



Commission Meeting
Thursday, March 24, 2022
8:30-10:30 a.m. via Zoom
Minutes

Present:

Co-Chair Kate Pew Wolters, Lynne Ferrell, Claire Guisfredi, Robert Herr, Dr. Hanna Jaworski, Dr. Juan Olivarez, Kelsey Perdue, Anthony Queen, Michelle Van Dyke, Beca Velazquez-Publes, Carl Ver Beek, Joslyn O. Ward, and Sean Welsh.

Absent:

Amanda Barbour, Lew Chamberlin, Kristina Donaldson, Howard Earle, Melinda Johnson, Ron Koehler, and Milt Rohwer.

Staff:

Annemarie Valdez, Heather Boswell, Cati Cortes, Shelby French, Evan Hile, Kyle Johnson, Megan Streng, Kristen Sobolewski, Christine Timbol-Larson, Daniel VanderMolen, and Jill B. Salisbury who recorded the minutes.

Guests:

Paul Petr, Kent County Administration Staff

Welcome:

Kate Pew Wolters welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Introductions were given.

Consent agenda:

Kate Pew Wolters asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda, including the minutes from the January 27, 2022, meeting.

Motion: Michelle Van Dyke

Support: Lynne Ferrell

Unanimous

Public Comment:

No public comment.

Investing Early:

○ **Finance Report:**

Treasurer Bob Herr presented the February FSK and Ready by Five financials.

Motion to approve the financial report: Carl Ver Beek

Support: Sean Welsh
Unanimous

Equity & Inclusion:

○ **Equity Talks Video Series:**

FSK continues to partner with Grand Valley State University, Calvin University, Aquinas College, and Grand Rapids Community College on this series. The videos have been tested in the classrooms with positive feedback. The second phase of filming is March 25. Topics this time are: How to talk to kids about race/anti-bias education, Different abilities and fairness, and Representation in the media. In August, FSK will launch the series in combination with the Center for the Study of Social Policy's national early childhood network which is coming to Kent County. This is a network representing 14 communities. You can view the Equity Talks videos [here](#).

Accessible Resource for Families:

○ **Communications:**

● **2021 Impact Report:**

Megan Streng and Annemarie Valdez presented the report highlighting 2021 milestones.

- Kelsey Perdue, MLPP, mentioned she is hosting a presentation and panel discussion on March 30 at 1 p.m. on the complexity of the child care crisis. She welcomed fellow commissioners to attend: Register here: <https://bit.ly/3w95cbH>.
- Annemarie shared that the W.K. Kellogg Foundation asked FSK to apply for a renewal of its three-year grant focused on Shared Services.
- Normal is Never Enough Campaign: April is the week/month of the Young Child. Community members are encouraged to sign a pledge and share awareness around early childhood. You can sign the pledge [here](#).
- Kent County Annual Report: This report will be sent to the County on April 1. It focuses on high-level numbers and details related to the Ready by Five Early Childhood Millage. Staff will present on the Report at the May Board meeting.
- The Board gave kudos to Staff about the Impact Report and encouraged one another to talk about the return on investment when championing this information to the community.

Systems Foundations:

○ **Nominating/Governance Committee Update:**

Kate Pew Wolters explained that the Nomination Committee would like to add a new Board member. Gail Montgomery, CFO of Heart of West Michigan United Way, and a member of the FSK Finance Committee, will be a successor for Bob Herr in the role of Treasurer/Secretary. She will begin serving immediately.

Motion to add Gail Montgomery to the Board: Robert Herr

Support: Juan Olivarez

Unanimous:

Kate Pew Wolters said the Committee is looking to add a Human Resources person to the Board with the intention of adding a Human Resources Committee in the future. The Committee welcomes any names of candidates.

The Committee will be sending a Board survey soon to determine areas members would like to serve and whether they would like to be on a Ready by Five Millage Renewal Committee in preparation for the renewal in 2024.

- **DEI Board Task Force:**

The Task Force met with the Staff Equity Team for the first time on March 23. Lynne Ferrell reported that equity is everyone's job. Task Force members are: Kate Pew Wolters, Lynne Ferrell, Dr. Juan Olivarez, Beca Velazquez-Publes, and Anthony Queen.

- **President Transition:**

Kate Pew Wolters announced the resignation of President Annemarie T. Valdez. A search committee has been formed. Members are: Dr. Juan Olivarez, chair, Kate Pew Wolters, Lynne Ferrell, Anthony Queen, Paul Petr, Maureen Kirkwood, and Amy Turner Thole. Juan Olivarez gave an update on the process. Annemarie Valdez's last day is May 6.

Executive Session & Adjournment:

Co-Chair Kate Pew Wolters called for the Commission to go into executive session at 9:35 a.m.

Next Commission Meeting:

Thursday, May 26, 2022

8:30-10:30 a.m.

Location: TBD – In-person with hybrid was discussed