanders, Orangeburg County First Steps  
James Ella Collins, Charleston County First Steps  
Darnell McPherson, Darlington County First Steps  
Centuria Watson, Chester County First Steps  
Dave Wilson, McAlister Communications  
Susan DeVenny, SC First Steps  
Dan Wuori, SC First Steps  
Debbie Robertson, SC First Steps  
Betty Gardiner, SC First Steps

Linda Leonard, SC First Steps  
Mary Anne Mathews, SC First Steps  
Russell Brown, SC First Steps  
Samantha Ingram, SC First Steps  
Ginger Ryall, SC First Steps  
Martha Strickland, SC First Steps

Mr. Ken Wingate welcomed the board and called the meeting to order. Mr. Wingate declared a quorum present.

Mr. Wingate asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the October 16 meeting. Mr. Walt Fleming made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 16 meeting and with a second from Ms. Julie Hussey, the minutes from the October 16 were approved.

Mr. Wingate asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the June 26, 2014 meeting, carried over from October 16. Mr. Reece Yandle made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 26 meeting and with a second from Ms. Tracy Lamb, the minutes of the June 26 meeting were approved.

Mr. Wingate called on Susan DeVenny to review the agenda for the day. Ms. DeVenny introduced Mr. Roy Laney and Ms. Leslie Anderson, to review board obligations pursuant to the new law. Mr. Laney reviewed the statute, Ms. Anderson asked the group to think about any challenges present due to the changes in board composition. Ms. DeVenny noted that board development would continue at the next several meetings.

Mr. Wingate asked each board member to consider which standing committee of the board they could best contribute, and asked trustees to notify him and Ms. DeVenny of this interest. Mr. Wingate then called for committee reports.

Ms. Judith Aughtry, Chair, Finance and Administration, provided the FY15 YTD Financial Report with the trustees. Mr. Russ Brown gave a brief overview of the report, explaining each line item and funding source. The board discussed expenditures, cost allocation, and administrative costs across the state and received a copy of the FY16 Budget Request.

Ms. Aughtry called on attorney Laney to brief the board on draft bylaw revisions. Mr. Laney reviewed the draft, noting revisions were due to changes in the state law. The group was asked to provide feedback to the state office regarding these revisions by Dec. 15. County Partnership Executive Directors were asked to provide feedback to Ms. Debbie Robertson by Dec. 19.

Ms. Julia-Ellen Davis, Chair, Program and Grants Committee, discussed the Ready Five Year Old Benchmarks and Evidence-Based Programs List, both requirements of the board in the new law. Ms. Davis noted that both the board and local partnerships, as well as the business community, would be involved in the development of these documents. Ms. Davis noted that First Steps should hear about both federal early childhood grants on December 10, 2014.

Ms. Lisa Van Riper, Chair, Strategic Planning and Evaluation Committee, introduced Sarah Heinemeier, Compass, who presented highlights of the 2014 First Steps External Evaluation to the group. The evaluation team thanked the staff at state and local levels for their assistance in data collection. Ms. VanRiper asked trustees were asked to send suggested points of clarification or elaboration on any topics presented on external evaluation slides to Dr. Wuori, who serves as the staff point of contact for the team.

Mr. Wingate reminded trustees to send input and to indicate committee preferences, and thanked all for their participation. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.