

**Wake County Smart Start  
Board of Directors Meeting  
February 27, 2019**

A regular meeting of the Wake County Smart Start (WCSS) Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, February 27, 2019 with WCSS Board Chair, Angie Welsh presiding. The meeting took place in Room 204, 4901 Waters Edge Drive, Raleigh, North Carolina.

Board members present: Kelly Caldwell, Dale Cousins, Heather Drennan, Liz Hamner, Sherry Heuser, Leslie Ann Jackson, Mark Langford, Catherine Lassiter, Carol Mitchell, Cathy Moore, Regina Petteway, Patricia Ruppert, Kimberly Shaw, Mike Smith, Kristi Tally, Charlotte Turpin, Angie Welsh and Joe White

Board members absent: Christine Alvarado, L'Teisha Curtis, Jessica Holmes, Barbara Morales Burke and Mike Wasilick.

Staff members present: Phyllis Barbour, Gary Carr, Gayle Headen, Bryce McClamroch, Nancy Peck and Anna Troutman

**Call to Order/Adoption of Agenda**

At 8:40 AM, Board Chair, Angie Welsh recognized a quorum and called the meeting to order. Ms. Welsh welcomed new Wake County Smart Start Executive Director, Gayle E. Headen and asked for a round of introductions from those present as well as sharing their vision for the next three years. Gayle Headen expressed her appreciation for the welcome and shared her first impressions of Wake County Smart Start and the thoughtful process for transition in leadership. Mark Langford acknowledged the Executive Search Committee for their efforts. Following introductions, Sherry Heuser moved to adopt the agenda. Leslie Ann Jackson seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and hearing no objections, the vote was unanimous. (2-19-45)

The Board reviewed items on the consent agenda. Dale Cousins moved to approve the consent agenda including: minutes from the previous meetings on December 5, 2018 and February 13, 2019 and January 2019 financial reports. Sherry Heuser seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and hearing no objections, the motion carried. (2-19-46)

**Committee Reports**

**Advancement Committee**

Advancement Committee Chair, Sherry Heuser reported on the amount raised during the 2018-19 Annual Appeal campaign, number of donations, new donors and a comparison to the previous year. She remarked on a continued push to increase the number of new donors as well as membership in The 1996 Society. Ms. Heuser informed members of the Board that Board Giving donations contribute toward 1996 Society eligibility and noted current 87% participation in Board Giving. Ms. Heuser reminded the Board to save the date for the upcoming Garden Party on April 7 to recognize current 1996 Society members and cultivate new members. She said the Board will receive invitations soon and encouraged them to attend and bring guests interested in supporting WCSS work. Ms. Heuser reported that WCSS ran a Valentine's Day pop-up fundraising campaign on Facebook which raised \$395.

**Program Planning**

Program Planning Committee Chair, Tricia Ruppert presented a committee recommendation to adopt the Pathways to Grade Level Reading framework and support its expectations for child and family systems. Following questions and comments, Charlotte Turpin moved to approve submission of a public endorsement of the Pathways to Grade Level Reading Measures of Success Framework with the recommendation that it serves as the foundation for building North Carolina's state and local birth through eight system work; and to support the Action Framework's expectations for child and family systems and agreement with the proposed actions. Liz Hamner seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and hearing no objections, the vote was unanimous. (2-19-47)

ELH Initial      5-14-19 Date

**Chair's Report**

Angie Welsh announced registration is open for the 2019 Smart Start Conference, Apr. 29 – May 2 in Greensboro, NC. Ms. Welsh encouraged Board members to consider attending and said that WCSS will reimburse the cost of early registration, lodging, and other travel expenses if not covered by their organization. Those interested in attending were asked to contact Nancy Peck.

Ms. Welsh called on Liz Hamner who provided an update on plans for the retirement reception for Pam Dowdy. Ms. Hamner asked all present to save the date for March 27 and said invitations for the event will arrive shortly. She asked for thoughts about a proposed retirement gift and asked that contributions for the retirement gift be directed to Board Treasurer, Kelly Caldwell by March 15. Ms. Hamner also encouraged Board members to submit short messages and/or pictures to Nancy Peck by March 15 for inclusion in a “memory” book for Pam.

**Staff Report**

WCSS staff member, Bryce McClamroch presented a detailed summary of the Early Childhood Profile (formerly known as PBIS) results for FY2017-18. He called attention to line graphs showing a comparison with Mecklenburg County and state-wide performance indicators. Mr. McClamroch commented on the indicator for percentage of children age birth to five with investigated report of abuse/neglect showing Wake is still below the established range. He said WCSS staff will continue work with Wake County Human Services on improving investigation of reports of abuse/neglect. Mr. McClamroch concluded the presentation with a summary of next steps for following up on indicators of concern.

WCSS Director of Programs, Anna Troutman gave a report on the closure of the Assuring Better Child Development program (ABCD). Ms. Troutman said WCSS has been notified that Community Care of Wake and Johnston Counties, the Direct Service Provider in contract with WCSS, will be dissolved effective April 1 and the transition to a larger regional agency will not include the program. Ms. Troutman remarked that WCSS will follow internal process to bring the program to a close contractually and programmatically and explore opportunities for this or similar programs in the next funding cycle. She said the ABCD program is expected to revert \$15,801.

On behalf of Wake County Board of Commissioners Chair, Jessica Holmes, Regina Petteway asked Board members to hold March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2PM on their calendar to be present for the Board of Commissioners meeting where Pam Dowdy will receive recognition for her leadership in the field of early childhood.

With no further business to address, Liz Hamner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:02 AM. Regina Petteway seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and hearing no objections, the vote was unanimous. (2-19-48)

  
Secretary

5-14-19  
Date