



## Board of Commissioners Meeting

Zoom

Thursday, May 22, 2025

8:30-10:30 a.m.

Minutes

**Present:** Co-Chair Kate Pew Wolters, Josh Sayles, Taniah Ingrahm, Leah Atkins, Guillermo Cisneros, Lew Chamberlin, Howard Earle, Hanna Jaworski, Melinda Johnson

**Absent:** Krashawn Martin, Michelle Van Dyke, Carl Ver Beek, Howard C. Earle Jr., Lew Chamberlin, Emily Cantor, Amanda Barbour, Ron Koehler, Milt Rohwer, Ron Gorman, Sean Welsh, Flora Ma, Randy Thelen, Kelsey Perdue, Michelle Van Dyke, Kevin Clay

**Guests:** Kiel McQueen, Liv Rau, Emmy O’Dwyer

**Staff:** Daniel VanderMolen, Kiana Zaderej, Kristen Sobelewski, Megan Streng, Cati Cortes, Stephanie McKendry, Jasper Tinoco

### Welcome:

Kate Pew Wolters called the meeting to order at  
*Meeting began at 8:35 a.m.*

### Consent agenda:

Kate Pew Wolters asked for a motion to adopt and approve the consent agenda, including the minutes from the March 27, 2025 board meeting.

Motion to adopt and approve the consent agenda:

Support:

Motion:

### Success Stories:

Jennifer and Anthony McQueen presented on Rapid Celebration for the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

### 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:

- March financials – No callouts on balance, revenue is two underbudget from grant that was budgeted for 300K and we have only gotten 100K thus far. This is allocated over the course of 3 years. 100K per year. Cashflow remains strong for FSK.
- Ready by Five – Balance sheet remains very consistent. Spend for RB5 will come in around 100% which is ideal considering spend is usually around 91%.
- 990 – Tax form submitted as a 501c3 – use of accounting firm to double check, no questions or concerns.
- Financials need approval by board. They will receive email.

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.

## Education:

- **Basis Presentation**
- **Questions facilitated by FSK for Board member brainstorming**
  1. What do you notice within the Ready by Five outcome data for Kent County?
    - a. Hard decisions that are going to come from RPRB for selection of services and wondering how much of an understanding members have with existing services and if there are places with providers that need to improve. Interested in RPRB feedback for parents who sit on the board.
    - b. Impressed with unique identifiers – how was it done, what are they, and how can they be used? Data from KCHD is identifiable but deidentified when coming to Basis, to link to K-readiness, the fields used are Child First Name, Last Name, Gender Identity, and DOB.
    - c. Will they be used to continue to follow up with children? Yes, the reason they can is because the Health Department works with the ISD, and the ISD has all the identifiable data for the kids. There will be a linkage from year to year.
    - d. What other indicators are we using aside from participation?
    - e. Meeting parents where they are including drs offices, schools, grocery stores.
  2. What questions feel unanswered when you think about Healthy Development & Kindergarten Readiness data?
  3. What are some additional strategies for collecting quantitative or qualitative data from Ready by Five providers?
    - a. Create closed groups on Facebook or social media, and providers capture information on Facebook. Ask individuals in a closed group to respond to closed questions.

## 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.
- Would be nice to incorporate more brand recognition. – These are the 2025 recipients of funds, social media post and big announcement.
- Parent update:

- Update regarding a new Alto center with slots available for childcare.
- Parents are looking for summer activities to keep their children busy.

**Systems Foundations:**

- **Nominating Committee**
  - No updates – looking for a new committee member
  
- **President's Update** – Looking at having an educational component for the board moving forward. Board members liked educational portion, and wanted more information on agenda, and additional activities.
  
- **Adjournment & Executive Session** - Kate Pew Wolters ended the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

**Next Commission Meetings:**

**June 17, 2025**