

**Wake County Smart Start
Board of Directors Meeting
December 5, 2018**

A regular meeting of the Wake County Smart Start (WCSS) Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, December 5, 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, Dale Cousins, L'Teisha Curtis, Liz Hamner, Sherry Heuser, Jessica Holmes, Mark Langford, Cathy Moore, Tricia Ruppert, Kimberly Shaw, Mike Smith, Kristi Tally, Charlotte Turpin, Mike Wasilick, Angie Welsh and Joe White

Board members absent: Christine Alvarado, Heather Drennan, Leslie Ann Jackson, Catherine Lassiter, Carol Mitchell, Barbara Morales Burke and Regina Petteway

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

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 thanked staff for their work and invited Board members to take a poinsettia plant with them as they leave the meeting. Following introductions, Mark Langford moved to adopt the agenda. Dale Cousins seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and hearing no objections, the vote was unanimous. (12-18-25)

The Board reviewed items on the consent agenda. Charlotte Turpin moved to approve the consent agenda including: minutes from the previous meeting on October 24, 2018, October 2018 financial reports, FY2018-19 Conflict of Interest Summary and Master documents. Sherry Heuser seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and hearing no objections, the motion carried. (12-18-26)

Committee Reports

Advancement Committee

Advancement Committee Chair, Sherry Heuser provided an update on the Annual Appeal campaign, including the contribution results from "Giving Tuesday", Nov. 27. She reported that five WCSS Board members have created fundraising campaigns on their personal Facebook pages. Ms. Heuser reminded the Board of the challenge to recruit two or more new donors, with suggestions of several strategies for engagement. Ms. Heuser noted 74% participation in Board Giving to date and re-emphasized the importance of 100% participation. She remarked on a goal of increased membership in The 1996 Society and said that Board Giving donations contribute toward eligibility.

Executive Search Committee

Executive Search Committee, Co-Chair, Dale Cousins provided an update on the committee's recruitment efforts for a new Executive Director. She reported that the committee expects to set up candidate interviews to take place in January.

Finance Committee

Finance Committee Chair, Kelly Caldwell gave an update on the audit report. She summarized the Management letter which noted no significant findings, no adjustments to financial statements and no disagreements with WCSS management, the Internal Control letter which found no material weaknesses in internal controls, the single audit, required due to federal funding received for NC Pre-K and Shape NC programs and the financial audit which issued a clean opinion on financial statements. Ms. Caldwell said WCSS ended the 2017-18 fiscal year with a surplus of \$447,022 and fund balance of \$2,807,926.

Program Planning

Program Planning Committee Chair, Tricia Ruppert summarized a committee recommendation to support looking into the Registered Apprenticeship program offered through the NC Community College System in

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Wake County as a means of building a pipeline of qualified job-ready workers for Early Care and Education careers.

Following questions and comments, Sherry Heuser moved to support exploration of the Registered Apprentice Program as a strategy to prepare workforce-ready employees in Early Care and Education. Kelly Caldwell seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and hearing no objections, the vote was unanimous. (12-18-27)

Chair's Report

Angie Welsh called attention to Attachment D.1, Dashboard for Quarter 1 of FY18-19 with a new format and content based on feedback from the Board. WCSS staff member, Nora Ostler provided a detailed look at the Dashboard, pointed out new areas of data in areas of interest, including: Services - community engagement, website activity and Wake Connections applications. WCSS staff addressed questions about data results. Mike Smith suggested previous year comparison data be included in the Services and Expenditures charts.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director, Pam Dowdy reported on several items of interest expected to have significant impact on legislative efforts in early childhood. These include the Governor's Early Childhood Action Plan, recommendations coming out of the Leandro Case settlement, Pathways to Grade Level Reading work and the Think Babies initiative centered on investment in infants and toddlers.

Ms. Dowdy gave an update on the NC Pre-K program which included the following

- The UNC study on effects of Pre-K is continuing with observation of the study group children as they enter the Wake County Public Schools System (WCPSS) from Kindergarten through third grade.
- WCSS was invited to participate in a Transition to Kindergarten pilot program.
- The contract with Wake County is close to finalization and will include new quarterly report requirements.
- 200 plus directors, teachers and staff participated in social/emotional development training led by WCSS staff member, Gina Soceanu.

Pam Dowdy presented a staff recommendation for the placement of additional Pre-K slots and authorization to assign remaining slots to WCPSS or private sites. Following questions and discussion, Liz Hamner moved to approve the placement of 34 additional NC Pre-K slots for the 2018-19 school year in private child care sites according to the chart on Attachment E.2; and authorization to assign all remaining slots to WCPSS classrooms or private sites based on readiness, licensing status and geographic need. Joe White seconded the motion. Calling for a vote, noting abstentions by L'Teisha Curtis, Jessica Holmes, Cathy Moore and Kim Shaw, and hearing no objections, the motion passed. (12-18-28)

Pam Dowdy presented a staff recommendation to support using Smart Start carry-forward funding for FY18-19 as matching funding for the Shape NC initiative. Mark Langford moved to approve \$25,000 in one-year matching funding for the implementation of Shape NC. Charlotte Turpin seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and hearing none opposed, the vote was unanimous. (12-19-29)

Pam Dowdy brought forward a staff recommendation for using a portion of Smart Start carry-forward funding for NC Pre-K targeted to children eligible for Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF). Following discussion, Sherry Heuser moved to approve \$15,000 in one-time funding for the NC Pre-K program. Mike Smith seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and noting abstentions by L'Teisha Curtis, Jessica Holmes, Cathy Moore and Kim Shaw, the vote was unanimous. (12-18-30)

With no further business to address, Charlotte Turpin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 AM. Mark Langford seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and hearing no objections, the vote was unanimous. (12-18-31)


Secretary

2/27/19
Date