

**Wake County SmartStart
Board of Directors Meeting
February 27, 2008**

A regular meeting of the Wake County SmartStart Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, February 27, 2008 in the conference room of the Wake County SmartStart offices located at 1121 Situs Court, Suite 250 in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Board members in attendance were Rev. Paul Anderson, Nell Barnes, Dale Cousins, Sandy Dietrich, Michele Miller, Carol Mitchell, Peter Morris, Louise Orr, Hannah Poteat, Gemimah Rodriguez, Donna Rutowski, Norris Thurston, Mary Urzi, Michael Weisel and David Zonderman.

Board members absent and excused were Mary Ellen Anderson, Kevin Cain, Donna Hargens, Shante Martin and Camille Schaffer.

Board members absent and unexcused were Kym Martin and Harold Webb.

Staff members present were Debi Bartholomew, Gary Carr, Nichelle Cole, Laura Coward, Pamela Dowdy (Executive Director), John Guenther, Helen Horne, Lindsay Renouf, Elizabeth Santana, Anna Troutman and Pat Whelan.

Board Chair, Michael Weisel recognized a quorum and called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

Norris Thurston moved the board to accept adoption of the agenda, Dale Cousins seconded, All voted and was approved unanimously. (02-08-31)

Sandy Dietrich moved to accept adoption of the consent agenda which included minutes of the December 19, 2007 Board of Directors Meeting, and the January 2008 Financial Reports. Nell Barnes seconded, all voted and was approved unanimously. (02-08-32)

Donna Rutowski began the meeting with a recommendation from the Finance Committee. Ms. Rutowski drew the board's attention to attachment B.1 outlining the Finance Committee's recommendation to use 4.5% as the basis for FY2008-09 merit wage increases, to be distributed based on the results of employee performance evaluations. Supporting information included comparisons of similar increases by the WCPSS, the City of Raleigh and WCHS as well as information from the US Dept. of Labor. Peter Morris moved to accept the Finance Committee recommendation to budget 4.5% increase for staff merit wage increase. As this was a committee recommendation no second was needed. All voted and passed unanimously. (02-08-33)

Next Ms. Rutowski brought a MAC services update to the board informing them of NCPC's recent suggestion that we modify the operation of our MAC and revert any fund balance at the end of FY09. Executive Director Pam Dowdy explained that WCSS contracts with several LPs to perform MAC services for which they pay WCSS throughout the year. WCSS considers that income unrestricted. WCSS recommends carrying a small fund balance in this account to accommodate fluctuations in income throughout the year and between years.

There was considerable discussion among board members regarding the driving force for this change, it's impact on WCSS and other LP's. The Finance Committee would recommend to the board that WCSS, in conjunction with other LP's who also house MAC sites, send a letter to NCPC asking for approval of LP's carrying over funds to operate their MAC. We would propose a compromise asking that we be allowed to keep 4 months or 33% of our anticipated budget for the next FY. Peter Morris moved that it would be appropriate for the WCSS Board to send a letter to the NCPC Board requesting approval of LP's carrying over funds to operate their MAC, proposing a compromise asking that we be allowed to keep 4 months or 33% of our anticipated budget for the next FY. As this was a committee recommendation no second was needed. All voted and passed unanimously. (02-08-34)

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Mary Urzi, represented the Program Planning Committee, informed the board on PBIS updates outlined in attachment B.2 providing a brief overview of results. She then turned the meeting over to John Guenther, Evaluation Coordinator, who then provided a more in depth PowerPoint presentation of the PBIS results. A very lengthy and lively discussion ensued surrounding the results.

Board Chair, Michael Weisel began his Chairman's Report with the announcement of Rev. Paul Anderson's impending resignation. Due to Rev. Anderson's very busy work/family schedule he has reluctantly submitted his resignation. He has agreed that he will do his best to find a suitable replacement to fill his vacancy within the faith community and that his resignation would not go into effect until such replacement has been found.

Next, Mr. Weisel provided an update on the NC CPA Board hearing informing the board that a consent order had been signed and the matter was coming to a close. He did bring up the matter of the costs of this lengthy process to the agency, estimated at \$59,000. It was the consensus of the board to pursue recouping costs incurred by WCSS and that the first step should be to submit a formal written request to the NC CPA Board.

Executive Director, Pam Dowdy, proceeded with her Executive Director's Report moving the board's attention to attachment C.1 outlining the More at Four Advisory Committee Recommendation to use the start-up dollars received for the 200 expansion slots (\$100,000) to meet the start-up needs of new classrooms and use any remaining start-up funds to meet the equipment and supply needs of existing classrooms and provided supporting background information. Donna Rutowski made the motion to approve the More at Four Advisory Committee Recommendation to use the start-up dollars received for the 200 expansion slots (\$100,000) to meet the start-up needs of new classrooms and use any remaining start-up funds to meet the equipment and supply needs of existing classrooms. Dale Cousins seconded the motion, all voted and approved unanimously. (02-08-35)

Ms. Dowdy wrapped up her report bringing the boards attention to her Executive Director's Highlights sheet included in the agenda packet which included such pertinent information as: Evaluation Team completing the 2006-07 Final Activity Report, WCSS received 37 bids for FY2008-09 Activities with a total request of \$20,893,235 which would be reviewed with the Allocation Committee the first week of March, WCSS to contract with a consultant to identify new classrooms/locations for children in the MAF program, NCPC's National Technical Assistance Center has requested Pam to consult with Arizona's regional coordinators March 12-14, 2008, NFP selection committee selected WCHS as its implementing agency, application due March 20th and acknowledged Lindsay Renouf for providing leadership to move the project forward, WCPSS supports a Ready Schools pilot project with the intent of reducing the retention rate of Kindergarten children, WCSS will hire a consultant to lead the Ready Schools Team, WCSS is waiting for the final monitoring report from NCPC, and lastly the Leadership Raleigh team continues to work on our economic impact project.

With no other new business Norris Thurston moved to adjourn at 10:12am, Dale Cousins seconded, all voted and passed unanimously. (02-08-36)

Board Secretary Signature

Date