

Greenville First Steps Board meeting minutes: January 28, 2022

Members present: Jeremy Watts, Jane Yates, Deb Vanderveer, Stacy Burr, Stacie Stegall, Jonathan Cote, Amy Fowlkes, Vonda Paul, Eric Hassman, Kelly Byers, JoKeitha Seabrook, Cynthia Sosebee, DeeDee Washington, Susan Stevens, Gina Blohm, Travis Wharton  
Others present: Janice Kilburn, Nicole Sheppard, Derek Lewis, Beth Jamieson

Welcome: Jeremy welcomed everyone. Special welcome to LaVonda Paul, owner Small Impressions Child Development Center, and Jane Yates, DHEC appointee (who joined the board for their first meeting) and also welcome back to Kelly Byers is returning to the board.

**Approval of December 2021 minutes** – minutes were sent out ahead of time. Motion by Eric Hassman, Second by Kelly Byers. The board voted to Approve 2021 minutes.

**Endowed Fund Update:**

Derek gave an update on the Endowed Fund, including a celebration that \$8,800 that was collected over December- including 25 New donors! We currently have a Private fund balance of \$906,956 (including \$490,000 that has been moved to the Greenville First Steps Endowed fund, \$120,000 that is assigned to FY21 operating budget, and \$264,000 that is currently unassigned. Staff recommended move of \$80,000 from our Unassigned Fund Balance to our endowed Fund. (Leaving \$180,000 in unassigned fund balance for current and future emergency expenses).

Motion: To move \$80,000 from Unassigned Fund Balance to Endowed Fund. Made by DeeDee Washington and second by JoKeitha Seabrook. Motion carried

**Triple P Greenville: Nicole** gave an update on the Triple P (Positive Parenting Program) including an overview of program structure, deliverables, PR campaign, and the role of the County Partnership staff in implementing and expanding the program. Also staff celebrated that the Duke Endowment has committed an additional 1 year of funding (at \$334,500) with a likely additional year of funding (also at \$334,500), which would carry our current funding of program through December 2024. No action was taken.

**Dolly Parton's Imagination Library:** Beth provided an update on DPIL and progress to date. Currently program has 389 children enrolled (Nov 2021 to Dec 2022), with a year end goal of 400 clients well within reach. Most success in enrollment is in Travelers Rest Community. Board members can help by sharing link of program enrollment site and spreading the word.

Staff also encourages families from outside the three priority zip codes to register, as their registration is held on a wait list and could help drive future growth of program by demonstrating need.

**Smoak PR: Beth** provided an update on the success we are having with our outreach/communication efforts. Smoak PR is coordinating our social media, as well as the design and distribution of our monthly mailers (which are used to promote programs and services available for families).

**Community Conversations: Derek** led a discussion is to provide opportunities for Board members to provide input on which topics we want to target for community conversations (the Discussions we plan to hold during the months when we don't have a board meeting).

Board members provided input but no vote was held. Themes that were repeatedly offered:

- Early Childhood and the Arts (Music, Drama, visual arts)
- Early Childhood workforce challenges
- Childcare Deserts
- Trends in Early Childhood
- Early Literacy

The board members also expressed interest in First Steps social opportunities, Staff will work to develop a proposed programming plan to include a few conversations (likely one in Spring and one in Fall)

**FY23 Budget Timeline:** Derek presented a budget timeline.

Next meeting: March 4 1:00PM