



Board of Trustees Meeting

December 5, 2019

2 P.M.

Virginia Wingard Memorial United Methodist Church
1500 Broad River Rd. Columbia, SC 29210

Minutes

Members Present (13):

Julie Hussey, Vice Chair
Representative Jerry Govan
Shelley Canright
Tim Holt
Mary Lynne Diggs
Angel Johnson-Brebner
Jennifer McConnell
Sue Williams
Mary Poole
David Mathis
Rick Toomey
Amy Williams
Alexia Newman

Members Absent (9):

Dave Morley, Chair
Senator Greg Hembree
Representative Rita Allison
Senator Gerald Malloy
David Mathis
Walter Fleming Jr.
Josh Baker
Mike Leach
Roger Pryor Jr.

Others Present:

Georgia Mjartan
Samantha Ingram
Zack Catoe
Debbie Robertson
Mark Barnes
Betty Gardiner
Beth Moore
Jonathan Artz
Zack Catoe
Carletta Isreal
Chelsea Richard
Pamela Gillam
Lavinia Tejada
Tammy Compton
Sarah Eargle
Cassie Barber
Beth Moore
Kristine Jenkins
Martha Strickland
Garrett Bowman
Laura Wade

Marcia Bacon
Spencer Scott
Rob Grunewald
Cassie Barber
Micah Rea
Pierce McNair
Amber Gillum
Michelle Bowers
Jenny May
Jennifer Bishop
Aaron Bishop
Anna Workman
Suzanne McGougan
Cindy Ellis
Meada Fogle
Jennifer Williams
Tiffany Outlaw
Shayla Pettigrew



Ms. Julie Hussey called the meeting to order at 2:07 p.m.

The meeting opened with the opportunity for public comment. No members of the public who were present wished to speak.

Ms. Hussey noted that a quorum was not present at that time and progressed the meeting to information only items.

The Executive Committee did not have a report for this meeting.

Ms. Hussey thanked the Local Partnership Executive Directors for their attendance at the meeting. She also recognized Ms. Marcia Bacon, Executive Director of Richland County First Steps, and the Virginia Wingard Memorial United Methodist Church for their work in providing the space for the SC First Steps Board of Trustees and Early Childhood Advisory Council.

Ms. Hussey noted that her board term, along with that of Mr. Walt Fleming, was coming to an end. Ms. Hussey stated that Ms. Georgia Mjartan was currently working on replacing her and Mr. Fleming while also filling other vacancies on the SC First Steps Board of Trustees and Early Childhood Advisory Council.

Ms. Mjartan then recognized Ms. Hussey for her nine years of service as a board member. It is noted that Mr. Fleming was not in attendance but will be recognized for his service at a later date.

Ms. Mjartan then introduced Dr. Rob Grunewald, an Economist with the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis by trade, and a keynote speaker for the 2019 SC Summit on Early Childhood. Dr. Grunewald addressed the group about his research on how early care and education is directly related to economic development.

Several board members asked Dr. Grunewald questions.

Ms. Jennifer McConnell presented the report for the Program and Grants Committee.

Ms. McConnell stated that eleven local partnerships are working on their Corrective Action Plans and also noted the partnerships' carry-forward totals and percentages from FY19. Ms. McConnell said the committee discussed challenges facing the local partnerships including recruiting board members.

Ms. McConnell reminded the board of the Five-Year External Evaluation Report and noted that many of the report's findings and recommendations will be used by the Local Partnership team to guide their work with the local partnerships around board functioning and collaboration.

Ms. McConnell gave an update on the grant opportunity offered to local partnerships for collaboration with First Steps 4K providers. The grants will be used to improve family engagement and early literacy using the evidence-based program, Raising a Reader, and Ready Rosie.

Ms. McConnell announced the grant recipients: Barnwell, Chester, Chesterfield, Colleton, Florence, Kershaw, Lee, Marion and Williamsburg.

Ms. McConnell completed her presentation by directing the group to the document in their packet labeled FY20 Reallocation of Budgets 15% and Greater. Ms. McConnell indicated that Anderson County First Steps will reallocate funds to four Anderson County School Districts and the Nurse-Family Partnership. This reallocation does not require a board vote.



Mr. Tim Holt presented the report for the Finance and Administration Committee. Mr. Holt stated that the committee did not have any action items and noted that all financial reports are in great shape. Mr. Holt said the new financial management systems, Blackbaud, is in the implementation stage.

Dr. Amy Williams gave the report for the Strategic Planning and Evaluation Committee. Dr. Williams recognized Ms. Chelsea Richard as the new staff liaison for the committee.

Dr. Williams said the committee did not have any action items and provided updates regarding the strategic plan. She noted that the committee would bring a draft strategic plan with definitions for the agency's values to the next meeting in February.

Ms. Mjartan called the board's attention to the Executive Summary of the External Evaluation of South Carolina First Steps. Dr. Williams asked the board to use the executive summary to help spread the word in their communities of the great work happening at the state and local level.

Ms. Hussey recognized Mr. Micah Rea (Lt. Governor's Office), Mr. Pierce McNair (Rep. Rita Allison's office) and Ms. Amber Gillum (SC Department of Social Services) for their attendance.

Ms. Mjartan presented the 2018-2019 Annual Report and gave the 2019 Year in Review as her Executive Director's Report.

Ms. Mjartan recognized new employees, Ms. Valencia Johnson, Mr. Doug Brooks, and Mr. Micah Ely.

Ms. Mjartan thanked board members for their giving in 2019 and noted that as of that day, the board have given approximately \$6,000.

Ms. Mjartan mentioned that she and her staff will be exploring an AmeriCorps grant funded by the United Way Association which would have a focus on school readiness, community outreach and parent engagement.

Ms. Hussey noted that a quorum was present.

Dr. Williams made a motion to approve the October 24, 2019 minutes as written. Ms. Angel Johnson-Brebner provided a second and the motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned by Ms. Hussey at 3:12 p.m.