

**Wake County SmartStart
Board of Directors Meeting
December 7, 2016**

A regular meeting of the Wake County SmartStart (WCSS) Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, December 7, 2016 with WCSS Board Chair, Angie Welsh presiding. The meeting took place in Room 204, 4901 Waters Edge Drive, Raleigh, North Carolina.

Board members present: Gail Austin, Lorie Barnes, Kelly Caldwell, Dale Cousins, Liz Hamner, Sherry Heuser, Mark Langford, Carol Mitchell, Cathy Moore, Barbara Morales Burke, Regina Petteway, Mike Smith, Kristi Tally, Charlotte Turpin, Mike Wasilick, Angie Welsh and Tyrone Williamson

Board members absent and excused: Christine Alvarado, Arvelis Byrd, Jim Greene, Jessica Holmes, Benita Jones and Susan McCullen and Camille Schaffer.

Board members absent and unexcused: Ana Maria Bonell and Kimberly Shaw

Staff members present: Phyllis Barbour, Pam Dowdy, Bryce McClamroch Carol Orji, Nancy Peck, Melinda Schlesinger and Anna Troutman

Visitor: Kristin Bradley-Bull, Roots to Canopy

Welcome/Call to Order/Adoption of Agenda

At 8:30 AM, Board Chair, Angie Welsh recognized a quorum and called the meeting to order. Ms. Welsh shared an excerpt from "Guide My Feet" by Marian Wright as a reminder about the importance of WCSS's work for children. She introduced new board members, Sherry Heuser and Patricia Ruppert and asked for a round of introductions from the other Board members present.

Mike Wasilick made an announcement about two Wake County Public Libraries school readiness initiatives being offered to children aged 3 – 5 and their families. He distributed program brochures for Board members to share within their networks.

Following the introductions and announcement, Mark Langford moved to adopt the agenda. Dale Cousins seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and hearing no objections, the motion carried. (12-16-17)

Liz Hamner moved to accept the minutes from the previous meeting on October 26, 2016. Kelly Caldwell seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and hearing no objections, the motion carried. (12-16-18)

Strategic Planning

Executive Director, Pam Dowdy presented a detailed review of the finalized draft of the Strategic Plan for 2017-20 (outlined on Attachment B.1). Ms. Dowdy commented that some of the required community indicators are consistent with Pathways to Grade Level Reading work. She noted a new required indicator in the first goal area centered on the rate of child abuse and neglect. Under the third goal area, Ms. Dowdy drew attention to a new required indicator for children developmentally on track for kindergarten as measured by the Kindergarten Entry Assessment. She commented on data sharing with school partners to track the children and how the data could be used to improve school readiness programs. Ms. Dowdy gave particular focus to the fourth goal area of systems using Pathways to Grade Level Reading as a framework. She offered several examples of potential objectives, but stressed the need to engage with community partners and county leaders in conversation about shared priorities.

Ms. Dowdy said if the plan is adopted, the next step is the development of a Request for Proposals particularly for the first three goal areas. She noted that all Direct Service Providers (DSPs) must include in their proposals how systems in the first three goal areas are integrated in their work. She said in January and February, WCSS will have data and information to share that will inform the Allocations Committee with a sense of community needs in the first three goal areas for the funding process. Ms. Dowdy acknowledged WCSS staff and Board leadership for their work in developing the plan, and addressed questions from the Board.

Kristin Bradley-Bull, of Roots to Canopy Consulting, provided a brief background on the strategic plan development as context for the new Board members. She stressed that a key element will be internal focus on staff and board development to support stepping into new roles as capacity builders.

Following a period of questions and comments, Dale Cousins moved to adopt the Wake County SmartStart Strategic Plan for 2017-2020. Regina Petteway seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and hearing no objections, the vote was unanimous. (12-16-19)

Board Development

Board Development Committee Chair, Mike Smith informed the Board that Lorie Barnes has submitted her resignation from the Board due to her increased responsibilities serving on the NCPD Board that are interfering with her ability to actively participate as a WCSS Board member. Chair, Angie Welsh thanked Ms. Barnes for her commitment to serving

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early education and presented her with a token of appreciation. Kelly Caldwell moved to accept Lorie Barnes's resignation from the WCSS Board of Directors effective Oct. 26, 2016. Dale Cousins seconded the motion. Calling for a vote, and hearing no objections, the vote was unanimous. (12-16-20)

Finance Committee

Kelly Caldwell reported that the committee members did not meet in November, but have received and reviewed the October financials. Barbara Morales Burke made a motion to accept the financial statements for October 2016. Charlotte Turpin seconded the motion. Calling for a vote, and hearing no objections, the motion passed. (12-16-21)

Program Planning

Representing the Program Planning Committee, Carol Mitchell summarized the committee's recommendation to approve a plan developed in cooperation with Wake County Public School System Office of Early Learning (WCPSS OLE) for preventing Pre-K students with unique needs/challenging behaviors from being suspended or expelled, and provide their families with support to maintain the child's placement. Following questions and discussion by the Board, Barbara Morales Burke made a motion to approve the written Pre-K plan for children with unique needs (Attachment E.2) with an assurance that implementation of this plan will not be in conflict with the authority of Wake County Public School System principals. Kristi Tally seconded the motion. Calling for a vote, noting an abstention by Cathy Moore and hearing no objections, the vote was unanimous. (12-16-22)

20th Anniversary Committee

Committee Co-Chair, Liz Hamner provided a planning update. She advised that discussions are underway with potential sponsors to offset event costs and help raise funds. Ms. Hamner reported on initial efforts to develop the 1996 Society, a leadership recognition/high value individual donor group. She acknowledged Dale Cousins for facilitating discussion by members of the WCSS Past Chairs Advisory Council to develop terms of membership eligibility. Ms. Hamner said a recommendation for the 1996 Society will be brought to Executive Committee at the January 2017 meeting.

Co-Chair, Kristi Tally provided a recap of the slate of four celebration events scheduled during the month of April, 2017 and invited board members to mark their calendars with plans to attend the Garden Party on April 1 and the 20th Anniversary Gala on April 27. She said the board will receive updates when 20th Anniversary information as well as on-line ticket and table sales launch on the WCSS website.

Ms. Tally suggested ways for individual board members to help in the effort, including: forwarding "save the date" messages with a personal note to their contacts, introductions to potential sponsors, volunteering to be a table captain/host at the Gala, serving a subcommittee: decorations/guest experience, raffle row, program development and promoting the 20th Anniversary through their own social media.

Chair's Report

Chair, Angie Welsh commented on her completion of NCPC's online Smart Start Board Chair orientation.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Pam Dowdy announced WCSS is preparing to submit a proposal before Dec. 9 to NCPC for a \$400,000 Shape NC grant to be used for improving the health of children who receive subsidized care in Wake County. Ms. Dowdy commented that the grant has a dollar for dollar match requirement and said WCSS will ask John Rex Endowment to match with an existing grant if NCPC allows for it.

She announced the 2017 Emerging Issues Forum on Feb. 7 at the McKimmon Center in Raleigh which will focus on the economics of early childhood investment. She said WCSS will provide for registration of Board members interested in attending and will also invite community leaders as an opportunity to start a conversation around common priorities. Ms. Dowdy also reported that she will join Connie Wilson, lobbyist for Business and Education Leaders for Smart Start and Jobs, to meet with Senator Barringer on Dec. 20.

Pam Dowdy reported that WCSS will continue to retain the legal services of Jack Nichols as attorney for the partnership since he has recently formed his own legal practice.

Cathy Moore announced WCPSS OLE is preparing to present a five year Pre-K plan to set the stage for a funding request for Pre-K expansion.

Ms. Dowdy invited all Board members in attendance to take a poinsettia plant with them following the meeting.

With no further business to address, Kristi Tally made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 AM. Mike Wasilick seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and hearing no objections, the motion was unanimous. (12-16-23)


Secretary

2/22/17
Date