

**Wake County Smart Start  
NC Pre-K Committee Meeting  
April 23, 2025**

A meeting of the Wake County Smart Start (WCSS) NC Pre-K Committee was held on Wednesday, April 23, 2025, with Vice Chair Nikia Coates presiding.

Pre-K Committee Members present: Nikia Coates, Sherry Heuser, Veronica Creech, Ariel Ford, Stephanie Shell, Susan Evans, André Anthony, Ronetta Pearsall, Dawn Dawson, Joe White, Nikki Leonard, Antonia Pedroza.

Pre-K Committee Members absent: Katherine Williams, Tonya Venable, Matthew Ellinwood, Matthew Glova, Mickey Holt, Cheryl Stallings

Guests present: Gayle E. Headen, Bryce McClamroch, Joan Crutchfield, Robert Linens, Alejandra Livas-Dlott, Carol Orji, Gary Carr, Katie Lewis, Taylor Young, Anjanette Curtis, Lynn Policastro, Sasha Gomez

**Call to Order/Announcements**

Nikia Coates recognized a quorum. She announced that the meeting was being recorded, and staff members were present.

Ms. Coates requested a motion to adopt the agenda. Susan Evans moved to adopt the agenda. André Anthony seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and with none opposed, the motion carried. (4-23-52)

Ms. Coates requested a motion to approve minutes from the February 26, 2025, meeting. Veronica Creech moved to approve the minutes from the February 26, 2025, meeting. Sherry Heuser seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and hearing no objection, the motion carried. (4-23-53)

**Executive Director's Report**

**Site Selection Subcommittee**

Gayle Headen reported to the Committee regarding approval of nine sites recommended by the Site Selection Subcommittee and approval to place slots based on the geographic needs of applying families.

Ms. Coates called for a motion and second for the recommendations. André Anthony moved to accept the recommendation of nine additional sites and authorization of staff to place slots based on the geographic needs of applying families. Nikki Leonard seconded. Abstentions: Susan Evans, Tonya Venable, Ronetta Pearsall, and Dawn Dawson. The motion passed with no one opposed. (4-23-54)

**Pre-K Enrollment Report**

Ms. Headen reported that enrollment for NC Pre-K is underway with over 2,600 applications to date

**State Budget Status**

Ms. Headen reported on the budget status. The current estimate is the budget will be finalized in June.

With no further business to discuss, Nikia Coates asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ariel Ford moved to adjourn the meeting. Stephanie Shell seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and hearing no objections, the meeting was adjourned by Nikia Coates at 8:50 AM. (4-23-55)

Initial

ME

Signed by:

Matt Ellinwood

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