

From: Patel, Swati <SwatiPatel@gov.sc.gov>

To: Baker, JoshJoshBaker@gov.sc.gov

CC: Brenan, MichaelMBrenan@BBandT.com

Mottel, HaleyHaleyMottel@gov.sc.gov

Veldran, KatherineKatherineVeldran@gov.sc.gov

Date: 1/27/2016 9:18:17 PM

Subject: Re: First Steps Meeting - Thursday, January 28, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.

Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

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Mike - we really appreciate your continued support of our reform proposal! Your guidance with stakeholders and legislators will be helpful.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 27, 2016, at 8:08 PM, Baker, Josh <JoshBaker@gov.sc.gov> wrote:

Mike,

List is below, but you do a great job handling these – I think that calm patient support will win the day. I think there's value in validating the concerns of county partners and letting them know we're hearing a common chorus from the directors and that those messages are being received (to the extent that is true). We are hearing common concerns about tax status, participation in state benefit programs, indemnification for local trustees, funding consistency, some rumors about conversion to a competitive grant system, and implementation timelines.

The design of the meeting is to keep stakeholders at the table and legislators and staff around the wall in the old Wade-Hampton Governor's Conference room. This may evolve; Sen. Setzler and Rep. Erickson will likely position themselves to actively engage the conversation.

I'll do a quick introduction and we'll have Senator Fair make some opening remarks given that he originally requested the meeting. I'll take about 10 minutes describing the proposal and what we know to be open items. The remainder of the meeting will allow stakeholders listed below to ask questions and engage in a dialogue about the path forward.

If you have any guidance on this, it's welcome.

jdb

Ken Wingate, Board Chairman, SC First Steps to School Readiness  
Julia-Ellen Davis, Interim Director, SC First Steps to School Readiness  
Lisa Van Riper, Secretary, SC First Steps to School Readiness  
Dr. Dan Wuori, Deputy Director, SC First Steps to School Readiness  
Molly Spearman, State Superintendent of Education  
Mike Brenan, First Steps Study Committee  
Christian Soura, Director of HHS  
Melanie Barton, Executive Director, Education Oversight Committee  
Alexia Newman, First Steps Board of Trustees  
Rick Noble, County Partnership  
Carolyn Brooks, County Partnership

**Legislators:**

Sen. Mike Fair  
Sen. Nikki Setzler  
Sen. John Courson  
Rep. Rita Allison  
Rep. Shannon Erickson  
Rep. Garry Smith  
Rep. James Smith  
Rep. Murrell Smith

**Staff:**

Sally Cauthen  
Pierce McNair  
Emily Heatwole  
DeAnne Gray

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**From:** Brenan, Michael [<mailto:MBrenan@BBandT.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 27, 2016 12:31 PM  
**To:** Mottel, Haley  
**Cc:** Veldran, Katherine; Baker, Josh; Patel, Swati  
**Subject:** RE: First Steps Meeting - Thursday, January 28, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.

Any particular role you would you like for to play ? Also, who else will be in the room ?

**Mike Brenan****BB&T** – State President - SC Region

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&lt;image001.jpg&gt;

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**From:** Mottel, Haley [<mailto:HaleyMottel@gov.sc.gov>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 27, 2016 10:42 AM  
**To:** Mottel, Haley  
**Cc:** Veldran, Katherine; Baker, Josh; Patel, Swati  
**Subject:** RE: First Steps Meeting - Thursday, January 28, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.

Good morning,

We look forward to seeing you tomorrow for the meeting to discuss First Steps. The meeting will be held on the first floor of the Wade Hampton Building, Room 106 in the Governor's Conference Room. Please let us know if you need anything.

Thank you,  
Haley

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**From:** Mottel, Haley  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 21, 2016 1:55 PM  
**To:** Mottel, Haley

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**Cc:** Veldran, Katherine; Baker, Josh; Patel, Swati

**Subject:** First Steps Meeting - Thursday, January 28, 2016 at 9:00 a.m

Good afternoon,

The Governor's office would like to invite you to a meeting to discuss the Governor's First Steps restructuring plan next Thursday, January 28, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. We would like to have a discussion about the plan and to address any questions or concerns you may have. The meeting will be held on the first floor of the Wade Hampton Building, Room 106 in the Governor's Conference Room. Please let me know if you are able to attend by Wednesday, January 27<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to seeing you there.

Thank you,  
Haley

Haley Mottel  
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