

**Wake County SmartStart  
Board of Directors Meeting  
June 28, 2017**

A regular meeting of the Wake County SmartStart (WCSS) Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, June 28, 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, Kelly Caldwell, Dale Cousins, L'Teisha Curtis, Jim Greene, Liz Hamner, Sherry Heuser, Jessica Holmes, Carol Mitchell, Cathy Moore, Barbara Morales Burke, Regina Petteway, Patricia Ruppert, Kim Shaw, Mike Smith, Kristi Tally, Charlotte Turpin, Mike Wasilick, Angie Welsh and Tyrone Williamson

Board members absent and excused: Benita Jones, Mark Langford, Susan McCullen and Camille Schaffer

Board members absent and unexcused: Ana Maria Bonell

Staff members present: Phyllis Barbour, Debi Bartholomew, Gary Carr, Pam Dowdy, Joan Harris, Bryce McClamroch, Taty Padilla, Nancy Peck, Anna Troutman and Noemi Vasquez

Visitors: Rachel Aiken and Julie Kennedy

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

At 8:35 AM, Board Chair, Angie Welsh recognized a quorum and called the meeting to order. New Board member, L'Teisha Curtis representing Telamon Head Start introduced herself. Carol Mitchell introduced guests, Julie Kennedy and Rachel Aiken, interns from UNC Gillings Global School of Public Health, helping with work for the Farm to Child Care program. Following a round of introductions from the other Board members, Mark Langford moved to adopt the agenda. Dale Cousins seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and hearing no objections, the motion carried. (06-17-55)

The Board reviewed consent agenda items. Barbara Morales Burke moved to approve the consent agenda including: minutes from the previous meeting on April 26, 2017, May 2017 financial reports, and a recommendation for the decommissioning of assets. Charlotte Turpin seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and hearing no objections, the motion carried. (06-17-56)

**Finance Committee**

Kelly Caldwell presented a draft of the Administration budget for FY2017-18 which she said was reviewed in detail by the Finance Committee, and invited questions from the Board. Dale Cousins moved to approve the FY 2017-18 Administration budget inclusive of Smart Start, NC Pre-K Administration, MAC grant and services, grants and unrestricted funds. Sherry Heuser seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and hearing no objections, the vote was unanimous. (06-17-57)

Kelly Caldwell reported that WCSS received a fiscal monitoring finding from DCDEE due to a self-reported NC Pre-K application entry error which resulted in an ineligible child receiving services. Ms. Caldwell said that DCDEE has been fully reimbursed and other funds were identified to cover the cost of Pre-K services for the child. Pam Dowdy commented that WCSS has identified a specific report to run at the beginning of the year that will be incorporated into procedures to prevent a reoccurrence of a similar error.

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

Committee Co-Chair, Kristi Tally reported on the total amount of funds raised tied to the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration events and announced 44 founding members were named to the 1996 Society during its launch. Committee Co-Chair, Liz Hamner wrapped up the final 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary report with presentation of "candy-bar" awards to committee members, board members and staff to thank them for their contributions to the success of the events.

Angie Welsh presented framed photo montages to Co-Chairs, Liz Hamner and Kristi Tally, as well as committee members, Kelly Caldwell, Dale Cousins and Sherry Heuser as a tribute to their year-long efforts. Pam Dowdy presented a framed montage to Ms. Welsh in recognition of her efforts.

**NC Pre-K**

Staff member, Anna Troutman led a presentation on the NC Pre-K program and introduced NC Pre-K staff members who each provided greater detail about the aspects of their work in the program.

- Noemi Vasquez summarized the application, assignment and attendance processes using the Pre-K application and Pre-K Kids databases and Google doc tools.

EMA Initial

9/27/17 Date

- Taty Padilla provided detail about outreach efforts to find and recruit eligible children for Pre-K programs
- Joan Harris described her work in NC Pre-K Plan documentation to initiate contracts as well as site monitoring and support to maintain compliance with DCDEE and WCSS requirements for high quality.
- Debi Bartholomew spoke about working with directors/administrators to deliver high quality child care.

Anna Troutman explained how NC Pre-K is differentiated from other quality initiatives as a “purchase of service” contract with reasonable compensation levels tied to higher expectations of quality. She concluded the presentation with a summary of future goals for the program and addressed questions from the Board. Cathy Moore commented that Wake County Public School System is opening a school in the 27610 zip code area in collaboration with the YMCA and Southeast Raleigh Promise as well as considering other strategies for Pre-K expansion in high needs areas.

Angie Welsh presented NC Pre-K Plan Requirements and Assurances for the upcoming school year. Sherry Heuser moved to acknowledge and approve by signature 2017-18 NC Pre-K Plan Requirements and Assurances. Barbara Morales Burke seconded the motion. Calling for a vote, and hearing none opposed, the motion passed. (6-17-58)

On behalf of the Program Planning Committee, Angie Welsh presented a recommendation and supporting information to adopt annual NC Pre-K plans as described on Attachment C.2. Gail Austin made a motion to approve the annual NC Pre-K plans for Children with Unique Needs, Transportation, Transition, and Family Engagement and Communication with Children and Families who are Dual Language Learners. Sherry Heuser seconded the motion. Calling for a vote, noting abstentions by Jessica Holmes, Kim Shaw and Cathy Moore, and hearing none opposed, the motion passed. (6-17-59)

### **Chair’s Report**

Angie Welsh introduced Cathy Moore who spoke about Wake County Public School System (WCPSS) multi-year plan for Pre-K and building collaboration between Wake County Public School System (WCPSS) and WCSS to create a unified long range plan for managing Pre-K across sources of opportunity to serve as many eligible children as possible.

### **Executive Director’s Report**

Pam Dowdy drew attention to a comparison chart of pending 2017-18 Legislative budget related to early childhood and highlighted several budget issues and opportunities.

Ms. Dowdy reported WCSS is wrapping up year-end planning for 2016-17 which culminates on June 30. She said WCSS office will be closed on July 3 and 4 in observance of Independence Day.

Pam Dowdy announced WCSS received \$588,000 in Pre-K funding allocated by the Wake County budget approved on June 19<sup>th</sup> which includes an additional \$100,000 in matching funds. She acknowledged Commissioner Jessica Holmes for her leadership and cultivation of support for the increased funding.

With no further business to address, Cathy Moore made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 AM. Regina Petteway seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and hearing no objections, the motion was unanimous. (06-17-60)



Secretary Signature

9/27/17

Date