

**Wake County SmartStart  
Board of Directors Meeting  
February 22, 2017**

A regular meeting of the Wake County SmartStart (WCSS) Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, February 22, 2017 with WCSS Board Chair, Angie Welsh presiding. The meeting took place in Room 204, 4901 Waters Edge Drive, Raleigh, North Carolina.

Board members present: Christine Alvarado, Gail Austin, Arvelis Byrd, Kelly Caldwell, Liz Hamner, Sherry Heuser, Benita Jones, Mark Langford, Carol Mitchell, Barbara Morales Burke, Regina Petteway, Patricia Ruppert, Camille Schaffer, Kristi Tally, Mike Wasilick, Angie Welsh and Tyrone Williamson

Board members absent and excused: Dale Cousins, Jim Greene, Susan McCullen, Cathy Moore, Kim Shaw, Mike Smith and Charlotte Turpin

Board members absent and unexcused: Ana Maria Bonell and Jessica Holmes

Staff members present: Phyllis Barbour, Debi Bartholomew, Gary Carr, Pam Dowdy, Bryce McClamroch, Nancy Peck, Melinda Schlesinger and Anna Troutman

**Welcome/Call to Order/Adoption of Agenda**

At 8:30 AM, Board Chair, Angie Welsh recognized a quorum and called the meeting to order. Following announcements, Kristi Tally moved to adopt the agenda. Kelly Caldwell seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and hearing no objections, the motion carried. (02-17-31)

The Board reviewed consent agenda items. Camille Schaffer noted a correction to be made on the minutes from the previous meeting in December, to reflect that she was absent and excused. Following further discussion, Barbara Morales Burke moved to approve the consent agenda including: corrected minutes as noted from the previous meeting on December 7, 2016, January 2017 financial reports, and Board of Directors Conflict of Interest. Sherry Heuser seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and hearing no objections, the motion carried. (02-17-32)

**Finance Committee**

Kelly Caldwell presented a recommendation from the Finance Committee to give staff authority to allocate reverted or unallocated Smart Start funding to existing funded programs to ensure full expenditure each fiscal year. Sherry Heuser moved to approve authorization to re-allocate reverted and unallocated Smart Start funding for services up to \$100,000 within each fiscal year to existing activities funded by WCSS based on program need. Regina Petteway seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and hearing no objections, the vote was unanimous. (02-17-33)

**20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee**

Committee Co-Chair, Liz Hamner provided an update on the Garden Party event scheduled for April 1, 2017. She reported the committee has received confirmation that Former NC Governor Jim Hunt will attend the event.

Staff member, Anna Troutman, gave an update on the agenda, speakers and sponsor for the April 5, 2017 Bright Futures Forum for early childhood professionals.

Committee Co-Chair, Kristi Tally provided an overview of the Storybook Gala scheduled for April 27, 2017. Sherry Heuser encouraged members to ask for raffle item donations from favorite places where they receive services or shop. She said raffle solicitation letters and donor forms will be sent electronically to the Board and requested that completed forms be returned to staff member, Nancy Peck.

Liz Hamner announced every ticketed Gala attendee will receive five raffle tickets at no additional cost. She urged Board members to purchase tables as a "table captain" and advised they could pair with other members to fill tables. Staff member, Phyllis Barbour, commented that checks made payable to WCSS will save processing fees to the agency. Liz Hamner acknowledged confirmed sponsors including: Blue Cross Blue Shield NC, PNC Bank, Northwestern Mutual, Pool Professionals, Quail Ridge Books and Kaplan. She invited the Board to make introductions to potential sponsors even if their giving cycle is not in alignment with the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events. Pam Dowdy reported that Wake County is planning a match for gifts from community sources for NC Pre-K in addition to their regular budget for NC Pre-K.

ERA

### Chair's Report

Chair, Angie Welsh reported on highlights from the recent Emerging Issues Forum held at the NCSU Hunt Library. She said business leaders as well as economists from the Federal Reserve Bank made the case for investments in early education based on the impact on job development.

Ms. Welsh shared informally that WCSS expects to receive a Shape NC federal grant award in the amount of \$400,000 from NCPD over the course of a four year period. She said the grant, designated for improving the health of children who receive subsidized care in Wake County, aligns closely with WCSS's Preventing Obesity by Design (POD) and Farm to Childcare programs. Ms. Welsh stated that a press release with the formal announcement is forthcoming.

Angie Welsh provided background on a planned NC Pre-K Design evaluation study involving randomized control trial by the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute (FPG). She announced FPG is asking WCSS and several other local Smart Start partnerships, also with large NC Pre-K wait lists, to participate in the study. Ms. Welsh said the study will involve random selection of waitlisted children, half of whom will be placed in NC Pre-K and half who will serve as a control group, remaining on the waitlist. She emphasized the selection will be random and will not prioritize children with greatest need. Following a series of questions and discussion by the Board, Ms. Welsh asked for volunteers to participate in a phone conference with the FPG research team and DCDEE to ask further questions, then present their recommendation regarding participation to the WCSS Executive Committee at their March meeting. Christine Alvarado and Benita Jones volunteered to participate on the call.

### Executive Director's Report

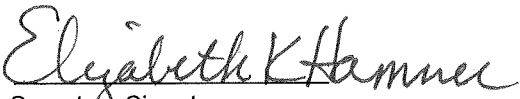
Executive Director, Pam Dowdy announced that she will send the FY 2015-16 Performance Based Incentive System Results presentation electronically to the Board due to the short time remaining for the scheduled meeting.

On behalf of the Program Planning Committee, Ms. Dowdy presented their recommendation to require NC Pre-K sites to annually submit a two part written plan of how they will engage and communicate with families of Dual Language Learners; and address transitions for children enrolled in NC Pre-K. She reminded Board members that the WCSS Board is the NC Pre-K Committee and decision making body for the NC Pre-K Program in Wake County. Camille Schaffer moved to approve a requirement for each NC Pre-K site to submit an annual written plan to communicate with families of children who are Dual Language Learners, and address how children will transition into the NC Pre-K classroom and upon completion of the program, how they will transition into kindergarten. Sherry Heuser seconded the motion. Calling for a vote, noting an abstention by Arvelis Byrd and hearing no objections, the motion passed. (02-16-34)

Ms. Dowdy asked the Board to consider bringing laptops or tablets with the meeting agenda packet on them to future meetings in an effort to reduce the amount of printed materials. She said printed agendas will continue to be provided for all members, and a few complete agenda packets will also be available.

Ms. Dowdy said that she will provide information on the Legislative agenda to Board members by email.

With no further business to address, Camille Schaffer made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 AM. Carol Mitchell seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and hearing no objections, the motion was unanimous. (02-16-35)

  
Secretary Signature

4/26/17  
Date