

**Wake County Smart Start
NC Pre-K Committee Meeting
April 24, 2024**

A meeting of the Wake County Smart Start (WCSS) NC Pre-K Committee was held via Zoom call on Wednesday, April 24, 2024, with Chair Katherine Williams presiding.

Committee members present: Christine Alvarado, Nikia Coates, Dawn Dawson, Heather Drennan, Matthew Ellinwood, Susan Evans, Matt Glova, Sherry Heuser, Mickey Holt, Leslie Ann Jackson, Ronetta Pearsall, Antonia Pedroza, Tonya Venable, Joe White, Katherine Williams and Stacey Wilson-Norman

Committee members absent: Catherine Lassiter and Colleen Roache

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

Guests present: Cheryl Stallings and Katie Lewis

Call to Order/Announcements

At 8:32 am, Chair Katherine Williams 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 attending the meeting as non-committee members.

Sherry Heuser moved to adopt the agenda. Nikia Coates seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and with none opposed, the vote was unanimous. (4-24-65)

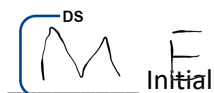
NC Pre-K Committee members reviewed minutes from previous meeting. Susan Evans moved to adopt the minutes from the NC Pre-K Committee meeting on February 28, 2024. Matt Glova seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and hearing no objection, the motion carried. (4-24-66)

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director, Gayle E. Headen reviewed background information on the site selection process and introduced a staff recommendation for the addition of six new program sites. In response to a question, Joan Crutchfield clarified the process for placement if the site closest to the home of the applicant is full. Sherry Heuser made a motion to approve six new facilities scoring 70% or greater on the site selection rubric: LaPetite Academy of Baines Court, Morrisville Square Creative School, Primary Beginnings-Falls of Neuse, The Jordan Child & Family Enrichment Center, Abbotts Creek Elementary, and Brooks Magnet Elementary; and authorization for staff to place slots in approved sites according to the geographic needs of applying families for approval by the NC Pre-K Committee at the August 2024 meeting. Matthew Ellinwood seconded the motion. Calling for a vote, with abstentions by Dawn Dawson, Heather Drennan, Susan Evans, Ronetta Pearsall, Tonya Venable and Stacey Wilson-Norman, the motion passed. (4-24-67)

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


- SY2024-25 application status: Currently 2528 applications have been received by the application center. Of these, about 1300 have been or will be processed based on self-reported income and other criteria with almost 400 verified and pending placement in NC Pre-K. Application numbers are on a par with the same period during 2023. WCSS anticipates sufficient capacity from providers to return to full 999 slots in private sites in the 2024-2025 school year.
- The Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE) is discontinuing some of the exemptions and flexibilities offered to child care providers during and post pandemic. Changes to NC Pre-K requirements for 2024-2025 SY include allowing long-term substitutes for a maximum of 12 weeks, and teaching assistants must meet educational requirements with no flexibilities offered.
- The final two administrator meetings for the year include the April meeting focused on families and children experiencing homelessness; and May's meeting, a training on promoting racial equity in the classroom.

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7/9/2024 | 10:44 AM EDT
Date

- Local NC Pre-K programs are preparing for year end celebrations. Nancy Peck will send committee members an emailed list of upcoming graduation celebrations. Board members are encouraged to consider attending one of more of the celebration events to support the achievement of the children as they transition to rising kindergartners and their teachers who have prepared them for success.

With no further agenda items, Matt Glova moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:59 am. Mickey Holt seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and hearing no objections, the motion passed. (4-24-68)

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Secretary

7/9/2024 | 10:44 AM EDT

Date