

**Wake County SmartStart
Executive Committee Meeting
March 26, 2008**

A regular meeting of the Wake County SmartStart Executive Committee was held on Wednesday, March 26, 2008 in the conference room of the Wake County SmartStart offices located at 1121 Situs Court, Suite 250 in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Executive Committee members in attendance were Michele Miller-Cox, Donna Rutowski, Michael Weisel and David Zonderman.

Executive Committee members absent and excused were Dale Cousins, Hannah Poteat and Mary Urzi.

Staff members present were Gary Carr, Pam Dowdy, WCSS Executive Director, Elizabeth Santana, Anna Troutman and Pat Whelan.

Chair, Michael Weisel called the meeting to order at 8:26 am and a quorum was recognized.

A motion to adopt the agenda was made by David Zonderman, Michele Miller-Cox seconded the motion. All voted approved unanimously. (03-08-37)

A motion to approve the consent agenda which included minutes of the January 23, 2008 Executive Committee meeting and the February 2008 Financials was made by Michele Miller-Cox, David Zonderman seconded the motion. All voted and approved unanimously. (03-08-38)

The meeting began with an Allocations Committee recommendation presented by David Zonderman as outlined in attachment B.1 Annual Plan Summary. He summarized the attachment as an outline of all the activities that were approved by the Allocations Committee for FY2008-09. It was mentioned that the Allocations Committee was very impressed with how well these activities aligned themselves to the board's intention to refocus areas that were "mission critical". He also gave thanks to the WCSS staff for their hard work and efforts in the review process to which Board Chair Michael Weisel agreed and also gave his praises. Michele Miller-Cox made the motion to approve the Annual Plan Summary for submission to NCPC and to bring funding recommendations for the activities to the full Board of Directors in April 2008. No second was needed. All voted and approved unanimously. (03-08-39)

As a side note, Chair Michael Weisel suggested allowing enough time on the April 2008 Board of Directors agenda to thoroughly discuss the outlined activities and perhaps sending to the board a recap of the Strategic Planning Session Highlights as a reminder of the Boards discussions.

The next item for discussion from the Allocations Committee concerned the reimbursement process for Project Enlightenment. It was noted that for a number of years the Allocations Committee has had some concerns regarding the amount of funding Project Enlightenment receives from WCSS for staff compensation. Controller Gary Carr compared PE salaries to salaries paid at fair market rate within similar positions across the community and found that Project Enlightenment's wages far exceed those in comparable positions. The recommendation is to reduce the salaries to more accurately reflect the current fair market rate. The Executive Committee agreed that it would be appropriate for staff to begin having conversation with Project Enlightenment.

_____ Initial

_____ Date

The meeting moved on to General Discussion with Executive Director Pam Dowdy bringing the committees attention to attachments C.1 NCPC Monitoring Report Findings and C.2 NCPC Recommended Practices. She asked the committee whether, after their having gone over the attachments which were sent electronically last week, they had any issues or questions regarding NCPC's reports, there were none. Chair Michael Weisel then distributed the WCSS response to the report for review. The committee was informed these responses will be sent to NCPC prior to the March 28, 2008 deadline.

Next attachment C.3 was presented as a recommendation from the More at Four Advisory Group and WCSS Staff to distribute a maximum of \$60,000 for the continued implementation of RETAIN, a More at Four teacher/teacher assistant bonus system. Teacher and teacher assistant turnover in Wake County More at Four classrooms remains an ongoing issue. This program has shown success over the last year and continuation of the program is recommended noting that bonuses will be contingent upon availability of funds (\$60,000 has been set aside). During the discussion, staff clarified who would be eligible to receive this bonus. Chair, Michael Weisel made the motion to approve the recommendation as it is currently written bringing it to the Board of Directors in April 2008 as an Executive Committee recommendation placing it on the consent agenda. Donna Rutowski seconded the motion all voted and approved unanimously. (03-08-40) Should staff and the MAF Advisory Group decide they would like to change the language of the recommendation to include teachers/teacher assistants working in MAF classrooms within the public school system, the Executive Committee feels this should be listed on the agenda as an action item for full board discussion.

The next General Discussion item was an update on the MAC issue. Executive Director, Pam Dowdy refreshed the committee on NCPC's recent change in MAC Procedure/Policy requiring LP's who house MAC sites to revert unused funds received from the LP's they do accounting work for instead of allocating these funds within their partnership. At the February 27, 2008 Board of Directors meeting, information was shared that several partnerships felt as WCSS did that local partnerships had authority over these funds. Mecklenburg County has decided to follow NCPC's request. The committee acknowledged this was a disappointment to not have Mecklenburg's support, but WCSS would continue to pursue the issue.

The last item under General Discussion and requiring Executive Committee action was regarding the Final Allocation of Reverted Funds. It was explained, as it had been in previous meetings, that WCSS has unallocated funds that currently total \$13,481. Additional reversions are anticipated and the total amount of reverted funds are expected to be approximately \$50,000. Staff has recommended these funds be reallocated between Program Coordination and More at Four. Chair Michael Weisel motioned to approve the staff recommendation to reallocate an amount not to exceed \$50,000 to Program Coordination and More at Four. Should the reversion amount exceeds \$50,000 staff must obtain Executive Committee approval and noted this can be done via electronic communication. David Zonderman seconded the motion, all voted and passed unanimously. (03-08-41)

With no other business new or otherwise noted Chair Michael Weisel adjourned the meeting at 9:31am.

Secretary Signature

Date