

**Wake County Smart Start
NC Pre-K Committee Meeting
June 26, 2024**

A meeting of the Wake County Smart Start (WCSS) NC Pre-K Committee was held via Zoom call on Wednesday, June 26, 2024, with Chair Katherine Williams presiding.

Committee members present: Nikia Coates, Dawn Dawson, Susan Evans, Matt Glova, Sherry Heuser, Leslie Ann Jackson, Ronetta Pearsall, Antonia Pedroza, Tonya Venable, Joe White, Katherine Williams

Committee members absent: Christine Alvarado, Heather Drennan, Matthew Ellinwood, Mickey Holt, Catherine Lassiter, Colleen Roache, Stacey Wilson-Norman

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. Matt Glova seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and with none opposed, the vote was unanimous. (6-24-76)


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 April 24, 2024. Nikia Coates seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and hearing no objection, the motion carried. (6-24-77)

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director, Gayle E. Headen summarized a multi-part staff recommendation for reimbursement rates, acceptance of a state grant, slot placements and transportation fees. She stated the NC Pre-K Committee is the governing body for all actions related to the NC Sherry Heuser moved to approve new reimbursement rates to private childcare sites for the 2024-2025 school year as indicated on Attachment B.1.; approval of a DCDEE grant allocation of \$10,386,990 for FY 24-25 to support the NC Pre-K program; placement of 1532 slots as indicated on Attachment B.2; authorization for staff to re-allocate vacant slots throughout the year according to the geographic location of eligible greatest need applicants and transportation fees as noted on Attachment B.1. Matthew Glova seconded the motion. Calling for a vote, and noting abstentions by Dawn Dawson, Susan Evans, Ronetta Pearsall and Tonya Venable, the motion passed. (6-24-78)

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

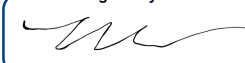
- SY24-25 application status: over 3600 applications for the 2024-2025 school year have been received by the application center. Roughly, half of the applications are income eligible based on self-reported income and have been or will be processed by staff for the NC Pre-K program. Eligible families who submitted a completed application by May 31st, will start receiving information about their NC Pre-K site placement as early as June 26th, following a providers' kickoff meeting during which providers will receive their assignments and can immediately begin contacting families.
- State: Governor Cooper has made recent visits to NC Pre-K classrooms across the state to get the message out about the critical need for increased investment in early childhood education and quality childcare. In Wake County, he visited Academically Based Child, joined by local elected officials including Wake County Commissioners Evans, Mial and Stallings as well as Raleigh City Councilman, Corey Branch. During the visit, a single father of three spoke about how beneficial the program has been for his family.

DS

----- Initial -----

8/28/2024 | 12:13 PM EDT
----- Date -----

- In answering a question raised regarding if the number of children receiving Pre-K services who have a disability is being tracked, Dawn Dawson informed that outreach related to the federally mandated Child Find process, identifies and locates children with disabilities who may need special education services. There has been a notable increase of 21% of children identified with some form of disability who are eligible to receive services based on their individualized education plan (IEP) either in a privately owned child care center with itinerant services or in a special education classroom within the school system.
- Ms. Headen encouraged NC Pre-K Committee members to attend the second annual “Kickoff to Pre-K” Application Event and Resource Fair hosted by WCSS at the WCSS office parking lot on July 13th from 10:00 to 2:00. Seven privately owned NC Pre-K sites will have experience booths to showcase the program and a variety of community partners will be present to support access to resources within the community. A newer community partner, Advance Community Health will be bringing a mobile unit to offer on-site health assessments.
- The NC Pre-K application tour in collaboration with Wake County Human Services is underway. This tour allows families the convenience of application locations closer to their homes.

Chair, Katherine Williams reflected on her uplifting experience at the recent WCSS Community Block Party and acknowledged staff and volunteers for their efforts in making it a success. With no further agenda items, Matt Glova moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:59 am. Nikia Coates seconded the motion. Calling for a vote and hearing no objections, the motion passed. (6-24-79)

DocuSigned by:

4BB9D608D4DE4E5
Secretary

8/28/2024 | 12:13 PM EDT

Date