

South Carolina Association of Early Care and Education
Board Meeting
Wednesday, March 30, 2016
10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Haynesworth Sinkler and Boyd
22nd Floor Conference Room 4

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the South Carolina Association of Early Care and Education was held on Wednesday, March 30, 2016. Those members present were: Tami Nix, Nancy Pryor Ed Brashier and Mara Dunkin. Those members participating via conference call were: Cindy Walton-McCawley, Marsha Davis and Sheila King. Present from the staff were Lynsey Cichon and Courtney Waldrup.

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

Approval Minutes of Jan 2016 Meeting: There was a motion to accept the January 2016 board meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded and passed with no opposition.

Financial Report: Waldrup reviewed financials stating the **February 2016** Balance Sheet reports a month end checking account balance of **\$1,529.02**. The current bank account balance as of March 28, 2016 is **\$27,840.91**. LaPetite has indicated that membership due's check will be coming to SCAECE soon.

Presidential Update: Nix reported that she spoke with Margaret Palmer and Palmer has given Nix her proxy to continue making her vote count while she is unable to attend board meetings. Nix is looking to secure the 2017 board and committee executive nominations early. She is also going to submit an article for the newsletter's Presidential Update. She is looking into speakers for the Fall Leadership Conference.

Legislative Report: Nix read a message from Shannon Erickson to be shared with the board, *"The letters seem to have caused her (Governor Nikki Haley) pause from moving 4k to SDE specifically but she is still trying to change the autonomy of FS. She & Molly Spearman still maintain that 'privates need more oversight & accountability.'* We have FS re-authorization bills in House & Senate Education subcommittees, we need to push for hearing, then we will have to load the room with people who can speak to FS / private sector good jobs! The House Legislative Oversight Committee has concluded their investigation into FS & actually was very positive, we need to point out that & push to re-authorize & keep bill's in current form. S.1038 and H.4774 are the reauthorization bills. I have asked Chairman White for another meeting on H.3767 - our "more level playing field" bill & he has asked us to get groups together with compromise language to submit to him...so perhaps Tricia could help get that happening? H.4262 has passed the House & is in the Senate (child care homes bill to up Ed hours & allow them to have licensure options & same due process of appeal on DSS decisions as us). First of all, it needs to be supported by us & secondly, we could speak w/senators to possibly get our 'more level playing field bill' put into it...a stretch & we need to carefully maneuver but if we could get compromise language ok'd by a few provider types (B&G's club, Afterschool Alliance, is for example) might work... Oh - Legislative Oversight Committee will be investigating DSS - we need to attend & speak to inconsistent inspections, over-bearing interpretations, and lack of safety (no regs) for largest populations in care outside of home (before & Afterschool and summer camps) and DSS not asking for those safeguards."

Nix also read a message from Tricia Sheldon for an update, *"On legislative, we hope to present our compromise to Brian White next week. Jeff and I met with Carter from Boys & Girls Club, Amy from the*

YMCA and Jim from Parks & Rec last week. We cleaned up some of the language and are all in agreement with what we have right now. Only change was taking the exemption from one hour to two hours. Boys & Girls Club will speak at hearings in favor of the bill. Amy with the YMCA said she didn't know if she could say she "supported" the bill, but agreed she would not oppose it. Jim from Parks & Rec would not commit at this point, but our feeling is he will not oppose."

Thordahl stated the YMCAs and Boys & Girls Clubs are on board for H. 3767 one hour. He also went over the newly updated version of H. 3767 and indicated that H. 3767 needs one more hearing to get it to the Senate. He said it would be insurmountable if they could get one more person to vote to pass H. 3767. Brashier spoke on the urgency to finish the work with the regulations during this governor's term. Thordahl expanded on the legislative update. Thordahl said that First Steps is not a permanent committee and can disappear in July if not reauthorized; First Steps is questioned about their purpose and SCAECE should be looking for ways to partner with them. First Steps has done a remarkable job of documenting the good they do and the role they play. The public input hearing was reported to be very moving and emotionally impacted those in attendance. Erickson said that First Steps should exist and remain independent from the public sector. According to the budget, First Steps will reauthorize for one year.

February Conference Update: Walton reported the following: JEE was able to float the SCAECE Conference charges from the Medallion Center in the amount of \$9,171.19. The ABC scholarship check for 2016 has been received and JEE has been reimbursed. Total attendance, including exhibitors and staff, was 530. Exhibitors included ABC Quality, Bibbs Enterprise, CCCC, FCI Agency and Kaplan Early Learning Company. Need to confirm 2017 Conference Chair and determine a date for contracting. JEE will be sending out a reminder to ensure that conference attendees send their transcripts to Laura Jones. Walton-McCawley introduced the idea of bringing Bill Corbett back to be the keynote at the 2017 Annual Conference. It was suggested that Kelly Pfeiffer host a training about how to format a house training model for centers. It was also suggested that Susan Kerby or Jessica Flowers be invited as a keynote. Walton-McCawley reported that there were 377 ABC recipients registered and, in total, 402 were awarded scholarships in total. Follow up thank you notes were sent to presenters. Going forward, Walton-McCawley would like to step down from being the program chair for the Annual Conference and will pass along all her conference notes to anyone what wishes to take over as program chair. She also reported that on August 1, 2016 the 26 hour online course will no longer be offered. Nix suggested for the future program to make a vendor committee to create a draw to the 2017 Annual Conference. She is going to call Beverly Hunter to find out what scholarship amounts will be available for 2017. Nix then asked anyone present if they would like to be the program chair and also suggested that there be an option to allow co-chairs to run the Annual Conference. Additionally, she supports the idea of creating a conference committee for the Annual Conference.

Membership Committee Report: Notes were provided in the board packet

Nominating Committee: Pryor agreed to work with the nominating committee to present a slate. Nix wants a slate of officers by May 11. Nix will discuss with Gaffney about reappointment to revise the by-laws since she was appointed in a previous term. When Nix steps down as president she said that she would like to serve as the past president. She questioned why this had not been done before and Waldrup indicated that vacant executive committee rolls were filled by past presidents. Nix indicated that past presidents do not need to be going back onto the executive committee and instead need to serve as a past president and an advisor. She would like a committee of ex-officio board members and would like a report every time they meet, which will be done if there is a committee. Sheldon and Walton-McCawley both indicated that they would like to continue to be on the board but do not want to be on the executive committee. Nix said she would like to see some of the new board members step up and take the executive committee positions.

Old Business: CDEP survey results were reviewed individually. A full report of the results were included in the packet.

Governor's Advisory Report: Brashier said there was not a quorum at the last advisory committee meeting. Brashier also asked Thordahl to propose reappointing slots on the advisory committee for those that resigned. Thordahl will discuss with the appointments person in regards to advisory board slots. Dunkin volunteered to serve on the advisory committee to fulfil the seat of religious chair. Nix read a message from Sheldon for an update, "*On Advisory Board, we are one meeting away from being done with licensing regs to send them on to next steps. Unfortunately, we were one short of a quorum last week, so we are hoping to finish licensing regs on 4/26; then we move to home center regs next.*"

Management Report: Waldrup went over the management report.

Newsletter - The Spring Newsletter is in the final development process and will be distributed this month. It will highlight the outcome of the Conference, Legislative Update and the USC Event in November. The Spring Newsletter will also have an advertiser which will be First Casualty Insurance Group. Please provide any content for the Summer Newsletter.

It is requested that JEE send a survey to those members that did not renew with SCAECE and ask them to indicate why they did not renew with the association. Waldrup suggested SCAECE reach out to members and ask why they did renew with the association. The board agreed to this suggestion. It was also requested that management attach a membership form to the newsletter for any prospective members.

New Business: Need to confirm if there will be a 2016 Fall Conference and determine a date for contracting. Waldrup was asked to contact the Medallion Center to see if February 7 was available for February Conference.

Reports from 5 Focus Areas:

- **Growing membership by 50%** - Nix will be awarding a \$50 scholarship for every member of SCAECE who recruits a new center member to the association.
- **Marketing** – Nix asked that the SCAECE website colors and graphics be redone for continuity.
- **Benefits of membership** – It was indicated that the membership benefits brochure still needs to be reviewed by Walton-McCawley.
- **Legislative** – no report.
- **Create Regional Chapters** – Brashier updated the board on progress being made in this area during their meeting in Greer. The next meeting will be hosted in Sumter.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lynsey Cichon & Courtney Waldrup