|  |
| --- |
| **Board Members in Attendance** |
| E | Warren Russell- Chair | E | Brittany Pace |  | **Staff** |
| X | Mark Mesdag - Past Chair | E | Chris Pace | X | Wayne Stevens |
| E | Jennifer Treadway- O'Dea – Secy. | E | Fred Parady | X | Kaylee Matheny |
| X | Karmen Bowman-Treasurer  | X | Millie Ryan |  |  |
| E | Kendri Cesar | X | Tom Sullivan |  |  |
| X | Robbie Stell |  |  |  | **Guest(s):** |
| E | Joy Lyon |  |  | X | Becky Roth |
|  |  |  |  | X | Monica Liang-Aguirre |
| Legend: X= Present E= Excused Absence T= Teleconference A= Absent |

**Call to Order and Introductions**

Past Chair Mesdag called the meeting to order at 5:23 PM. With only 5 members present, a quorum was not established.

**Approval of Agenda**

**Motion:** No adoption of the agenda. With no quorum, voting of all business will have to be done at

the next board meeting.

**Approval of Minutes**

**Motion:** No approval of minutes.

**PRESENTATIONS**

**R.O.C.K. Juneau -** Becky Roth

Becky Roth briefly explained that R.O.C.K. Juneau (Raising our Children with Kindness) represents a multi-year commitment of local partners and stakeholders working to improve the lives of young people through collaboration by discovering the needs of young children, changing policies for the better, and moving things forward for the best of kids.

 **Best Starts Program -** Monica Liang-Aguirre

Monica Liang-Aguirre spoke with board members about the Best Starts Program in Seattle and how Alaska could benefit. Monica explained that early learning for children (attending preschool) has long term benefits. Children that do not attend preschool often end up behind those that do attend preschool. Research shows that children who start kindergarten knowing their letters, numbers, colors, and have a much larger vocabulary can navigate the classroom easier and are comfortable being separated from their parents for long periods of time.

Monica explained that the Best Starts program in Seattle is paid by levies, a tax that is paid from those residing in Washington. Contracts have been made between different schools, daycares, and other school related organizations which allow a designated individual to visit a classroom and monitor and rate both the classroom and the teacher in the hopes of producing more quality classrooms. Many Washington residents have said that their child(ren) would not have been able to attend preschool without the bill. Because of the bill, more children will be kindergarten ready and graduation rates will be higher.

Discussion was had on how Alaska can follow in the same footsteps, but many concerns/issues were raised such as state legislatures not wanting to support a program that they may not be involved with by the time the program begins. Monica explained that a good way to overcome this particular obstacle would be to start with a pilot program. Other issues discussed included 1) the creation a tax people may complain about and interpret as “paying for someone else’s children” and 2) the lack of childcare and childcare assistance in Alaska.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Resource Development:**

**Finance Committee -** Karmen Bowman, Chris Pace, & Mark Mesdag

No discussion.

**Campaign Committee -** Kendri Cesar & Mark Mesdag

No discussion.

**Events Committee-** Brittany Pace, Jennifer Treadway-O’Dea, & Karmen Bowman

Briefly discussed the Cruise for a Cause event, reminding board members that the cruise is on May 2nd and everyone needs to arrive by 5:15 to depart at 5:30pm. Also board members were reminded that tickets are still available for purchase. Board members should consider purchasing a ticket as well as taking initiative and promoting the event.

 **Governance:**

**Board Development Committee-** Warren Russell & Mark Mesdag

No discussion.

**Personnel Committee-** Warren Russell, Jennifer Treadway-O’Dea & Brittany Pace

No discussion.

**STRATEGIC DISCUSSIONS**

No Discussion.

**OLD BUSINESS-**

No old business.

**NEW BUSINESS-**

 No new business

**Chair’s Report-**

No report

**President’s Report-**

No report

**Board Member Comments-**

 No comments

**Adjournment-**

Past Chair Mesdag adjourned the meeting at 6:28 PM