

**Wake County SmartStart
Board of Directors Meeting
August 22, 2007**

A regular meeting of the Wake County SmartStart Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, August 22, 2007 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 Mary Ellen Anderson, Nell Barnes, Dale Cousins, Sandy Dietrich, Darryl Lester, Kym Martin, Carol Mitchell, Peter Morris, Louise Orr, Hannah Poteat, Gemimah Rodriguez, Donna Rutowski, Mary Urzi, Michael Weisel and David Zonderman.

Guest speakers in attendance were David Holdzkom, WCPSS Assistant Superintendent for Research and Evaluation and Maggie McGlynn who will be facilitating the Strategic Planning Retreat on August 29th.

Board members absent and excused were Paul Anderson, Kevin Cain, Paula DeLong, Donna Hargens, Shante Martin, Michele Miller, Camille Schaffer, Jane Stikeleather, and Norris Thurston.

Board members absent and not excused Harold Webb.

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

Stepping in for Chair, Michael Weisel, Vice Chair, David Zonderman recognized a quorum and called the meeting to order at 8:37 a.m. and welcomed new WCSS Controller Gary Carr and Evaluation Coordinator, Laura Coward. Both began their new positions at WCSS in August 2007.

Mr. Zonderman moved the board to accept adoption of the agenda which they did unanimously. (08-07-04)

Mr. Zonderman then moved the board to accept adoption of the consent agenda which included minutes of the June 27, 2007 Board of Directors Meeting, the June 2007 Financial Reports, the 2006-07 Reversion Schedule and the July 2007 Financial Reports which they did unanimously. (08-07-05)

The floor was given to Executive Director, Pam Dowdy who began her Executive Director's Report updating the board on some topics of interest. First was to inform the board that WCSS was in receipt of their allocation from NCPC. She noted that there was no increase in funding for our partnership. Additional funds that were allocated to NCPC are to be distributed in the following fashion: 50% will be allocated to lower funded partnerships across the state and the other 50% will be placed in a competitive grant pool between local partnerships. The second update was regarding the "Ready Schools Initiative" and that a Wake County team was being assembled and would represent the area at a conference on October 30, 2007 in Greensboro, NC.

Ms. Dowdy moved her report on two items needing action by the board. The first item she presented was More at Four Recommendation as outlined on attachment B. 1. There are three components to the staff recommendation: **#1** to place 770 currently allocated slots in centers listed on Chart 1, **#2** to approve the expansion of MAF by 206 slots and place those slots as listed on Chart 2 and **#3** to approve the reimbursement strategy as outlined in Chart 3 of Attachment B.1. After thoughtful discussion on the recommendation a motion to approve the staff recommendation to place 770 currently allocated slots, expand MAF by 206 slots and approve the reimbursement strategy outlined was made by Dale Cousins, Hannah Poteat seconded, all voted and was approved unanimously. (08-07-06)

_____ Initial

_____ Date

The second item requiring board action was outlined on attachments B.2 & B. 3. The staff brought fourth the recommendation that should further research indicate that WCSS would meet requirements of the NCPC grant pool process, the Board authorizes submission for NAP SACC (Nutritional and Physical Activity Self Assessment for Child Care). It was noted that the board had previously approved staff to develop an RFP asking the community to present ideas on addressing childhood overweight issues and that the NCPC NAP SACC model correlates with this RFP. Should WCSS receive this grant, the funds could be used as an additional resource for the current RFP being developed. A motion to accept the staff recommendation to pursue submission of a proposal to NCPC for the NAP SACC grant was made by Louise Orr, seconded by Mary Ellen Anderson, all voted and was approved unanimously. (08-07-07)

Board Chair, Michael Weisel took the floor to update the board on the upcoming Strategic Planning Retreat scheduled for Wednesday, August 29, 2007. The retreat will be held at the Cameron Village Library Conference Room and will begin at 10am and conclude at 6pm. Board members will then be invited to share in dinner at a local restaurant should their schedules allow. He then asked Executive Director to update the board on the upcoming CPA Board hearing which, if not settled prior to, will be held on September 19th and 20th, 2007. Mr. Weisel concluded his Chairman's Report by informing the board, many of whom had already been informed, that he was in fact going to actively pursue running for NC State Treasurer, a position that will be vacated by current State Treasurer Richard Moore who will be running for NC State Governor. He told the board that he was very confident that this would in no way impact his ability to fulfill his obligation as Chair of the WCSS Board of Directors and encouraged board members to share with him or David Zonderman, any concerns they may have regarding his decision.

Executive Director, Pam Dowdy was given the opportunity to introduce two guest speakers in attendance, Maggie McGlynn as the facilitator for the Board Strategic Planning Retreat and David Holdzkom, Assistant Superintendent for Research and Evaluation with WCPSS. Mr. Holdzkom presented the results of the Kindergarten Initial Assessment of the 2006-07 school year. He noted that the data was collected during assessments made within the first three weeks of the school year. The data was broken down into four categories showing differences of race and those children who received free/reduced lunch touching on such topics as preschool attendance, language development, mathematic skills and physical/social development skills. Mr. Holdzkom's presentation was very well received and board members were very interested in obtaining copies of this assessment which will be distributed electronically. Next Maggie McGlynn presented a brief overview of her role as facilitator for the board Strategic Planning Retreat presenting her outline for the retreat and how she hoped it would engage the board in critical thinking about their roles and how best to define and implement strategies for the new funding cycle year. Board members were energized and encouraged by both presenters.

With no other new business chair, Michael Weisel adjourned the meeting at 10:12 a.m.

Board Secretary Signature

Date

