

South Carolina Association of Early Care and Education
Board Meeting
Tuesday, April 18, 2017
10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Haynesworth Sinkler and Boyd
22nd Floor Conference Rooms 1A&B

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the South Carolina Association of Early Care and Education was held on Tuesday, April 18, 2017. Those members present were: Tricia Sheldon, Ed Brashier, Carolyn Watt and Tami Nix. Participating by conference call was Amber Bishop, Nancy Pryor, Marsha Davis and Margaret Anne Gaffney. Present from the staff was Courtney Waldrup and Melanie DuBois.

Call to Order: President Amber Bishop called the meeting to order and stated a quorum was established.

Minutes: There was a motion to accept the March 23rd minutes as presented. The motion was seconded and passed without any opposition.

Management Report: Waldrup state the management report was distributed within the packet. Correction to the paid members' report: Tricia Sheldon with LaPetite Academy paid \$3,500.00 in dues.

2017 Leadership Conference: Nix stated that the tentative dates for the conference would be October or November. She has been talking to Jessica Flowers of Conscious Discipline about speaking at the event that historically has been for center owners and directors.

2018 Annual Conference: Waldrup stated that the Medallion Center is available and on hold for the dates of February 3 and February 10, 2018. There was discussion about making sure there were no conflicts with other conferences, specifically: 1) Richland County First Steps or 2) SCECA. Management was asked to secure the Medallion Center with a Letter of Intent once the dates have been investigated. Bishop volunteered to serve as Conference Chair and Sheldon agreed to assist. Sheldon will e-mail Kathy Kovacs regarding ABC scholarships for this event. DuBois later learned that the SCECA conference is January 25-27, 2018 in Myrtle Beach, SC. Bishop has been in touch with national speaker, Jennifer Stanchfield, of Experimental Tools regarding potentially being the 2018 keynote speaker.

Mara Dunkin Resignation: Waldrup stated we received an e-mail for the resignation of Dunkin as Vice President. The resignation comes in the form of a motion. There was a second to the motion. Discussion followed. It would be an advantage to keep Dunkin on the Board for the rest of this fiscal year in order that she may serve next year in a Director capacity. We want to offer compassion while she is taking care of her business. There was a motion to accept Dunkin's resignation and a second, but the motion failed.

Financial Report: Waldrup reported on the financials as of March 31, 2017. Nix of Archway Academy has agreed to contribute \$2,500.00 per month from April to July 2017 towards the legislative fund. It was stated that Erickson may give a contribution to the legislative fund either this year or next year. The anticipated Management fee was discussed and it was determined that we would end the year with a possible slight surplus. Membership renewal was discussed.

Newsletter: It was suggested that a draft of the Spring/Summer Newsletter be started now in order that it would be ready to go out with dues notices. Ideas were exchanged regarding content: 1) Save the Date for the conferences, 2) Legislative Report from Sheldon, 3) Article on SC being Ranked in the top states for Early Care, 4) How to follow SCAECE on Facebook, 5) Member Spotlight and 6) Message from the President and Conference coverage. Photographs were emphasized as a key component.

Legislative Report: Sheldon reported for the past several years our lobbyist and board members have tried to get a law passed to regulate after school and summer camp programs. We are finally making some progress. On March 28th, Sheldon was invited to testify at the Joint Citizen and Legislative Committee on Children to discuss the need to protect children in all forms of childcare and two bills currently working their way through the general assembly, 1) House Bill 4044, sponsored by Representatives Smith, Erickson, White, Anthony, McEachern, Bannister and Bernstein and 2) Senate Bill 569 sponsored by Senator Katrina Shealy.

During Sheldon's testimony, she reviewed incidents that had occurred in unregulated programs that had been in the news. Sheldon also challenged the Department of Social Services fiscal impact study that estimated the cost to regulate these programs to be at least \$4.2 Million Dollars. Thus, a true dialog started and hopefully the new fiscal impact study will reflect a much more manageable dollar amount. On March 30th, Sheldon testified at the Senate Subcommittee in support of S569. Also, speaking in support of the bill were: Carter Clark – Boys and Girls Club of the Midlands, Naomi Torfin – United Way and Karen Wingo - Department of Social Services. This was a huge win for us. The only person to testify in opposition of the bill was Mr. Edward Earwood from the South Carolina Association of Christian Schools. That doesn't mean there is not still opposition from other groups, but we have made real progress and have formed relationships with other groups who see the real need in oversight, even if there is a monetary cost to them.

Sheldon stated that we have made great progress this year, but there are only a few days left in this year's session. We are pressing for a vote in the Senate before the session ends – but we must be prepared in January when the second year of the legislative session begins. In regards to regulations, the Proposed Public and Private Child Care Center Regulations have been submitted for publication in the State Register on April 28, 2017. A hearing before the administrative law court is scheduled for May 31st. If approved they will be submitted to the general assembly for adoption in January 2018. Also, although regulations will not be changed until next year, we were able to freeze the ratios at the current levels for one more year through a budget proviso.

Watt stated that members need to know what Sheldon has been working so hard to accomplish. Watt expressed great appreciation for the work Sheldon has been doing. A discussion took place about getting the word out and Sheldon agreed to help with these e-mails. One will be to current paid members and the other will go to former and other potential members.

New Business:

Member Benefits Association Program: Waldrup suggested tabling this discussion until more information can be presented at the next board meeting.

Nix asked that members send in newsworthy photos and information to be posted on social media.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Melanie DuBois