

**Wake County Smart Start
NC Pre-K Committee Meeting
December 1, 2021**

A meeting of the Wake County Smart Start (WCSS) NC Pre-K Committee was held on Wednesday, December 1, 2021 with WCSS Board Chair, Sherry Heuser presiding. The meeting was held via Zoom conference

Committee members present: Christine Alvarado, Maria Cervania, Nikia Coates, Dale Cousins, Veronica Creech, Dawn Dawson, Heather Drennan, Liz Hamner, Sherry Heuser, Leslie Ann Jackson Tonya Kangkolo, Catherine Lassiter, Sharon Loza, Barbara Morales Burke, Antonia Pedroza, Kimberly Shaw, Angie Welsh, Joe White and Katherine Williams

Committee members absent: Matt Glova, Cathy Moore, Charlotte Turpin and Mike Wasilick

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. Catherine Lassiter moved to adopt the agenda. Dale Cousins seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and with none opposed, the vote was unanimous. (12-21-31)

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 October 27, 2021. Joe White seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and hearing no objection, the motion carried. (12-21-32)


Executive Director's Report

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

- WCSS, in collaboration with Wake County Public Schools (WCPSS), is in the process of planning Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) training to meet the legislative mandate for NC Pre-K lead teachers and administrators to learn the science of reading and spelling. Administrators will receive their training in the Spring of 2022 and lead teachers will have their training in the Fall. Training kicks off in January for WCPSS 5th grade and NC Pre-K administrators.
- Enrollment: Current enrollment is 69% capacity across all settings. Very few new applications received over the past two months indicate the community need expressed is being met. Placement of eligible children will continue for the 2021-22 school year. The Pre-K collaborative released applications for 2022-23 school year on Nov. 29. NC Pre-K team is currently processing paper applications as adjustments are being made to the online application system.
- The Division of Childhood Development and Early Education (DCDEE) has approved continuation of reimbursement policy to base payment on the contracted number of slots through the end of the school year. Wake County has also confirmed its reimbursement policy will align to match the state.
- The approved state budget will provide a 2% increase to NC Pre-K to increase teacher compensation at privately owned sites.
- WCSS is transitioning to a bi-lingual database with additional functionality that will manage applications and enrollment. It will expand access to administrators of the Pre-K Collaborative, providers and families and facilitate secure and prompt communication. The new database is targeted to go live in January, 2022.

Following questions and discussion, Liz Hamner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 am. Veronica Creech seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and hearing no objections, the vote passed. (12-21-33)

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Secretary

3/2/2022 | 3:10 PM EST

Date