

**Wake County Smart Start
NC Pre-K Committee Meeting
February 23, 2022**

A meeting of the Wake County Smart Start (WCSS) NC Pre-K Committee was held on Wednesday, February 23, 2022 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, Dawn Dawson, Heather Drennan, Matt Glova Liz Hamner, Sherry Heuser, Leslie Ann Jackson Tonya Kangkolo, Catherine Lassiter, Sharon Loza, Cathy Moore, Kimberly Shaw, Angie Welsh, Joe White and Katherine Williams

Committee members absent: Veronica Creech, Liz Hamner, Barbara Morales Burke, Antonia Pedroza, Charlotte Turpin and Mike Wasilick

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

Guest present: Susan Evans

Call to Order/Announcements

At 8:32 am, Chair, Sherry Heuser recognized a quorum and called the meeting to order She announced the meeting is being recorded for note taking purposes only and noted staff attending the call as non-committee members. Katherine Williams moved to adopt the agenda. Matt Glova seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and with none opposed, the vote was unanimous. (02-22-46)


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 December 1, 2021. Joe White seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and hearing no objection, the motion carried. (02-22-47)

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director, Gayle E. Headen presented a staff recommendation for the continued operation of an existing Pre-K site under new ownership. Angie Welsh moved to approve continued operation of Big Blue Marble Academy, formerly Kiddie Academy in Holly Springs, as an approved NC Pre-K site through the end of the contract cycle (FY20-23) with the requirements for the site to participate in the next Site Selection Process (FY23-26) and that Big Blue Marble Academy maintain all requirements for the NC Pre-K Program for the duration of the contract cycle. Kim Shaw seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and hearing none opposed, the vote to approve was unanimous. (02-22-48)

Gayle E. Headen presented a staff recommendation for slot placement. She remarked this annual recommendation has been traditionally brought for consideration in August but is being presented earlier than usual due to a new requirement by Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE) for approval of slot placements by the end of February. Ms. Headen said transportation fees as well as any changes to slot placement will be brought to the committee in August. Following questions, Catherine Lassiter moved to approve the placement of 1,532 NC Pre-K slots for the 2022-23 school year as outlined on the accompanying chart on Attachment C.2. Leslie Ann Jackson seconded the motion. Calling for a vote, noting abstentions by Maria Cervania, Dawn Dawson, Heather Drennan, Cathy Moore, Antonia Pedroza and Kim Shaw, and hearing none opposed, the motion carried. (02-22-49)

Gayle E. Headen presented a staff recommendation for adopting a standardized site selection process in compliance with DCDEE requirements. Matt Glova moved to approve beginning the NC Pre-K Standardized Site Selection Process during SY 2022-2023 as outlined in the NC Pre-K Program Requirements and Guidance which includes the following: completion of the standardized site selection process electronically through e-CImpact, a secure grant management software system; completion for a 3-year funding cycle (FY 2023-2026); continuation of the current non-conflicted Site Selection Sub-Committee members for the 2022-2023 site selection process: Christy Thalheimer (chair), Gloria Cook, Karen Ray, Linda Bauer, Willi Webb, and Krista Barbour; and exempting existing NC Pre-K sites that are maintaining NC Pre-K standards to re-apply during the site selection process. Katherine Williams seconded the motion. Calling for a vote, noting abstentions by Maria Cervania, Dawn

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 Initial 5/9/2022 | 5:06 PM EDT
Date

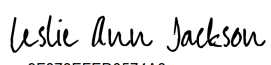
Dawson, Heather Drennan, Cathy Moore, Antonia Pedroza and Kim Shaw, and hearing none opposed, the motion carried. (02-22-50)

Ms. Headen shared the results of the NC Pre-K 2021-22 monitoring report. She drew attention to Attachment E.1 outlining concerns at the specified sites and steps that have been taken for follow-up and issue resolution. Ms. Headen remarked there were no significant findings and WCSS is satisfied with corrective actions taken. Wake Pre-K Manager, Joan Crutchfield addressed questions related to the monitoring report.

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

- Enrollment SY2021-22: Current enrollment for the 2021-22 school year is 74% capacity across all settings.
- Applications SY2022-23: 717 applications were received during the first month of acceptance for the 2022-23 school year, representing about 20% of total applications received for the 2021-22 school year. Approximately 75% of these applications were submitted online.

Following questions and discussion, Tonya Kangkolo made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 am. Cathy Moore seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and hearing no objections, the vote passed. (02-22-51)

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Secretary

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