



Board of Commissioners Meeting

Hybrid – at Kent ISD & Zoom

Thursday, November 16, 2023

8:30-10:30 a.m.

Minutes

Present: Co-Chair Kate Pew Wolters, Co-Chair Lew Chamberlin, Kevin Clay, Krashawn Martin, Randy Thelen, Hanna Jaworski, Melinda Johnson, Anthony Queen, Howard Earle, Josh Sayles, Kelsey Perdue, Michelle Van Dyke, Joslyn Ward, and Carl Ver Beek

Absent: Ron Koehler, Dr. Juan Olivarez, Amanda Barbour, Claire Guisfredi, Milt Rohwer and Sean Welsh.

Guests: Emmy O’Dwyer, Amy Turner Thole, Jessica White

Staff: Shelby Glover, Megan Streng, Christine Timbol Larson, Daniel VanderMolen, Jennifer Headley-Nordman, Heather Boswell, Kiana Garcia, and Kristen Sobolewski

Welcome:

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

Consent agenda:

Kate Pew Wolters asked for a motion to adopt and approve the consent agenda, including the minutes from the the September 28, 2023 meeting.

Motion to adopt and approve the consent agenda: Randy Thelen

Support: Melinda Johnson

Motion Passed

Public Comment:

None today.

Equity:

Board Norms Presentation: Emmy O’Dwyer walked through group norms for the FSK Board. This is a living document. Creating a power-neutral type of environment. Annual practice of looking through them again. Emmy gave options for using the norms. These should be included in the board onboarding process. She went over ways we could change the board structure.

Investing Early:

- **Treasurer’s Report**

September Financials:

Josh Sayles presented the September First Steps Kent and Ready by Five financials.

Motion to approve as presented: Michelle Vandyke

Support: Carl Ver Beek

Motion Passed

- **Grants Update**

- Jennifer: Pending/LOIs in process – Meijer, WalMart, Consumer’s, Children’s Funding Project, Max & Victoria Dreyfus Foundation, Dr. Scholl Foundation, Max and Marjorie Fisher Foundation, Jack and Lija Romence Foundation.
- Partnering with Igneous Consulting, reconnect with previous funders and ask new funders.

- **Ready by Five Millage Update**

Amy from the Ready by Five Steering Committee came to present on how we have been performing this millage, and how the process of the renewal is going. There was good conversation about the process.

- **Ready by Five Reallocation Update**

- Heather gave an allocation update due to the dissolution of ELNC. First Steps Kent convened partners to get a full idea of the landscape. An RFP will be released to the public for how the millage dollars should be reallocated. Will go through the RPRB, FSK Board, and KC Board.

Accessible Resources for Families:

- Parent Leader Update – Anthony interviewed by the New York Times about the child tax credit. Parents always want what’s best for their parents. How messaging can affect parents, talked about legislation. Parent voice is very important. Lack of not using the faith based communities. Talking to the communications director. Communication moves at the speed of trust. Bezos Family Foundation have decided to back the ELN that Anthony is a part of.

Supportive Policies and Programs:

- Mainspring Child Care Presentation – Kristen explained an overview of the early childhood education and care field/profession.

Systems Foundations:

- Carl Ver Beek and Dr. Juan Oliverez are retiring from his board commitment
- Nominating committee - The nominating committee and chair Melinda Johnson brought forward three new members for consideration – Guillermo Cisneros, Hispanic Center, Parent Leaders; Leah Adkins, and Flora Ma.
 - Move to accept Guillermo Cisneros, Leah Adkins, and Flora Ma to the board: Melinda Johnson
 - Motion: Passed via email vote.

General:

- **Adjournment & Executive Session** - Kate Pew Wolters ended the meeting at 10:29 a.m.

Next Commission Meetings:

Thursday, January