



Board of Trustees Meeting

April 23, 2020 2 P.M.

<https://zoom.us/j/99394138157?pwd=WWVleE9ZTmZNY0hRVm1DcStaYnlhUT09>

Members Present (18):

Dave Morley, Chair
Julie Hussey, Vice Chair
Senator Greg Hembree
Representative Rita Allison
Dr. Shelley Canright
Dr. David Mathis
Walter Fleming Jr.
Tim Holt
Mike Leach
Roger Pryor Jr.
Mary Lynne Diggs
Angel Johnson-Brebner

Sue Williams
Mary Poole
David Mathis
Dr. Amy Williams
Alexia Newman
Jennifer McConnell

Members Absent (4):

Senator Gerald Malloy
Josh Baker
Dr. Rick Toomey
Representative Jerry Govan

Others Present (49):

Georgia Mjartan
Samantha Ingram
Avian Jones
Zack Catoe
Debbie Robertson
Mark Barnes
Betty Gardiner
Beth Moore
Cassie Barber
Chelsea Richards
Rosemarie West
Sally Cauthen
Crystal Campbell
Amy Breault
Sarah Eargle
Micha Rea
Jon Artz
Betty Washington
Carletta Israel
Cindy Riley
Kathy Sanders
Pierce McNair
Alicia Turner
Angela Pruitt
Janie Quinn
Janice Kilburn

Gina Beebe
Leslie Terry
Herk Huggins
Bridgett Shealy
Lynn Kuykendall
Tierra Thomas
Shayla Pettigrew
Angela Compton
Kate Roach
Samantha Janicki
Michael Gaskin
Albean Hanna
Valencia Johnson
Dione Brabham
Tracy Jackson
Sherry Gilliam
Debra Sanders
Kim Archung
Delores Rock
Alexis Pipkin Sr.
Kristine Jenkins
Dorothy Priester
Felicia Patrick



Call to Order/Quorum Call

Mr. Dave Morley called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

The meeting opened with acknowledgment of Local Partnership Executive Directors being present and thanking them for their continued efforts.

Mr. Morley acknowledged that meeting minutes could not be moved to the consent agenda because they were not approved by a committee. Dr. Shelley Canright asked for a motion to approve the February 20, 2020 meeting minutes. Ms. Jennifer McConnell provided a second and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Morley allowed for an opportunity for public comment. No members of the public who were present requested to speak.

Mr. Morley presented on the Executive Committee.

Mr. Morley congratulated Mr. Michael Leach on the \$11 million Preschool Development Grant that South Carolina was awarded and acknowledged that these funds will allow SC First Steps to fully implement the Zero to Three Strategy.

Mr. Morley thanked Dr. David Mathis for his work in securing the State Longitudinal Data System grant that will allow SC First Steps to track the impact of early childhood efforts.

Mr. Morley stated the Executive Committee discusses COVID-19 Responses, the Strategic Plan, and the state of daycare systems in the state both during lockdown and coming out of lockdown.

Mr. Morley moved on to the consent agenda items. They were unanimously approved.

Ms. Mjartan thanked the SC First steps staff and reported on the entire staff not having to utilize the emergency leave provisions that were provided by state government, thus allowing families to continue to be served.

Ms. Mjartan reported that all Local Partnerships have remained open and are serving their communities.

Ms. Mjartan reported that SC First Steps has physically closed their state office and that local partnerships are practicing social distancing while continuing to serve families that they visit through phone and videoconferencing.

Ms. Mjartan reminded the board about the Start with A Book campaign. The funds raised from the campaign will be used to setup \$1,000 grants for each of the local partnerships to purchase books that will be shipped directly to their local communities and delivered to families who are at home with children during the COVID crisis.

Ms. Mjartan discussed the support that Parent Educators are now providing support to all families to help reduce stress, trauma, and potential neglect and abuse.

Ms. Mjartan thanked DSS for their role in supporting child-care throughout this pandemic.

Ms. Mjartan stated that SC First Steps has continued to pay their 4K providers regardless if they remained opened or decided to close.



Mr. Leach stated that Phase One of the \$63 million that was provided will be used to fund childcare assistance for parents that are working at essential businesses. Phase Two will be guided towards ongoing cleaning and sanitation of childcare facilities. Phase Three will be thought through as to how to provide larger grants to facilities to deal with financial instability at this time.

Mr. Roger Pryor discussed the cash flow issues that centers are currently facing and will be facing when they do decide to reopen.

Ms. Jennifer McConnell discussed her facility's difficult decision to close, their ability to continue to pay their employees, and that they are providing eLearning materials to their students.

Ms. Mjartan addressed the fact that SC First Steps will begin the fiscal year with flat funding which poses a financial concern for the agency.

Ms. Mjartan discussed the philanthropic and foundation support and the expansion grants that will be awarded to select 4K providers. Ms. Mjartan stated that the AmeriCorps application was formally submitted.

Ms. Mjartan announced the agencies three new team members.

Dr. Amy Williams discussed the Strategic Plan for 2025.

Dr. Williams made a motion to adopt the 2025 SC First Steps Strategic Plan. Ms. Hussey provided a second. Dr. Canright raised a question in which Dr. Williams, Ms. Mjartan, and Ms. Richards provided an answer.

Mr. Morley received a unanimous vote to adopt the 2025 Strategic Plan.

Dr. Williams made a motion to adopt the 2020-2025 Overarching Measures of Success. Ms. Hussey provided a second. Mr. Tim Holt raised a question in which Dr. Williams provided an answer.

Mr. Morley received a unanimous vote to adopt the 2020-2025 Overarching Measures of Success. Mr. Morley thanked the committee for their work on both projects.

Ms. McConnell deferred the Local Partnership committee reporting to Ms. Robertson. Ms. Robertson provided the committee's report and thanked the committee.

Mr. Fleming deferred the Finance Administration committee reporting to Mr. Barnes. Mr. Barnes reported on the FY2020 Financial Status Report. Mr. Barnes discussed a possible delay in funding for the remainder of the fiscal year due to the current state of affairs. Mr. Morley asked a question and Mr. Barnes provided an answer.

Ms. Hussey followed up with a comment about the agency's ability to carryforward.

Sen. Hembree also discussed the agency's ability to carryforward along with projections of the General Assembly's decision on rewriting the state's budget in the upcoming fall.

Rep. Allison discussed the House's decision on carryforward finances and the budget.

Rep. Allison thanked SC First Steps for moving forward with the initiative to support charter schools.



Sen. Hembree provided a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Hussey provided a second and the motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned by Mr. Morley.