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**Commission Meeting**

**Thursday, July 29, 2021**

**8:30-10:30 a.m. via Zoom**

**Minutes**

**Present:**

Co-Chair Kate Pew Wolters, Treasurer Bob Herr, Amanda Barbour, Pastor Howard Earle Jr., Lynne Ferrell, Claire Guisfredi, Maureen Hale, Sue Jandernoa, Hanna Jaworski, Melinda Johnson, Dr. Juan Olivarez, Kelsey Perdue, Julie Ridenour, Milt Rohwer, Michelle Van Dyke, Carl Ver Beek, and Sean Welsh.

**Absent:** Lew Chamberlin,Kristina Donaldson,Ron Koehler

**Others:** Ashley Karsten,Paul Petr,Amy Turner-Thole

**FSK Staff:**

Annemarie Valdez, Heather Boswell, Kyle Johnson, Christine Timbol Larson, Daniel VanderMolen, Shelby French, and Jill B. Salisbury who recorded the minutes.

**Welcome & Introductions:**

Kate Pew Wolters welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Commissioners popcorned introductions.

**Consent agenda:**

Kate Pew Wolters asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda, including the minutes from the May 27, 2021, meeting.

Motion: Michelle Van Dyke

Support: Pastor Howard Earle Jr.

Unanimous

**Public Comment:**

There was no public comment.

**Equity:**

* **Equity Talks Video Clip:** After watching a brief video clip, Communications Consultant Amy Turner-Thole explained the project. She noted a discussion guide is being written to accompany the videos and it will help facilitate conversations. When asked about an evaluation component, Annemarie explained that the college and universities will be able to incorporate it.
* **“Normal Was Never Enough” Campaign:** With partners, this communications campaign is planned for September 2021. This campaign will provide a better understanding of the challenges, disparities, plus the historical and current context that has led to the disparities. Once developed, the board will be able to share this campaign with their networks. The audience is existing early childhood systems partners.
* **DEI Committee/Task Force:** Kate Pew Wolters shared that Lynne Ferrell, Dr. Juan Olivarez, and she are working with staff to conceptualize this. A planning meeting is scheduled for September, and then they will bring a recommendation to the board at a later date.

**Investing Early:**

* **Finance Report:**
  + **Financials:** Treasurer Bob Herr reviewed and presented FSK’s June 2021 financials and the Ready by Five Early Childhood Millage June 2021 financials. A motion was made to accept the financials as presented.

Motion: Bob Herr

Support: Sue Jandernoa

Unanimous

* + **FSK 2019 Form 990 Tax Return:** Treasurer Bob Herr explained that the Executive Committee and Finance Committee have reviewed the 990. A motion was made to accept it.

Motion: Carl Ver Beek

Support: Julie Ridenour

Unanimous

* + **Line of Credit:** Treasurer Bob Herr made a motion to approve the annual renewing of the $150,000 Mercantile Bank Line of Credit. Designated signatories are President Annemarie Valdez, Co-Chair Lew Chamberlain, and Treasurer Bob Herr with only one signature required.

Motion: Milt Rohwer

Support: Michelle Van Dyke

Unanimous

* **Ready by Five:**
  + **Resident Proposal Review Board FSK Representative:** Kate Pew Wolters announced that Dr. Juan Olivarez has retired from the Johnson Center and the Ready by Five Residential Review Board after serving his two-year term. Kate and the board thanked Juan for his years of service with a motion of gratitude and well wishes.

Motion: Milt Rohwer

Support: Sue Jandernoa

Unanimous

Kate Pew Wolters has agreed to be the chair of the RPRB for one year. There are other board members interested in serving as chair, but the timing of this year was not feasible for them, so Kate has volunteered.

* + **General Update:**
    - **Resident Proposal Review Board:**

RPRB will be reviewing RFPs and making allocations for round four of funding the week of September 20. FSK board will need to approve the recommendations as will the Kent County Commission. This round of funding will have a January 1, 2022, start date. The categories for this round are: Outreach and Navigation, Healthy Development, Early Learning, and Parent Education and Support.

* **Ready by Five Evaluation Update:**

Heather Boswell announced that a contractor has been selected and a contract is being put in place. The work will begin Fall 2021.

* **Millage Funding: -- is there a better heading for this?**

FSK and the County are working on a plan to spend down the Millage funding. One area they are considering is using some of the money to build the infrastructure for child care providers.

**Supportive Policies & Programs:**

* **Shared Services Update:** Annemarie Valdez reported The Kent Shared Services Pilot Project is beginning its third year. FSK has a grant with the W.K. Kellogg Foundation for this pilot. A business plan with a DEI lens is being developed with the help of consultants. FSK has developed a good relationship with Governor Whitmer’s office, Talent 2025, and the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce as a result of the attention being given to child care and the stimulus dollars that are being allocated for the child care industry. Board members reminded that this is just a pipeline for distributing the money. It’s important to continue to use the data and additional dollars to reach the populations where there are gaps in services.

**Systems Foundations:**

* **Nominating/Governance Committee:**
  + **Organizational Values:** Chair Melinda Johnson reported that FSK staff has begun working on values for the organization. They are going to review and further develop them at their staff retreat on September 15. The board will be able to review and comment before September 30.
  + **Board Terms:** The committee continues to work on structuring and staggering terms. At the last committee meeting, it was suggested that the number of parent seats increase from one to four. After discussion, consensus was to strengthen parent voice as it adds credibility. Melinda asked members to continue to think about and send any parent names or other names of candidates who might be willing to serve.

**Other Business:**

* **Kent ISD Update:** Kate Pew Wolters asked Ashley Karsten to give a general update.

Ashley reported that Great Start Readiness Program is receiving $8,700 for a full day student. This is the same amount as K-12 per pupil funding. Salaries are increasing for early childhood professionals. They are not as high as a K-12 teacher/staff, but are improving. The Michigan Department of Education reports that there are 22,000 additional slots for the state of Michigan. Each county will receive allocations soon. Kent ISD is hoping to receive 7,000 new slots. However, building space and staffing is now needed. The Early On program received additional funding for 0-3 children who are presenting delays.

Kate Pew Wolters asked how the board could help. Annemarie Valdez offered assistance with communications and messaging.

**Adjourn:**

The meeting closed at 10 a.m.

**\*\*\* PLEASE NOTE -- Next Commission Meeting Details– see following page.**

**Next Commission Meeting:**

**Thursday, September 30, 2021 -- 8:30 – 10:30 a.m.**

**Location: In-person at Kent ISD / Rogue Room / Parking Lot #11**

**or join via Zoom with this link:**  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84818813770?pwd=K1hzT2JVYXg1M0RlQUFkWm9WajU4Zz09>