

Greenville First Steps board meeting: January 8, 2021

Members present: Jeremy Watts, Lauren Briles, Karen Andrews, JoKeitha Seabrook, Eric Hassman, Grady Patterson, Cal Hurst, Jonathan Cote, Cynthia Sosebee, Stacy Burr, Gina Blohm, Stacie Stegall, Jennifer , Dee Dee Washington, Rhonda, Hipp, Jennifer James, Guests: Janice Kilburn, Kelly Byers

Approval of October Minutes (Dropbox folder- Oct 2020 minutes). Minutes presented, motion to approve by Eric Hassman, Second JoKeitha Seabrook. Motion carried

December Annual Meeting: Greenville First Steps Virtual Cook-along. Beth provided an update on the December Annual Meeting, which was a virtual cook-along. The event was sponsored by Metro By T-mobile, Connect for Good (Euphoria) with special thanks to Sobys and Table 301.

CARES ACT update (Dropbox folder- CARES Final report DL 1.7)

Derek provided a final update on the \$4.1 million in CARES ACT funding that was committed to supporting the childcare sector. In April 2020, 105 of the 220 Greenville county childcare providers were closed (and approximately half said they lacked the resources to re-open). Thanks to a partnership with Greenville County, Greenville First Steps and the local childcare community, \$4.1 million was allocated to provide direct financial support to providers (\$2.2m), financial assistance for childcare supports for essential workers (\$900K), and access to PPE and equipment and enrichment programming (\$900K). As a result of these investments, in December 2020, 97 Greenville County providers had re-opened, and the sector had served 9,300 children. Full report is attached below

This was presented for information only, and no action was taken

Greenville First Steps Endowed Fund

Derek provided an update on the Greenville First Steps Endowed Fund. SC First Steps Board unanimously approved the partnership between Greenville First Steps and Wells Fargo to establish an endowed fund. The plan will be to establish a fund with \$400,000 in Greenville First Steps funds, and then work in three phases to secure matching funds from the community.

Phase 1: Cultivation of gifts from current and former Greenville First Steps board members. Projected goal of \$220,000. Phase will run Dec 1 2020 to March 2021

Phase 2: Cultivation of gifts from foundations, grants, and larger community stakeholders. Projected goal of \$200,000. Phase will run March 2021 to Sept 2021.

Phase 3: Broader community outreach efforts. Projected goal of \$200,000. Phase will run Sept 2021 to February 2022

Kelly Byers has agreed to come on in a contract capacity to assist with Phase 1: Cultivation of gifts from current and former board members. Kelly shared the fund giving levels we are seeking, and we will be in touch with each board member to see if they can help make a pledge, and to assist with soliciting pledges from other potential givers.

This includes a recommended board action to take \$400,000 from our Fund 20 fund balance to seed the Greenville First Steps endowed fund. This motion was made by Eric Hassman with a second from Jeremy Watts. Motion carried unanimously.

Election of 2021 officers

The board elected the following 2021 officers and board members.

Jeremy Watts- Chair

Eric Hassman- Vice Chair

DeeDee Washington, Karen Andrews, Grady Patterson, Jeremy Watts, Eric Hassman- Executive committee

Lauren Briles: Ex-officio member

Also to accept the following appointments and board renewals

Jeremy Watts: Second term

Jonathan Cote: Legislative appointee

Karen Andrews/Tiffany Whitney: GCS appointees

Motion was made by Karen Andrews and a second by Stacy Burr. Motion carried.

Approval of 2021-2024 Strategic Plan (Dropbox folder: Greenville first Steps strategic plan)

Beth presented a final draft of the 2021-2024 Strategic plan, and the emphasis areas. Final plan is attached. Motion to approve by Grady Patterson and second by Eric hassman. Motion carried.

Executive Session: Personnel matters

The board went into executive session to discuss personnel matters, namely to receive an update. No action was taken.

Motion to Adjourn: Stacy Burr, Second by Grady Patterson. Motion carried