

**VT Early Childhood Advocacy Alliance**  
**Annual Membership Meeting**  
**September 16, 2020**                      **1:00p**  
*Via Zoom*

**MEETING MINUTES**

Attendance: 46, including 35 Alliance individual/organizational members, 2 strategic partners, 7 guests, and 3 staff.

Faye Mack, Alliance Steering Committee Chair, called the Meeting to order at 1p and welcomed participants, offering a reflection on the Alliance's work during the past year. The Meeting then adjourned to workshops on the '20 Legislative Agenda and an introduction to membership in the Alliance.

Matt Levin, Alliance Executive Director, called the Meeting back to order and facilitated the business items on the agenda. He confirmed that a quorum was present, and offered his reflections on the Alliance's work of the past year and the current context of our collective work.

He noted that copies of the 2019 Annual Membership Meeting Minutes had been made available, and the 2019 Minutes were accepted by consensus. Current Steering Committee members and staff were then introduced.

Matt then conducted elections for seats on the Steering Committee. He asked for nominations, and the following members in good standing were nominated:

- **Business** – Faye Mack of Hunger Free Vermont nominated *Main Street Alliance VT* as an Organizational Member with Morgan Nichols as their representative.
- **Early Care/Early Ed – home-based** – Joanna VonCulin, Individual Member, nominated *Ellen Drolette* as an Individual Member
- **Early Care/Early Ed – public K-3** – Sarah Kenney of Let's Grow Kids nominated *Diane Nichols-Fleming* as an Individual Member
- **Economic Security** – Steve Ames, Individual Member, nominated *Voices for Vermont's Children* with Sarah Teel as their representative.
- **Family Support** – Floyd Nease of the Lamoille Family Center nominated *Vermont Head Start Association* as an Organizational Member with Deb Gass as their representative
- **Food Security** – Steve Ames, Individual Member, nominated *Vermont Food Bank* as an Organizational Member with Jessie Carpenter as their representative
- **Parents** – Ellen Drolette, Individual Member, nominated Joanna VonCulin as an Individual Member
- **Health** – Ann Dillenbeck, Individual Member, nominated *Tabitha McGlynn* as an Individual Member

Judy Pransky of Emerson Falls Playcare made a motion to elect the slate as presented, and Erhard Mahnke of the Vermont Affordable Housing Coalition seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Matt then asked for nomination for the one **At-Large** seat, and the following member in good standing were nominated:

- Sarah Kenney of Let's Grow Kids nominated *Winston Prouty Center* as and Organizational Member with Margaret Atkinson as their representative

The nominee was elected unanimously.

Matt then noted that anyone interested in serving in the Committee positions currently open should contact Faye Mack, the current Steering Committee Chair.

Ann Dillenbeck then introduced Rep. Jessica Brumsted, a member of the House Human Services Committee. Rep. Brumsted offered remarks, thanking Alliance members and staff for their successful work supporting the legislature's engagement of policies critical to Vermont's children and young families.

Matt then moderated a panel discussion reflecting on Alliance member's work responding to the COVID pandemic and how the state's early childhood system could be rebuilt stronger. Participants then split into three smaller breakout groups to continue the discussion.

Amanda Herzberger of the Junior League of Champlain Valley Diaper Bank offered closing comments reflecting on her organization's involvement with the Alliance over the last few months as they put forth a proposal for Coronavirus Relief Funds and expanded operations in response to the pandemic.

With thanks for all, the meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 3p.

*Respectfully submitted by Matt Levin (Exec. Dir.)*