

**Wake County Smart Start
Board of Directors Meeting
August 26, 2020**

A regular meeting of the Wake County Smart Start (WCSS) Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, August 26, 2020 with WCSS Board Chair, Barbara Morales Burke presiding. The meeting was held via Zoom conference

Committee members present: Dale Cousins, Veronica Creech, L'Teisha Curtis, Heather Drennan, Matthew Glova, Liz Hamner, Sherry Heuser, Jessica Holmes, Leslie Ann Jackson, Tonya Kangkolo, Katie King, Sharon Loza, Cathy Moore, Barbara Morales Burke, Antonia Pedroza, Kimberly Shaw, Charlotte Turpin, Michael Wasilick, Angie Welsh and Katherine Williams

Committee members absent: Christine Alvarado, Catherine Lassiter, Kristi Tally and Joe White

Staff members present: Gary Carr, Gayle E. Headen, Joan Crutchfield, Bryce McClamroch, Nancy Peck and Anna Troutman

Call to Order/Announcements/Adoption of Agenda

At 9:26 AM, Board Chair, Barbara Morales Burke recognized a quorum and called the meeting to order. L'Teisha Curtis moved to adopt the agenda. Jessica Holmes seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and hearing no objections, the vote was unanimous. (8-20-13)

The Board considered items on the consent agenda. Dale Cousins moved to approve items on the consent agenda including the minutes from the June 24, 2020 WCSS Board of Directors meeting, financial reports for July 2020 and FY19-20 fiscal monitoring summary for direct service providers (DSPs) and in-house programs. Charlotte Turpin seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and hearing no objections, the motion carried. (8-20-14)

Committee Reports

Advancement Committee

Committee Chair, Liz Hamner reported that WCSS recently mailed letters and reply cards to a list of 2,300 known supporters of early childhood education in Wake County. The goal of the mailing was to reinforce the importance of investment in early childhood programs, share information about WCSS's work and collect further contact information from recipients to continue conversation. She said that Advancement Committee anticipates doing one more mailing to this group before the end of the year to share more specific messaging about programs. Ms. Hamner commented that opportunities may arise for Board members to help in cultivating new supporters. Barbara Morales Burke suggested sharing the list of returned reply cards with the full WCSS Board to allow personalized responses to those that they may know.

Chair's Report

Chair, Barbara Morales Burke recapped the following highlights from the July 22, 2020 Executive Committee meeting

- Discussion of Executive Director's performance during a closed session. Chair Morales Burke met with Executive Director, Gayle E. Headen to conduct a performance review based on the discussion.
- Review of preliminary End of Year financial reports and Direct Service Providers' (DSP) reversion schedule for FY19-20
- Approval of a temporary staff sick leave policy during FY20-21 allowing for up to 80 hrs leave for WCSS staff impacted by COVID-19.
- Approval to authorize placement of up to 100 children whose families exceed the income threshold established by the WCSS Board for prioritized eligibility in the NC Pre-K program, with highest priority given to children of WCPSS staff to support them during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Discussion of ideas for improving aspects of board governance. Ms. Morales Burke announced her appointment of an ad-hoc governance committee chaired by Sherry Heuser and composed of the other

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following board members: Liz Hamner, Leslie Ann Jackson, Katie King, Kim Shaw, Angie Welsh and Joe White to examine and begin work on the following areas:

- Definition of board role vis a vis Executive Director role to identify guard rails for helping the board function appropriately and effectively
- Minor procedural adjustment for board meetings including some changes to the meeting calendar to allow full Board to approve the administrative and services budget
- Roles/responsibilities of board committees
- Revised information dashboard

The committee anticipates providing the full board with information and recommendations for revisions to governance by the first board meeting in 2021 and the opportunity to approve and/or suggest changes for implementation.

- Ms. Morales Burke announced Board Giving in FY19-20 reached the goal of 100% participation and raised a total amount of slightly less than \$9,500. She reminded everyone of the fiscal year reset on July 1 and the charge to contribute during the new fiscal year.

Ms. Morales Burke announced the topic for the planned board seminar will be racial equity. She proposed re-scheduling the date of the seminar from October 28 to the date of the next board meeting on December 2 to allow sufficient time for the selected racial equity consultant to prepare the board training, and asked board members to check their calendars and respond by Aug. 27 if they are available for a half day session on the December date.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director, Gayle E. Headen shared updates on changes to child care subsidy program and care for school aged children:

- Wake County Public School System is working with YMCA to coordinate care for school-aged children as they begin school under remote instruction if their families require assistance with care while they work. While not directly involved, WCSS is connecting local childcare providers to the YMCA.
- The Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE) has been providing support to childcare programs during the pandemic by covering parent copayment fees for child care subsidy and paying providers the subsidy rate based on February 2020 attendance. In a change to these policies, DCDEE has announced effective as of September 2020, it will no longer cover the cost of parent copayments and providers will be paid based on actual attendance, creating concern about the sustainability of the childcare sector. Ms. Headen remarked on efforts that will be undertaken to address these concerns:
 - WCSS Quality Enhancement specialists will reach out to all area child care providers to ask if they're aware of the announcement and to understand what how it will impact their programs
 - New president of North Carolina Partnership for Children (NCPC) is convening with other local and national early childhood stakeholders to develop a system level response
 - Speaking with legislators as the NC General Assembly returns for session

Members of the board offered links to resources and discussed ideas for filling in the funding for child care subsidy.

With no further business to address, Sherry Heuser made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 am. Katherine Williams seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and hearing no objections, the vote passed. (8-20-15)

Kimberly Shaw

Secretary

10/28/2020

Date