



Commission Meeting
Friday, November 20, 2020
8:30-10:30 a.m. via Zoom
Minutes

Present:

Co-Chair Kate Pew Wolters, Co-Chair Lew Chamberlain, Treasurer Bob Herr, Milt Rohwer, Claire Guisfredi, Sean Welsh, Maureen Hale, Michelle Van Dyke, Kelsey Perdue, Melinda Johnson, Juan Olivarez, Sue Jandernoa, Lynne Ferrell, Carl Ver Beek, Ron Caniff, and Julie Ridenour.

Absent:

Kristina Donaldson and Amanda Barbour

Staff:

Annemarie Valdez, Heather Boswell, Megan Streng, Shelby French, and Jill B. Salisbury who recorded the minutes.

Welcome:

Kate Pew Wolters called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

She welcomed everyone including two new Board members: Claire Guisfredi, Executive Director of North Kent Connect and Kelsey Perdue, Project Manager at Kids Count, Michigan League for Public Policy.

Consent agenda:

Kate Pew Wolters asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda, including the minutes from the September 24, 2020 meeting.

Motion: Michelle Van Dyke

Support: Melinda Johnson

Unanimous

Public Comment:

No public comment

Finance Report:

Treasurer Bob Herr reviewed and presented:

- FSK's September financials and the Ready by Five Early Childhood Millage September financials. Bob noted that the last Finance Committee Meeting was October 25.
Motion: Milt Rohwer
Support: Carl Ver Beek
Unanimous
- 2019-2020 Audit Update

Bob reported that the Audit is scheduled for the week of November 23. He expects to have the results by the January 28 Board meeting.

Circle of Care/Shannon Cohen Event – December 2

FSK has a three-year Wege Foundation grant that is being used for our commitment to Equity and Inclusion. Annemarie Valdez reminded the Board that they are invited to join Staff on December 2 for a one-hour Zoom meeting with consultant Shannon Cohen. Annemarie provided a review of FSK's equity and inclusion work up to this point.

Nominating Committee:

Committee Chair Melinda Johnson explained that the Committee is working on adding structure and refreshing the bylaws, including forming a workgroup for the bylaws. Varnum Law has also been helping with the bylaws. The Committee has grouped current Board members with terms ending either, 2021, 2022, or 2023. Please let Melinda or Staff know if your terms are not correct or if you have any questions. The Committee is suggesting the maximum years one can serve is three, three-year terms. The goal for total Board membership is between 20 and 22 members. The Committee has decided they would like to reserve one seat on the Board for the Kent ISD Superintendent and a seat or two for parents. In January, the Committee will bring another two new Board member names for recommendation. Kate thanked everyone for their nominees and encouraged everyone to keep adding to the list.

Ready by Five Early Childhood Millage Allocations:

Heather Boswell explained there were four Requests for Proposals for this round of funding. Categories included:

- Outreach & Navigation
- Healthy Development; specifically, programs to support healthy birth outcomes and programs that can use a social distancing component due to COVID-19.
- One organization to lead the Fetal Infant Mortality Review Network (FIMR).
- Interpretation & Translation Services

Dr. Juan Olivarez who chairs the Resident Proposal Review Board gave a summary of this round of funding. The Resident Proposal Review Board consists of: FSK, Kent County Administrator's Office, four community parents, an early childhood expert, and two Kent County Commissioners.

Dr. Olivarez thanked Staff for their attention to detail throughout the whole process. The process involved pre-work, including an orientation and then two and a half days of meetings held virtually. He really appreciated the parent perspective of this Board. He noted that consensus was reached on all the proposals. The proposals are approved by FSK Commission first, then they need to be approved by the Kent County Commission.

Juan Olivarez moved to approve the 12 recommended organizations for Ready by Five Early Childhood Millage funding allocation for two years.

Motion: Juan Olivarez

Support: Milt Rohwer

Unanimous

Carl Ver Beek abstained due to a conflict of interest. He serves on Health Net of West Michigan's Board.

Juan Olivarez moved to expend these allocations, and the others from previous rounds of funding, that are slated for the FY 2020-2021 budget, in the total amount of \$7,036,777.87

Motion: Juan Olivarez

Support: Michelle Van Dyke

Unanimous

Ron Caniff abstained due to a conflict of interest. Kent ISD is currently receiving Ready by Five Early Childhood Millage funding.

These recommendations now go through the process of being approved by the Kent County Commission in December.

Annemarie Valdez provided background and updates on the following:

- **Shared Services:**

FSK received a grant from W.K. Kellogg Foundation to implement a three-year Shared Services pilot project. When the COVID pandemic hit in March, child care providers were impacted. Some closed temporarily while some closed permanently. FSK, with its community partners, have been supporting child care providers with back office support and cleaning and food supplies so that they can remain open. We appreciate all our community partners who have helped with distributions and support. Kent County awarded FSK a \$450,000 grant to continue to support child care providers. This money needs to be spent by December 30, 2020. Before the pandemic, there were 600 licensed child care providers open in Kent County. That number dropped to 200 during the pandemic and now there are currently 407 child care providers open. Once the urgency and crisis component of the pandemic has calmed, FSK and its partners will look to more policy and advocacy efforts. There needs to be work done around subsidies and the amount of subsidies so that child care providers, who are essential workers, can remain open and help re-design the system so that it works better for them and the parents and children they serve.

- **Communications:**

- 2019-2020 Impact Report – A report was produced and distributed this month. Annemarie gave special thanks to Megan Streng, Amy Turner-Thole, and Steve Faber, our Communications team.
- Finding Common Purpose is a project Andrew Wolk approached FSK about because he was intrigued by the systems level work that is being done in Kent County. Andrew met this week with FSK, Talent 2025, KConnect, and Area Agency on Aging West Michigan who are administrators of the senior millage. He was pleased with Kent County because of the birth to end of life continuum and shared strategies for strengthening that continuum.

- **Grants:**

- FSK was awarded a \$450,000 CARES Act grant from Kent County. All the distributions and support has been free to child care providers because we have learned that child care providers are struggling financially.
 - Recently, \$300 per licensed home provider, \$400 per licensed group provider, and \$500 per licensed center was allocated for easy-to-clean

toys via Discount School Supply. With the new Centers for Disease Control Prevention guidelines for health and safety, child care providers learned that they would need to make changes, including needing more easy-to-clean toys.

- FSK has applied for \$40,000 from Spectrum Health, Healthier Communities and should learn more in December if chosen. This money will be used in early 2021 for child care providers.
- FSK has received a three-year, \$350,000, Pritzker Innovation Grant. This grant was originally written for child care, but has been reworked and now also includes FSK's Ready by Five work. State-wide, Pritzker has awarded Michigan a state-level grant. This is a three to five-year project which focuses on ages zero to three. The work is focused on policy and is data driven. A steering committee has been formed and workgroups are currently meeting.

Miscellaneous:

Today is Ron Caniff's last meeting. He is retiring from Kent ISD at the end of December. Kate Pew Wolters thanked Ron for his service. Ron Caniff explained that Ron Koehler is the Kent ISD interim superintendent and that the Michigan Association of School Boards will lead the hiring process. The goal is to hire a new superintendent by Spring 2021 and then this person would be ready to lead by July 1, 2021.

Adjourn:

Meeting closed at 10:05 a.m.

**Next Commission Meeting:
Thursday, January 28, 2021
8:30-10:30 a.m.
via Zoom**