

**Wake County Smart Start
NC Pre-K Committee Meeting
December 6, 2023**

A meeting of the Wake County Smart Start (WCSS) NC Pre-K Committee was held on Wednesday, December 6, 2023 with Vice Chair, Nikia Coates presiding. The meeting was held via Zoom conference call.

Committee members present: Nikia Coates, Dawn Dawson, Matt Ellinwood, Susan Evans, Matt Glova, Sherry Heuser, Mickey Holt, Leslie Ann Jackson, Amelia Muse, Ronetta Pearsall, Tonya Venable, Joe White and Stacey Wilson-Norman

Committee members absent: Christine Alvarado, Heather Drennan, Tonya Kangkolo, Catherine Lassiter, Antonia Pedroza, Colleen Roache and Katherine Williams

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

Guests present: Katie Lewis and Cheryl Stallings

Call to Order/Announcements

At 8:32 am, Vice Chair, Nikia Coates, announced a quorum was present and officially called the meeting to order. She noted the meeting is being recorded and drew attention to the presence of staff and guests attending the meeting as non-committee members.

Leslie Ann Jackson moved to adopt the agenda. Sherry Heuser seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and with none opposed, the vote was unanimous. (12-23-37)

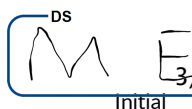
NC Pre-K Committee members reviewed minutes from previous meeting. Mickey Holt moved to adopt the minutes from the NC Pre-K Committee meeting on October 25, 2023. Matt Glova seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and hearing no objection, the motion carried. (12-23-38)

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director, Gayle E. Headen introduced a staff recommendation for a temporary measure to balance the Pre-K reimbursement rate for private sites with the child care subsidy market rate increase that went into effect in October, 2023. Ms. Headen commented that WCSS is exploring other possible sources of funding to restore the Pre-K reimbursement rate differential of \$65 over the Child Care Subsidy rate in SY24-25. She reaffirmed the NC Pre-K Committee is the decision-making body for the local NC Pre-K Program. Sherry Heuser made a motion to approve a temporary adjustment of the private child care tiered rate reimbursement system based on Lead Teacher qualification to reimburse all approved lead teachers at the same rate; and approve a new reimbursement rate increase for the 2023-24 school year effective with the attendance month beginning December 1, 2023, for private sites as detailed on Attachment B.1. Matt Glova seconded the motion. Calling for a vote, with abstentions by Susan Evans and Ronetta Pearsall, the vote to approve was unanimous (12-23-39)


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

- SY2023-24 enrollment: total enrollment is 1431, representing 93% of current capacity across all settings:
 - Private sites are full except one slot, currently in the process of being re-assigned after a family withdrew.
 - WCPSS has filled all of their allocated slots. WCPSS accepted the 80 slots that were previously unallocated due to the loss of several provider sites and are in the process of filling them in public school classrooms.
 - Head Start has the greatest number of vacancies. Teacher shortages and child enrollment challenges will not be resolved in time to fill Head Start vacancies this year and may possibly take beyond next year to achieve resolution.

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3/4/2024 | 11:55 AM EST
Initial Date

- The Pre-K Site Selection process has opened. Site applications from 4 and 5 star and temporarily licensed facilities will be accepted until December 15th at 5:00 pm.
- The online application for 2024-2025 will open January 3, 2024
- NC Pre-K is collaborating with Wake ThreeSchool to host a day of training on January 24, 2024. Teachers will attend two comprehensive workshops focused on social/emotional behaviors of children and how they, as teachers, can take care of their own mental well-being while providing empathy, support, and guidance to children.

With no further agenda items, Matt Glova moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 am. Leslie Ann Jackson seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and hearing no objections, the motion passed. (12-23-40)

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Secretary

3/4/2024 | 11:55 AM EST

Date