



Board of Commissioners Meeting

Zoom

Thursday, March 27, 2025

8:30-10:30 a.m.

Minutes

Present: Co-Chair Kate Pew Wolters, Ron Gorman, Sean Welsh, Josh Sayles, Melinda Johnson, Flora Ma, Claudia Jones, Randy Thelen, Taniah Ingrahm, Leah Atkins, Kelsey Perdue, Michelle Van Dyke, Kelsey Perdue, Kevin Clay

Absent: Howard Earle, Hanna Jaworski, Krashawn Martin, Michelle Van Dyke, Carl Ver Beek, Howard C. Earle Jr., Lew Chamberlin, Emily Cantor, Amanda Barbour, Guillermo Cisneros, Ron Koehler, Milt Rohwer,

Guests: N/A

Staff: Daniel VanderMolen, Kiana Zaderej, Kristen Sobelewski, Megan Streng, Cati Cortes, Amy Turner-Thole, Carter Goldstein

Welcome:

Kate Pew Wolters called the meeting to order at
Meeting began at 8:33 a.m.

Mainspring:

Clarivel Martinez-Gross – Tata’s Daycare; Kristen presented on Mainspring individuals who received awards and sit on parent advisory for the Early Care alliance.

Consent agenda:

Kate Pew Wolters asked for a motion to adopt and approve the consent agenda, including the minutes from the January 23, 2025 board meeting.

Motion to adopt and approve the consent agenda:

Support:

Motion: In accordance with the bylaws of First Steps Kent, the approval of the minutes from January 23, 2025 meeting and the financial reports for February 2025 were conducted electronically via email. As of April 1, 2025, board members gave unanimous approval of the minutes and financials. These approvals are hereby recorded as official actions of the board.

Public Comment:

No public comment.

Strategy:

- Kristen Rosinky presents child trends regarding early childhood funding Kent County including a Q&A.
- Board members asked several questions relative to problem solving and funding security ongoing.

Treasurer' Report:

- February Report from Josh Sayles. First Steps has had a quiet first few months of the year. Budget to actual is a little shortfall due to delay in recent grant and mostly due to timing but overall on track. Received updated administration amount from the county from 5.7% to 7% and there are now offsets each month. Great outlook over all moving forward.
- Audits – Great feedback from Rehman including summary of opinion. Audited financial statements reflect balance sheet remains strong and positive funds remaining at the end of the year. Audit results are consolidated to FSK and RB5 together.

Motion to approve:

Support:

Motion: In accordance with the bylaws of First Steps Kent, the approval of the minutes from January 23, 2025 meeting and the financial reports for February 2025 were conducted electronically via email. As of April 1, 2025, board members gave unanimous approval of the minutes and financials. These approvals are hereby recorded as official actions of the board.

Parent update:

- Daniel VanderMolen gave update on parent involvement for First Steps Kent and individual pillars of FSK. Parents continue to inform the work and FSK relies on their expertise on their ongoing needs.
- Parent update
 - Applications for ERH and EL reviewed and looking for individuals who have experience in early childhood services; 11 parents total. There were several strong applicants and it proved difficult to choose, which is positive.

Systems Foundations:

- **Nominating Committee**
 - No updates – looking for a new committee member
- **President's Update** – N/A
- **Adjournment & Executive Session** - Kate Pew Wolters ended the meeting at 9:17 a.m.

Next Commission Meetings:

May 22, 2025