

**Wake County Smart Start
NC Pre-K Committee Meeting
October 27, 2021**

A meeting of the Wake County Smart Start (WCSS) NC Pre-K Committee was held on Wednesday, October 27, 2021 with WCSS Board Chair, Sherry Heuser presiding. The meeting was held via Zoom conference

Committee members present: Maria Cervania, Nikia Coates, Dale Cousins, Veronica Creech, Dawn Dawson, Matt Glova, Liz Hamner, Sherry Heuser, Leslie Ann Jackson Tonya Kangkolo, Catherine Lassiter, Cathy Moore, Barbara Morales Burke, Antonia Pedroza, Kimberly Shaw, Charlotte Turpin, Mike Wasilick, Angie Welsh and Joe White

Committee members absent: Christine Alvarado, Heather Drennan, Sharon Loza, 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 8:32 am, Chair, Sherry Heuser recognized a quorum and called the meeting to order. Barbara Morales Burke moved to adopt the agenda. Leslie Ann Jackson seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and with none opposed, the vote was unanimous. (10-21-20)

NC Pre-K Committee members reviewed minutes from previous meeting. Angie Welsh moved to adopt the minutes from the NC Pre-K Committee meeting on August 25, 2021. Dale Cousins seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and hearing no objection, the motion carried. (10-21-21)

Executive Director's Report

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

- Enrollment: Current enrollment is 1048 which is 68% capacity. Staff is reviewing current year application results to identify new strategies for the next year. Over 2700 online applications were received, many were incomplete or had incorrect documents attached, which slowed the process by requiring intensive follow-up. Other main factors identified as contributing to the gap in enrollment 1) during an uncertain time when a COVID vaccine is not yet available for young children, parents were asked to make a decision about enrollment for a future period and a number of parents remained at home with children while receiving unemployment benefits; 2) significantly reduced number of in-person application events. Staff are exploring application improvement strategies including technology, increased staff for application processing and greater parent access.
- The Division of Childhood Development and Early Education (DCDEE) is expected to announce soon if they will continue the reimbursement strategy of payment on the contracted number of slots, rather than actual attendance beyond November 2021.

Following questions and discussion, Cathy Moore made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 am. Charlotte Turpin seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and hearing no objections, the vote passed. (10-21-22)

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Secretary

12/7/2021 | 5:29 PM EST

Date