

**Wake County Smart Start
Board of Directors Meeting
April 26, 2023**

A meeting of the Wake County Smart Start (WCSS) Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, April 26, 2023, with WCSS Board Chair, Sherry Heuser presiding. The meeting was held via Zoom conference call.

Board members present: Nikia Coates, Heather Drennan, Matt Ellinwood, Matt Glova, Sherry Heuser, Tonya Kangkolo, Leslie Ann Jackson, Catty Moore, Barbara Morales Burke, Joe White and Katherine Williams

Board members absent: Christine Alvarado, Veronica Creech, Susan Evans, Liz Hamner, Mickey Holt, Catherine Lassiter, Sharon Loza, Antonia Pedroza, Colleen Roache, Kimberly Shaw, Tonya Venable, Michael Wasilick

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

Call to Order/Announcements

At 9:03 AM, Chair, Sherry Heuser recognized a quorum and called the meeting to order. She announced the meeting is being recorded and noted the presence of staff as non-board members in attendance. Early Childhood Initiatives Manager, Lynn Policastro presented the Mission Moment focusing on Early Childhood Initiatives Quality Enhancement. Following a brief overview of the current Quality Enhancement projects, Ms. Policastro shared how the Improving and Sustaining project supports child care centers through slides illustrating the journey for A Happy Place to Bee to work toward attaining a five star rating. Following the presentation, Leslie Ann Jackson moved to adopt the agenda. Katherine Williams seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and with none opposed, the motion carried. (04-23-61)

The Board reviewed items on the consent agenda. Barbara Morales Burke moved to approve items on the consent agenda including minutes from the February 22, 2023 Board meeting, February 2023 and March 2023 financial reports. Matt Glova seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and hearing no objection, the motion carried. (04-23-62)


Committee Reports

Allocations Committee

Committee Chair, Leslie Ann Jackson introduced the committee’s funding recommendations for a one-year transitional funding cycle. Ms. Jackson referred Board members to the chart on Attachment B.2, detailing recommended funding by board identified goal areas. She noted that funding recommendations prioritized proposals with alignment to the Strategic Framework and that most activities are recommended for funding at the level requested, with just a few exceptions. Ms. Jackson asked Bryce McClamroch, WCSS Program Coordination & Evaluation Manager, to share more details about the allocations process. He noted the endeavor to be responsive throughout the process to feedback from the previous year’s Allocations Committee meeting and finding from the Racial Equity Community Assessment. Mr. McClamroch reported eight new activities proposals were submitted. He stated that WCSS will reach out to all programs not recommended for funding to offer technical assistance to aid them in re-applying during the next cycle. Leslie Ann Jackson thanked committee members and staff for their efforts.

Barbara Morales Burke moved to accept as a package the allocation of \$12,898,698 in funding for 13 organizations to implement 19 program activities in FY 23-24 as follows:

<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>PROGRAM ACTIVITY</u>	<u>ALLOCATION</u>
Book Harvest	Book Babies	\$177,309
Family Resource Center of Raleigh	Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY)	\$425,821


7/7/2023 | 9:22 AM EDT
Date

UNC – Chapel Hill/UNC Horizons Program	Maternal-Infant Early Intervention Services	\$110,000
Wake County Smart Start	NC Pre-K	\$2,741,542
Wake County Human Services	Nurse Family Partnership	\$221,643
Catholic Charities	School Readiness for Hispanic Children	\$174,439
Lucy Daniels Center	Social/Emotional Interventions For Young Children	\$633,694
Step Up Ministry	Baby Steps/Little Steps	\$50,000
Fiesta Christiana Mission Congregation	Building Family Support	\$106,313
SAFEchild	The Nurturing Program for Spanish Speaking Families	\$119,360
Wake County Public School System, Office of Early Learning	Parents as Teachers	\$750,642
Triangle Area Parenting Support	Program for Early Parent Support	\$141,805
Passage Home	REACH	\$63,871
Wake County Human Services	Child Care Health Consultant Program	\$576,684
Wake County Smart Start	Quality Enhancement (QE)	\$433,969
Wake County Human Services	Child Care Subsidy	\$4,983,458
Wake County Smart Start	Fundraising	\$128,986
Wake County Smart Start	Program Coordination and Evaluation	\$614,964
Wake County Smart Start	Systems Improvement and Public Engagement (SIPE)	\$444,198

Joe White seconded the motion. Calling for a vote, noting abstentions by Heather Drennan and Catty Moore, and hearing none opposed, the motion carried. (4-23-63)

Advancement Committee

Advancement Committee Chair, Nikia Coates Nikia Coates shared the following Building Bright Futures event updates:

- Senator Rachel Hunt will take part in the Building Bright Futures program, representing the legacy work of Governor James Hunt and First Lady, Carolyn Hunt in developing the Smart Start initiative.
- The event is 13 business days away. Committee members are calling over 100 previous donors with a personal invitation to attend.
- To date, \$60,000 has been raised (\$38,000 from sponsorships, \$22,000 in ticket sales)

Ms. Coates concluded her report with the following requests for all board members: purchase of a block of four tickets which will count as a Board Giving contribution, personal invitation to ten friends/colleagues to attend, and committing as a board member to attend the event in person. All board members present at the event will be invited to gather for a group photo.

Board Governance Committee

Board Governance Committee Chair, Barbara Morales Burke reported the committee spent the last two meetings focusing on identifying board needs and recruitment of potential candidates. The committee expects to bring a recommendation of 3-4 nominees for election as new members at the June board meeting. At the committee's next meeting on May 17, they will finalize the slate of officers for nomination also at the June meeting.

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 ME Initial 7/7/2023 | 9:22 AM EDT
 Date

Finance Committee

Finance Committee Chair, Joe White introduced a committee recommendation to recognize staff performance through a one-time contribution to the 401k accounts of eligible staff at a total cost of approximately \$74,000 covered by funding from projected unexpended budgets and Smart Start funds not placed in contract. He noted this form of performance recognition, a discretionary contribution by WCSS as employer has historic precedence and is allowable through the profit-sharing provision of the 401k Plan. Hearing no questions, a motion coming from Finance Committee was made to approve a one-time employer contribution of \$2,000 to each eligible employee's 401k account in accordance with the WCSS 401k Plan and Profit-Sharing Provision at the end of the current fiscal year. Calling for a vote, and hearing no objections, the vote was unanimous (04-23-64)

Chair's Report

Chair, Sherry Heuser reinforced the critical need for full Board support and involvement to make the 25th Anniversary celebration a successful event and raise the unrestricted funds needed to supplement Smart Start funding for capacity building work as well as for expenditures that can't be paid with Smart Start funds. She pointed out that some board members and staff have set up team fundraising profiles on the Givebutter site and acknowledged Matt Glova, currently leading with the highest amount of funds raised.


Executive Director's Report

Executive Director, Gayle E. Headen, opened her report by expressing appreciation to the board and community members of the Allocations Committee and staff who contributed to the FY23-24 funding process and special acknowledgement of Leslie Ann Jackson and Bryce McClamroch for their leadership. She also thanked board members for responding to her individual communications with them to attend and invite others to the Building Bright Futures event.

She reported with the following updates:

- Wake County Board of Commissioners Budget Public Hearing: Staff from Pre-K, Wake Three School and Community Relations and Development departments are coordinating speakers for public comment at the May 15, 7 PM public hearing. WCSS is not requesting additional funding for NC Pre-K but is requesting an additional \$1.3 million for Wake ThreeSchool expansion, to fund an additional 100 slots for a total of 200 slots. The request in total is \$3.3 million. WCSS continued discussion with the Education Committee on how to scale up expansion of Wake ThreeSchool through the exploration of private funding to diversify revenue sources.
- Wake ThreeSchool (WTS) sites: Eight new WTS applicant sites are pending as an addition to the existing eight sites, in preparation for a budget decision by Wake County to include additional funding for the program. The new sites have been identified in alignment with geographic areas tied to the where the majority of submitted applications are coming from. The final number of applications for 22-23 school year was 992. To date, 333 applications for 23-24 school year have been received, tracking on the same pace with the number received for this time period in the previous year.
- Wake County Commissioner, Susan Evans and Gayle Headen will co-present on a panel at the 2023 Smart Start Conference to provide insight into how Early Childhood leaders can best collaborate in their communities to drive change for young children and families. Ms. Headen and Commissioner Evans will speak about local partnerships and their relationships with county commissioners.
- Strategic Priority Update -Wake Early Childhood Action Plan (ECAP): Ms. Headen provided a summary of the background of the Wake ECAP, its current state of development and next steps for the Wake ECAP Executive Committee.

WCPSS Superintendent, Catty Moore inquired if WCSS had received a briefing about NC HB 766 which proposes the Department of Public Instruction to have full decision making over any Pre-K literacy program curricula.

DS
 Initial 7/7/2023 | 9:22 AM EDT Date

Ms. Headen presented a staff recommendation for authorizing staff to make use of Smart Start reverted and carryforward funds to backfill the recommended reduced allocations to in-house activities in order to fund additional community activities. She noted that this strategy would leverage full expenditure of carryforward funds and reduce the amount of reverted funds in future years. Following comments, Joe White moved to approve staff authorization to allocate Smart Start FY 2022-2023 reverted and carryforward funds to fund FY 2023-2024 WCSS in-house activities. Leslie Ann Jackson seconded the motion. Calling for a vote, and hearing no objections, the vote was unanimous (04-23-65)

With no further business to discuss, Katherine Williams moved to adjourn the meeting. Matt Glova seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and hearing no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 AM. (04-23-66)

DocuSigned by:

Matthew Elinwood

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Secretary

7/7/2023 | 9:22 AM EDT

Date