

**Wake County Smart Start  
NC Pre-K Committee Meeting  
October 26, 2022**

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

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

Committee members absent: Maria Cervania, Matt Ellinwood, Liz Hamner, Catherine Lassiter, Sharon Loza, Antonia Pedroza and Michael Wasilick

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

**Call to Order/Announcements**

At 8:37 am, Chair, Sherry Heuser suggested reordering the agenda to start with the Executive Director's report to allow time for later arriving members to join the meeting and reach quorum.

**Executive Director's Report**


Executive Director, Gayle E. Headen provided the following NC Pre-K program updates:

- Enrollment SY2022-23: Enrollment for the 2022-23 school year as of Oct. 10 is 1270 children -83% capacity across all settings: 870 in private sites (999 placements offered, less 129 declined placements), 300 reported by Wake County Public Schools with expectation they will reach full enrollment, and 100 reported by Head Start. Placements have been temporarily halted over the past two weeks while the state system was down. The system is now back online, allowing WCSS to return to processing applications and making placements.
- Local Smart Start partnerships across the state are in a similar situation of unfilled slots. They report common challenges of finding eligible families and teacher shortages.
- Significant improvements to the current placement processes have been identified as necessary to adjust to the growing volume of application and new online platform since these legacy practices were operationalized. The changes are expected to be implemented in January as applications become available for the next school year.
- WCSS is also making greater use of parent feedback by expanding surveys collected only from placed applicant families to every family who's applied as well as follow up interviews to understand their application experience.

At 8:48, Ms. Heuser announced a quorum was present and officially called the meeting to order. She noted the meeting is being recorded for minute taking purposes only and drew attention to the presence of staff attending the call as non-committee members. Barbara Morales Burke moved to adopt the agenda. Veronica Creech seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and with none opposed, the vote was unanimous. (10-22-16)

NC Pre-K Committee members reviewed minutes from previous meeting. Mickey Holt moved to adopt the minutes from the NC Pre-K Committee meeting on August 24, 2022. Matt Glova seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and hearing no objection, the motion carried. (10-22-17)

Gayle E. Headen presented a staff recommendation for approval of the NC Pre-K standardized site selection process and timeline as well as two additional site selection sub-committee members. Barbara Morales Burke made a motion to adopt the North Carolina Pre-Kindergarten (NC Pre-K) Standardized Site Selection Process /timeline as detailed on Attachment B.2 and additional site selection sub-committee members which includes Niki M Leonard and Jenna Tarleton. Leslie Ann Jackson seconded the motion. Calling for a committee vote and hearing none opposed, the vote to approve was unanimous (10-22-18)

DS  
 Initial      12/9/2022 | 10:02 AM EST  
Date

There being no further business, Veronica Creech made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 am. Heather Drennan seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and hearing no objections, the motion passed. (10-22-19)

DocuSigned by:

*Leslie Ann Jackson*  
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Secretary

12/9/2022 | 10:02 AM EST

Date