

**Wake County SmartStart Board of Directors Meeting  
August 26, 2015**

A regular meeting of the Wake County SmartStart Board of Directors took place on Wednesday, August 26, 2015, 2015 in Room 204, 4901 Waters Edge Drive, Raleigh, North Carolina.

Board members in attendance: Christine Alvarado, Lorie Barnes, Arvelis Byrd, Kelly Caldwell, Sandy Dietrich, Jim S. Greene, Liz Hamner, Jessica Holmes, Mark Langford, Susan McCullen, Cathy Moore, Barbara Morales Burke, Camille Schaffer, Mike Smith, Kristi Tally, Angie Welsh, and Tyrone Williamson.

Board members absent as excused: Ana Maria Bonell, Dale Cousins, Jim Green, Carol Mitchell, Regina Petteway, Kim Shaw, Charlotte Turpin and Mike Wasilick.

Staff members present: Phyllis Barbour, Debi Bartholomew, Gary Carr, Brittany Clark, Pamela Dowdy, Nancy Peck, Elizabeth Santana, Melinda Schlesinger.

**Welcome/Call to Order/Adoption of Agenda:**

At 8:40 AM, Board Chair, Mike Smith recognized a quorum and called the meeting to order. Dr. Smith welcomed new Board members, Kristi Tally, Jessica Holmes and Christine Alvarado and invited each of them to introduce themselves before calling for a round of introductions from the remainder of the Board. Dr. Smith further invited Board members to share how they've been involved in helping young children. Following introductions, Arvelis Byrd moved to adopt the agenda. Camille Schaffer seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and hearing no objections, the motion carried. (08-15-01)

Jim Greene moved to approve the consent agenda including minutes from the previous meeting on June 24, 2015, the July 2015 Financial report, and a fiscal monitoring summary for DSP and in-house programs for FY 2014-15. Mark Langford seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and hearing no objections, the motion carried. (08-15-02)

**Acknowledgement:**

Mike Smith acknowledged Nell Barnes, present at the meeting as a visitor, longtime WCSS volunteer and current NC Pre-K site administrator, for her many years of service since the inception of the organization. Ms. Barnes accepted a WCSS tote bag as a token of appreciation, and expressed her pleasure in volunteering over the years on the WCSS Board, Allocations and Program Planning Committee. She said that due to increasing conflicts, she has decided it is time to step down from her position on the Program Planning Committee, but will continue to support WCSS.

**Committee Reports**

• **Board Development: Mike Smith**

On behalf of Board Development Committee Chair, Dale Cousins, Mike Smith reported on the recent Board Orientation meeting attended by Christine Alvarado, Jim Greene and Kristi Tally. Dr. Smith recapped discussion regarding how to structure board giving. Board Treasurer, Kelly Caldwell reported on historical data from the last three years of Board Giving, noting a steady increase in the percentage of giving and amount of contributions. Mike Smith said board giving structure will be a point of further discussion at the September Executive Committee.

**Finance: Kelly Caldwell**

Kelly Caldwell presented a recommendation from the Finance Committee to set up an investment account to create opportunity for potential donations of stock. Mark Langford made a motion to approve establishment of an investment account with Northwestern Mutual Investment Services for the receipt and sale of donated securities with the Board Chair, Treasurer, Finance Committee Chair, Executive Director and Controller as authorized signers on the account. Susan McCullen seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and hearing no objections, the motion carried. (08-15-03)

• **Program Planning: Arvelis Byrd**

Committee Chair, Arvelis Byrd presented a recommendation from Program Planning Committee to accept NC Pre-K slot placement for 2015-16 in sites previously approved by the Board, and approval of transportation fees. Pam Dowdy commented on several factors that affect the pool of eligible children to address a question regarding increase or decrease in slots for some of the sites. Ms. Dowdy noted that WCSS expects to gain additional slots when the state budget is finalized, but at this time, the number is unknown. Following questions, Sandra Dietrich moved to approve placement of 1004 NC Pre-K slots for the 2015-16 school year in sites listed on Attachment B.3b, and approval of transportation fees also listed on Attachment B.3b. Kelly Caldwell seconded the motion. Calling for a vote, noting abstentions by Arvelis Byrd, Jessica Holmes, Susan McCullen and Cathy Moore and hearing no objections, the motion passed. (08-15-04)

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**Collective Impact Report: Angie Welsh**

Angie Welsh began her update by summarizing the Collective Impact model as a framework used by organizations to create greater differences in the community faster by coming together with a common agenda to address goals. Ms. Welsh stated that several initiatives exist in Wake County focused on different segments of "Cradle to Career", but prior to the two Collective Impact meetings held at WCSS, had not come together to talk about common goals. She reported that during the meetings, representatives from the key agencies involved in different segments of "Cradle to Career", shared what they were doing, created an assets analysis, and agreed that they want to align goals under a Collective Impact initiative. She said the group also concluded it should explore using the overarching structure of the Healthiest Capital County Initiative to incorporate "Cradle to Career" goals.

**Chair's Report: Mike Smith**

- Mike Smith noted a longer delay by the NC General Assembly for resolution of the state budget. He reported that he has called and emailed legislators in the Wake County Delegation asking for their support of the House budget.
- Mike Smith reminded members of the Board to submit their FY 2015-16 Conflict of Interest disclosure statement. He commented on the importance of identifying conflicts to ensure transparency and confidence in the integrity of WCSS.
- Dr. Smith reported Elizabeth Santana is retiring from the WCSS staff on September 18. He recognized her for her accomplishments and thanked her for her leadership over the past 16 years.

**Executive Director's Report: Pam Dowdy**

Pam Dowdy presented a staff recommendation for the addition of a new staff position to the Community Outreach department to support increased awareness, community engagement and cultivation of champions for children. Mark Langford made a motion to approve the addition of a Communications Coordinator staff position. Kelly Caldwell seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and hearing no objections, the motion was unanimous. (08-16-05)

- Pam Dowdy summarized historical background regarding WCSS Board adoption of kindergarten readiness indicators related to children eligible for free or reduced lunch (FRL). She said that data to measure these indicators was provided annually by Wake County Public School System until a few years ago when the FDA determined FRL data could not be used as an indicator of a child's school performance. Ms. Dowdy said WCSS is now challenged to obtain data that connects individual performance to the impact of children served by WCSS programs – such as NC Pre-K. She said WCSS staff is making every effort with community partners to obtain data that can be correlated to individual kindergarten readiness indicators, but may need to change goals, since it cannot be tracked. Angie Welsh commented that United Way plans to invest in "Efforts to Outcomes" software to track client level data with a goal of making the system available to the community.
- Pam Dowdy informed the Board that WCSS Leadership Team has been working on professional development and leadership transition planning.

With no further business to address, Mark Langford made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 AM. Lorie Barnes seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and hearing no objections, the motion was unanimous. (08-15-06)

Lorie C Barnes  
Secretary

10/28/15  
Date