

**Wake County Smart Start
NC Pre-K Committee Meeting
June 23, 2021**

A meeting of the Wake County Smart Start (WCSS) NC Pre-K Committee was held on Wednesday, June 23, 2021 with WCSS Board Chair, Barbara Morales Burke presiding. The meeting was held via Zoom conference

Committee members present: Maria Cervania, Dale Cousins, Veronica Creech, L'Teisha Curtis, Dawn Dawson, Matthew Glova, Liz Hamner, Sherry Heuser, Tonya Kangkolo, Sharon Loza, Cathy Moore, Barbara Morales Burke, Kimberly Shaw, Charlotte Turpin, Michael Wasilick, Angie Welsh and Joe White

Committee members absent: Christine Alvarado, Heather Drennan, Leslie Ann Jackson, Katie King, Catherine Lassiter, Antonia Pedroza and Katherine Williams

Staff members present: Phyllis Barbour, Gary Carr, Joan Crutchfield, Sasha Gomez, Gayle E. Headen, Alex Livas-Dlott, Bryce McClamroch, Carol Orji and Nancy Peck

Call to Order/Announcements/Adoption of Agenda

At 8:32 AM, Chair, Barbara Morales Burke recognized a quorum and called the meeting to order. She welcomed new WCSS Director of Programs, Alex Livas-Dlott and asked NC Pre-K Committee members to introduce themselves. Following introductions, L'Teisha Curtis moved to adopt the agenda. Veronica Creech seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and with none opposed, the vote was unanimous. (06-21-73)

NC Pre-K Committee members reviewed minutes from previous meeting. Dale Cousins moved to adopt the minutes from the NC Pre-K Committee meeting on April 28, 2021. Sherry Heuser seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and hearing no objection, the motion carried. (06-21-74)

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director, Gayle E. Headen introduced a staff recommendation and supporting information to establish the NC Pre-K Committee meeting schedule for the upcoming fiscal year in compliance with NC Pre-K plan requirements. Joe White made a motion to adopt the WCSS NC Pre-K Committee meeting calendar for FY21-22 as detailed on Attachment B.2. Charlotte Turpin seconded the motion. Calling for a committee vote and hearing none opposed, the vote to approve was unanimous. (06-21-75)

Ms. Headen summarized the purpose of the NC Pre-K Plan Requirements and Assurances required by the Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE) and reminded committee members of their role as the decision-making body for the Pre-K program. She said that if approved, the document will be circulated to each committee member for signature through DocuSign. Following questions, Veronica Creech moved to acknowledge and approve by signature NC Pre-K Plan Requirements and Assurances for contracting in FY2021-22 and confirmation of WCSS as the contracting agency. Angie Welsh seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and hearing no objections, the vote was unanimous. (06-21-76)

Ms. Headen provided background for a recommendation from the Site Selection Sub-Committee, including a reminder that the sites under consideration were previously approved on a contingency basis by the NC Pre-K Committee on June 24, 2020. Following questions, Sherry Heuser moved for the approval of eight additional facilities listed on Attachment D.2 for the placement of NC Pre-K slots for FYs 2021-2023 and staff authorization to place slots into all approved sites according to the geographic needs of applicant families and to bring slot placement to the August 2021 NC Pre-K Committee meeting for approval. Matthew Glova seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and noting abstentions by L'Teisha Curtis, Maria Cervania, Dawn Dawson, Cathy Moore and Kimberly Shaw, the motion to approve was carried. (06-21-77)

Ms. Headen presented a staff recommendation for approval of the NC Pre-K budget and reimbursement rates for the upcoming fiscal year. She drew attention to the reimbursement table on Attachment E. 2 to explain how benchmarks have been set to define minimum scores for each classroom domain determined through annual

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monitoring evaluations. Sherry Heuser moved to approve the NC Pre-K FY21-22 budget allocation in the amount of \$12,814,258 and FY21-22 reimbursement rates as detailed on Attachment E.2. Liz Hamner seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and noting abstentions by L'Teisha Curtis, Maria Cervania, Dawn Dawson, Cathy Moore and Kimberly Shaw, the motion to approve was carried. (06-21-78)

Ms. Headen provided the following NC Pre-K program updates:

- Visit by U.S. Secretary of Education, Miguel Cardona to an NC Pre-K classroom in Wake County
- 2020-2021 school year concluded with 892 children enrolled in NC Pre-K programs in Wake County.
- 2000 NC Pre-K program applications received to date for the 2021-2022 school year, the majority being online applications. 1700 of the applications have been submitted on-line, representing a 3:1 ratio to mailed applications. A document completion event has been scheduled on June 29 to address the number of incomplete applications or applications with incorrect documentation received online. An event for new applications is scheduled for July 1, with further events anticipated during July.
- WCSS will not offer an optional summer learning program.

Dale Cousins made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 AM. Matt Glova seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and hearing no objections, the vote passed. (06-21-79)

DocuSigned by:

Leslie Ann Jackson

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Secretary

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