

**Wake County Smart Start  
NC Pre-K Committee Meeting  
August 25, 2021**

A meeting of the Wake County Smart Start (WCSS) NC Pre-K Committee was held on Wednesday, August 25, 2021 with WCSS Board Chair, Sherry Heuser presiding. The meeting was held via Zoom conference

Committee members present: Maria Cervania, Dale Cousins, Dawn Dawson, Sherry Heuser, Leslie Ann Jackson Tonya Kangkolo, Katie King, Catherine Lassiter, Cathy Moore, Barbara Morales Burke, Antonia Pedroza, Kimberly Shaw, Angie Welsh and Joe White

Committee members absent: Christine Alvarado, Veronica Creech, L'Teisha Curtis, Heather Drennan, Matt Glova, Liz Hamner, Sharon Loza, Charlotte Turpin, Michael Wasilick, Katherine Williams

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

**Call to Order/Announcements**

At 8:34 AM, Chair, Sherry Heuser recognized a quorum and called the meeting to order. She welcomed new WCSS NC Pre-K Committee and Board member, Nikia Coates and asked for a round of introductions from NC Pre-K Committee members and staff.

NC Pre-K Committee members reviewed minutes from previous meeting. Barbara Morales Burke moved to adopt the minutes from the NC Pre-K Committee meeting on June 23, 2021. Dale Cousins seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and hearing no objection, the motion carried. (08-21-06)

**Executive Director's Report**


Executive Director, Gayle E. Headen presented a staff recommendation for NC Pre-K reimbursement rates for Head Start and public school sites during the 2021-2022 school year. Dale Cousins made a motion to approve the NC Pre-K FY21-22 Head Start and Wake County Public Schools (WCPSS) reimbursement rates as detailed on Attachment B.2. Barbara Morales Burke seconded the motion. Calling for a committee vote and noting abstentions by Maria Cervania, Dawn Dawson, Cathy Moore and Kimberly Shaw, the vote to approve was passed. (08-21-07)

Gayle E. Headen presented a staff recommendation and supporting information for NC Pre-K plan requirements as described on Attachments C.1-C.7. She noted there is no change to individual plans except the Family Engagement plan with an added component of required family enrollment into Ready Rosie, an online evidence-informed and research-based family engagement and early learning resource tool. Following questions, Cathy Moore made a motion to adopt the NC Pre-K plan requirements for: Children with Unique Needs, Transportation, Transition, Family Engagement, Communication with Children and Families Who are Dual Language Learners and Inclement Weather Policy. Catherine Lassiter seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and hearing none opposed, the vote was unanimous. (08-21-08)

Ms. Headen also presented a staff recommendation for NC Pre-K slot placement and transportation fees where applicable as referenced in the chart on Attachment D. 2. Ms. Headen remarked that although the total number of slots in each classroom setting remains unchanged, there was a reduction in slots at a few privately owned sites either by their request, program closure or in the case of one site, missed deadline for slot request. This was rebalanced with an increase of slots assigned to other private programs. Following questions, Barbara Morales Burke moved to approve placement of 1,532 NC Pre-K slots for the 2021-22 school year in selected sites as listed on Attachment D.2 and transportation fees where applicable also detailed on Attachment D.2. Leslie Ann Jackson seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and noting abstentions by Maria Cervania, Dawn Dawson, Cathy Moore and Kimberly Shaw, the vote for approval passed. (08-21-09)

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

- Recruitment summary: 3191 applications for the 2021-2022 school year have been received to date. Several in-person application events held outdoors June through early July created opportunities to


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- receive additional applications and documentation to complete or correct applications that have already been submitted. Many of the received applications have exceeded income threshold.
- Enrollment: 659 of 999 slots have been filled. With the number of remaining applications pending review, staff have confidence in the ability to fill all remaining slots.
- Statewide, other NC Pre-K programs are not at full enrollment. The Division of Childhood Development and Early Education (DCDEE) has decided to continue the reimbursement strategy used last year, making payment on the contracted number of slots, instead of actual attendance, during the first quarter of the school year to allow additional time to fill open slots.

Sherry Heuser adjourned the NC Pre-K Committee meeting at 9:02 am.

**DocuSigned by:**

*Leslie Ann Jackson*

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Secretary

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Date