

**Wake County Smart Start
Board of Directors Meeting
October 26, 2022**

A meeting of the Wake County Smart Start (WCSS) Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, October 26, 2022, with WCSS Board Chair, Sherry Heuser presiding. The meeting was held via Zoom conference

Board members present: Christine Alvarado, Nikia Coates, Veronica Creech, Heather Drennan, Matt Ellinwood, Matt Glova, Sherry Heuser, Mickey Holt, Leslie Ann Jackson, Tonya Kangkolo, Cathy Moore, Barbara Morales Burke, Antonia Pedroza, Colleen Roache, Kimberly Shaw, Tonya Venable, Joe White and Katherine Williams

Board members absent: Maria Cervania, Liz Hamner, Catherine Lassiter, Sharon Loza and Michael Wasilick

Staff members present: Gary Carr, Joan Crutchfield, Diana Fenves, Sasha Gomez, Gayle E. Headen, Alex Livas-Dlott, Bryce McClamroch, Carol Orji, Nancy Peck, Lynn Policastro and Taylor Young

Guest present: Dawn Dawson

Call to Order/Announcements

At 9:04 AM, Board Chair, Sherry Heuser recognized a quorum and called the meeting to order. She announced the meeting is being recorded for the purpose of accurate minutes taking and the presence of Dawn Dawson and staff as non-board members in attendance. Ms. Heuser turned the floor over to Director, Gayle E. Headen who presented the "Mission Moment" with a PowerPoint presentation focusing on Social Emotional Learning (SEL). Ms. Headen provided an overview of the program – what it is, why it is important to develop in early childhood, how WCSS is supporting SEL in the early childhood system through Technical Assistance. Board members viewed a video demonstrating a breathing exercise designed to help children calm themselves and another video of why SEL is of particular importance in the current environment. Barbara Morales Burke asked for a link to the video to be sent to all board members after the meeting. Wake County Public School System (WCPSS) Superintendent, Catty Moore commented on the SEL focus in WCPSS classrooms post pandemic to foster a sense of safety in a trusted environment - helping students to settle and be ready to learn. Following the presentation, Joe White moved to adopt the agenda. Leslie Ann Jackson seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and with none opposed, the motion carried. (10-22-20)

The Board reviewed items on the consent agenda. Katherine Williams moved to approve items on the consent agenda including minutes from the August 24, 2022 Board meeting, August 2022 financial reports and July 2022 financial reports. Matt Glova seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and hearing no objection, the motion carried. (10-22-21)

Committee Reports

Advancement Committee


Advancement Committee Chair, Nikia Coates shared immediate opportunities for Board engagement with two specific asks.

- 25th Anniversary Sponsorships: Board members were asked to purchase individual sponsorship, share sponsorship requests with prospects within their networks and connect sponsorship prospects to WCSS staff through email introductions. Ms. Coates informed the Board that they will receive a "plug and play" sponsorship request template by email.
- Better Together appreciation event: Board members were asked to participate in the event on November 15 by registering before Nov. 8 through the link on the invitation they received by email.

Sherry Heuser gave kudos to the leadership by Advancement and 25 Anniversary Host Committees and urged involvement by the entire Board to share information and make connections.

Board Governance Committee

Board Governance Committee Chair, Barbara Morales Burke gave a brief background of the two-part surveys conducted in May and June 2022 to gather information about WCSS Board engagement and satisfaction. She shared takeaways from the results through a presentation by walking through four areas of opportunity for growth that emerged as themes, as well as specific opportunities within each area, related

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action items and designation of responsibilities. Ms. Morales Burke concluded the presentation by opening discussion of how to develop a Board culture that sets reasonably high expectations for engagement, both individually and collectively and holding accountability for those expectations. Barbara Morales Burke addressed several questions about the “board buddy” program. Sherry Heuser urged all board members to own individual responsibility by taking initiative in reaching out to other members with questions.

Finance Committee

Finance Committee Chair, Joe White began his report with the purpose of the annual 990 form as a primary tool to share the organization’s work and information with the IRS and public, as well as where it can be located on the website for those interested. He summarized several highlights of note in the FY 2021-22-IRS 990 form prepared by Blackman & Sloop, an independent accounting firm and reviewed by the Finance Committee prior to making it available for Board approval. There being no questions, a motion coming from Finance Committee was made to adopt the FY2021-22 990 and to approve its electronic submission to the IRS as required. Calling for a vote, and hearing no objections, the vote was unanimous (10-22-22)

Chair’s Report

Chair, Sherry Heuser elected to not provide a report during this meeting.


Executive Director’s Report

Executive Director, Gayle E. Headen began her report by urging everyone who has not already done so, to vote in the November election. She stressed that as systems are interdependent, personal knowledge of the candidates and their positions as well as a subsequent vote is critical to helping support the work of WCSS. Ms. Headen announced that NCPC has distributed pre-election resources, including responses to a questionnaire to candidates on their views on issues impacting young children and families. A link to these resources and questionnaire will be forwarded to the Board and staff following the meeting.

- Strategic Planning: Ms. Headen expressed appreciation for staff contributions to the Strategic Plan. She referred to the data priority update on the agenda, focusing on the “why” of its importance in the context of NC Pre-K application process improvement. Ms. Headen remarked the community relies on WCSS as the application center for all eligible 4-year-olds in Wake County. She said as staff use collected data to improve the application process, it will create enhanced accessibility, and a better application experience which will increase parents’ desire to apply. Thus, the use of data ultimately helps the agency and Pre-K Collaborative achieve their collective goal of serving the greatest number of children and is tied to WCSS’s mission to ensure children birth to five are prepared for success in school.

Chair, Sherry Heuser thanked all present for their time and discussion and reminded them to log on through the separate link for the Strategic Planning session call at 10:15. Ms. Headen also noted the next Board meeting will be on December 7, 2022. With no further business, Tonya Kangkolo moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:02 am. Mickey Holt seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and hearing no objections, the meeting was adjourned. (10-22-23)

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Secretary

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