

**Wake County SmartStart
Board of Directors Meeting
February 28, 2018**

A regular meeting of the Wake County SmartStart (WCSS) Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, February 28, 2018 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, L'Teisha Curtis, Jim Greene, Liz Hamner, Sherry Heuser, Mark Langford, Carol Mitchell, Cathy Moore, Barbara Morales Burke, Kim Shaw, Mike Smith, Michael Wasilick and Angie Welsh

Board members absent and excused: Gail Austin, Dale Cousins, Leslie Ann Jackson, Benita Jones, Patricia Ruppert, Kristi Tally, Charlotte Turpin and Tyrone Williamson

Board member absent and unexcused: Christine Alvarado, Jessica Holmes, Regina Petteway

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

Call to Order/Adoption of Agenda

At 8:35 AM, Board Chair, Angie Welsh recognized a quorum and called the meeting to order. Ms. Welsh drew attention to a slide of a staff member's child reading his first book mailed by Dolly Parton Imagination Library (DPIL) and acknowledged staff efforts to launch and promote the program in Wake County. She commented on the feature story on Imagination Library aired by WRAL on Feb. 27 which resulted in sign up by an additional 175 children in one day. Jim Greene moved to adopt the agenda. Mark Langford seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and hearing no objections, the vote was unanimous. (2-18-36)

The Board reviewed items on the consent agenda. Barbara Morales Burke moved to approve the consent agenda including: minutes from the previous meeting on December 6, 2017 and January 2018 financial reports. Jim Greene seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and hearing no objections, the motion carried. (2-18-37)

Finance Committee

Committee Chair, Kelly Caldwell introduced a committee recommendation for adding a full time accounting position to the WCSS fiscal department. Following questions and comments, Jim Greene made a motion to approve the addition of a full time accountant position. Sherry Heuser seconded the motion. Calling for a vote, and hearing no objections, the vote was unanimous. (2-18-38)

Chair's Report

Chair, Angie Welsh reported on highlights from Kidonomics, the recent Emerging Issues Forum, with a 2nd year topic focus on early childhood education issues.

She reported that the Blue Ribbon Commission formed last fall has been exploring all options for funding early childhood programs. She also announced the launch of a new initiative from the Institute of Emerging Issues, KidsReadyNC, that will invest in selected Tier I and Tier II counties with tools, technical assistance and peer learning to help them achieve better outcomes on "measures of success" identified by NC Pathways to Grade-Level Reading.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director, Pam Dowdy presented an overview and analysis of the Early Child Profile (formerly known as PBIS) results for FY2016-17. She gave a detailed summary of indicator charts showing a historical comparison with Mecklenburg County and the State. Ms. Dowdy drew particular attention to the indicator for percentage of children age birth to five with investigated report of abuse/neglect showing Wake is below the established range. She said WCSS staff will meet with Wake County Human Services, the agency responsible for investigation, to learn more and if there's anything WCSS can do to support the work. Ms. Dowdy concluded the presentation with a summary of next steps.

Pam Dowdy informed the Board that WCSS is undergoing a "rebranding" process to incorporate the state Smart Start brand mark as a local partnership affiliate, as required by The North Carolina Partnership for Children (NCPC). She drew attention to four rebranding options and summarized criteria for selecting a rebranding option as well as pros and cons for each of the options. Board members gathered in small groups to discuss the options, then reported out on their selections and feedback for refinements. Ms. Dowdy said changes to the brand must be implemented by July 1, 2018.

EMH Initial 4/25/18 Date

WCSS staff member, Phyllis Barbour summarized the next steps of the rebranding process which include: a style and communication guide, obtaining quotes for materials, internal rollout and external rollout. The Board will be updated on the "go live" date.

Pam Dowdy shared the following updates:

- WCSS has received approval from DCDEE to proceed with the increase Pre-K reimbursement rates effective Jan. 1, 2018.
- Ms. Dowdy acknowledged Joan Crutchfield, a long standing member of the WCSS Pre-K staff who has been promoted as the new Pre-K Manager and joins the Leadership Team.
- Applications from eligible child care centers to be considered for a Pre-K site for the next two years are due on March 9. Review and recommendations by the independent site selection committee will go to Pre-K Advisory Committee then to the Allocations Committee in late March before presentation to the full Board for approval.
- WCSS has submitted a proposal to NCPC for a grant to do additional outreach for the Imagination Library. The "Birthday Bash" event scheduled at Marbles Kids Museum on April 14 will tie its theme to the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.
- Wake AEYC recently dissolved as a chapter of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) under NAEYC's restructure, and have made a contribution to WCSS that will be used toward the match required for the Shape NC grant.
- Ms. Dowdy announced WCSS has met the \$100,000 match offered by Wake County and will take a proposal to the County for additional funding to expand NC Pre-K for all eligible children in the next three years.
- WCSS has a meeting scheduled with NC House Representative, Chris Malone, Co-Chair of Appropriations, Health and Human Services Committee to discuss early education legislative agenda topics, particularly increasing the childcare subsidy rate for the three to five age range.
- WCSS has received the final monitoring report from NCPC. Ms. Dowdy acknowledged staff for their efforts to accomplish a clean report with no findings.
- Program funding proposals are due March 5

With no further business to address, Mark Langford made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:51 AM. Kelly Caldwell seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and hearing no objections, the motion was unanimous. (2-18-39)



Secretary



Date