Darlington County First Steps Partnership Board of Directors Meeting
Date: October 20, 2026 - Time: 12:15 pm - Location: Virtual
MINUTES

Board Directors Present: Howard Nettles, Chairman; Patricia "Beth" Hall Caulder; Jimmie Epling; Diane McIver; Rudell Dubose.

Board Directors Absent: Shaunya Miller-Bright (excused); Lucretia Bellamy (excused)

Staff: Darnell Byrd McPherson, Executive Director; Patricia Sullivan-Steward, Operations Director; Shannon O'Berry, Finance Director.

Agenda Item	Discussion	Outcome / Action	Responsible Person(s)
1. Welcome & Roll Call	Chairman Nettles welcomed members and introduced Beth Hall Caulder. A quorum was established.	Quorum established.	Chairman Nettles
2. Approval of Agenda & Prior Minutes	The Board considered the meeting agenda and previous meeting minutes.	Agenda and prior minutes approved on motion by Rudell Dubose, seconded by Beth Hall Caulder. Motion carried unanimously.	Board of Directors

3. Chairman's Report	Updates included board vacancies and pending appointments (Barbara Carraway completed her term and Linda George resigned October 1, 2026), FY27–FY29 strategic oversight, leadership continuity and succession planning, and the Executive Director evaluation anticipated in spring 2027.	Chairman to follow up regarding appointments; leadership continuity plan to be shared after leadership review.	Chairman / Leadership
4. Fiscal Signatory	Following Linda George's resignation, Diane McIver agreed to serve as fiscal signatory.	Diane McIver confirmed acceptance; Shannon O'Berry to coordinate forms and accounting access.	Diane McIver / Finance
5. Finance Report	FY27 budget reported at approximately $889,000, with $163,000 expended and $726,000 remaining as of September 30, 2026. The First Five Pee Dee Pilot (Parents as Teachers expansion) allocation increased by $119,000 to support competitive salaries and benefits. Delayed grant reimbursements and quarterly funding were identified as cash-flow concerns.	Finance to follow up on payment delays, keep Chairman informed, and continue presenting expanded financial reports.	Finance Director

6. Executive Director's Report	Updates covered Parents as Teachers expansion across Darlington, Chesterfield and Marlboro counties; Morehouse maternal health work; Parent Cafés and mental health supports; Motheread/Fatheread, Reach Out and Read, community partnerships, and funding development. A Byerly Foundation grant request remained pending.	Continue program implementation and pursuit of sustainable funding.	Executive Director / Staff
7. Announcements & Next Meeting	The next board meeting was proposed for December 8, 2026, potentially as an in-person lunch or dinner meeting.	Staff to survey board members regarding availability and preferred format; arrangements pending.	Operations Director / Chairman
8. Adjournment	The Chairman invited final questions and thanked attendees.	Motion to adjourn made by Diane McIver and seconded by Rudell Dubose; meeting concluded.	Board of Directors