



Greenville First Steps

Board of Directors Meeting

December 11, 2015 12:00pm

Minutes

Board Members Present: Keith Frazier, Gina Blohm, Stacy Burr, Julie Hartman, Susan Kear, Stephanie Knobel, Wade Kolb, Grady Patterson, Stacey Peek, Nancy Powers, Melissa Roper, Karen Sparkman, Melissa Starker, Tricia Surles, Danny Varat

Staff Present: Derek Lewis, Beth Jamieson, Anne Lee Buck, Leslie Latimer

Visitors Present: Joe Waters and Keller Ann Ruble from Institute for Child Success

1. Welcome Keith Frazier
2. Approve Minutes from October meeting Keith Frazier

Motion by Danny Varat
Second by Nancy Powers
Approved unanimously

3. Approve new Board Member Keith Frazier

Anna Hall, nominated by Stephanie Knobel

Anna Hall is an assistant Professor of Early Childhood Education in the Eugene T. Moore School of Education at Clemson University. Her scholarship focuses on examining the writing attitudes of teachers and students and developing and adapting instructional strategies in writing for young children. In teaching undergraduate and graduate students, she models constructivist strategies and challenges students to design instruction that is meaningful and authentic to young children. She believes in forming partnerships within her own community as well as the educational community at large to improve the writing lives of young children.

Motion by Stephanie Knobel
Second by Karen Sparkman
Approved unanimously

4. Shared Services Joe Waters (ICS) and Derek Lewis

Presenting findings from Institute for Child Success, survey of 275 childcare providers and a recommended motion from staff: **\$130,000 in unrestricted private funds for FY16**

Motion by Keith Frazier
Second by Grady Patterson

Approved unanimously

5. Education Oversight Committee Grant

Derek Lewis

Greenville County School district, in partnership with Greenville First Steps, the United Way of Greenville County and Institute for Child Success prepared and submitted a grant application to the SC Education Oversight Committee. This grant seeks funding to strengthen a more coordinated early care system with an emphasis on building stronger relationships between private/nonprofit childcare providers and the school district. The proposal included community awareness, professional development for childcare workers and an online Early Childhood Observational Checklist. Greenville First Steps provided a letter of support and a commitment to provide in-kind resources including staff time and materials. There was also a commitment that Greenville First Steps Board of Directors would help serve as the advisory team for the grant if awarded and explore ways to sustain project once grant has ended. The grant was submitted in December and we hope to hear something by March.

6. Other Business

Staff

Attachment A

7. Adjourn

Keith Frazier

Next Meeting is February 12, 2015 at 1pm at the Greenville Chamber

Meeting adjourned at 1:30pm



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Attachment A: Other Business

1. Program Evaluation and Follow-up
 - Following board discussions, GFS implemented evaluation for program standards and effectiveness
 - Contracted with a researcher to develop post test evaluations of:
 - Countdown to Kindergarten
 - BabySteps
 - Community Engagement
 - Childcare Trainings
 - Childcare Scholarships
 - Faith-Based Roundtables
 - Pre and Post tests have been developed (and some pre-tests have already been conducted)
 - Follow up of Countdown to Kindergarten program is ongoing
2. Read Greenville
 - Book Giveaway with First Book and TD Bank
 - Reached over 15,000 children
 - 150 attended Press Conference
 - 50 organizations received books
 - 30,000 books distributed in 4 days (20,000 in Greenville County)
3. SC First Steps Staff Changes
 - Susan DeVenny is leaving SC First Steps to assume the presidency of the Lancaster J. Marion Simms Foundation
 - The SC First Steps board has announced that Julia-Ellen Davis has been appointed Interim Executive Director of the SC First Steps office. Ms. Davis was a member of the SCFS Board and was a member of the Charleston First Steps board prior to that
4. "How are YOU a Superhero for Children?" December Greenville Journal Insert
 - Published in the December 11 Greenville Journal-38,000 homes
 - 2,000 overruns distributed to low income families through partner agencies
 - If you want copies for your organization, let Beth know.
5. www.ICan.sc
 - SC First Steps awareness campaign
 - Profile of the Ready Kindergartener
 - Be on the lookout for I CAN information coming your way