



February 9, 2026

Members Present: Demeterius Brown, Caitlin Edwards, Emanuel Gilchrist, Gail Jackson, Jill Jolly, Averie Morris, Lisa Tillman, Stephanie Wallace, Brenda Weaver, and Renee Williams

Members Absent: Phyllis Lott, Jennifer Satterwhite (excused), and Astrid Yeldell

A meeting of the Edgefield County First Steps Partnership Board was held on February 9, 2026. Vice-Chair Renee Williams called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

The first item on the agenda was approval of the minutes from the January 12, 2026, meeting. After a motion from Lisa and a second from Averie, the minutes were approved.

Renee asked everyone to look at the Executive Director's report for the month of January (see attached). There were no additional questions or comments.

Renee spoke for the Administration/Personnel Committee and called everyone's attention to the performance evaluation that had been completed for Candi. Renee also said that there was recommendation for a 2% cost of living increase for next fiscal year. There were no additional questions or discussion. There was a motion made by Gail with a second from Averie to approve the performance evaluation and the 2% increase for Candi. The motion was approved.

Candi had sent the draft of the 2026-2029 Strategic Plan to all Board members for review. Board Chair Gail Jackson asked the Board for any discussion related to the plan. Hearing none, there was a motion from Emanuel with a second from Renee to approve the 2027-2029 Strategic Plan. The motion was approved.

In other business, Candi presented the Board with a reallocation request to take \$800 in private funding (Fund 20) from child care training food to move into HIPPIY for food. Candi also mentioned that she had received our insurance premium for our general and professional liability and it has increased more than we had anticipated. Candi requested the Board move \$500 from library program salary to board insurance. After a motion from Emanuel and a second from Gail, the motion was approved.

There being no further business, after a motion by Renee and a second from Averie, the meeting was adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Candi Lalonde

Candi Lalonde, Executive Director

Executive Director's Report for January 2026

Wrote article about Imagination Library and submitted to newspaper, along with 'Thank You' ad for sponsors

Sent fundraising letters to 2025 Imagination Library sponsors

Completed all data entry for 2nd quarter

Completed 2nd quarter performance and financial reports

Updated Resource Development plans as of end of 2nd quarter

Participated in ED meeting in Columbia and ED virtual training on SAGE (new data system)

Took books to 4K and 5K classes at WE Parker and Johnston Elementary Schools

Held childcare training (with Saluda First Steps) – participants received 5.0 hours credit – had 34 in attendance

Started third class of Triple P Parenting series – 7 parents/caregivers attending

Ordered child care training materials for January child care training

Approved 2 new child care scholarships

Worked with Edgefield library staff to order materials for their story times

Trained HIPPI home visitors on data entry and recruited for program

Wrote job description and advertised for Program Specialist we will be hiring

Total hours worked for January: 140 hours (includes 2.5 hours of sick leave and 8.5 hours of annual leave)