

**Wake County SmartStart  
Board of Directors Meeting  
January 28, 2009**

A meeting of the Wake County SmartStart Board of Directors occurred on Wednesday, January 28, 2009 prior to a full board retreat. The meeting was held in the Finley Center Classroom at Yates Mill Historic Park located at 4620 Lake Wheeler Road in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Board members in attendance were Mary Ellen Anderson, Nell Barnes, Arvelis Byrd, Kevin Cain, Dale Cousins, Sandy Dietrich, Shirley Herndon, Randy Innes, Giang Le, Shanté Martin, Carol Mitchell, Peter Morris, Louise Orr, Hannah Poteat, Gemimah Rodriguez, Donna Rutowski, Mike Smith, Norris Thurston, Michael Weisel and David Zonderman.

Board members absent and excused were Donna Hargens, Michele Miller-Cox, Camille Schaffer and Jerraé Williams.

Board members absent and unexcused were Harold Webb.

Staff members present were Pamela Dowdy, Executive Director.

BoardSource Consultant Bruce Lesley was also in attendance.

Board Chair, David Zonderman recognized a quorum, calling the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. He welcomed new board member Randy Innes to his first formal meeting since his election in December.


Michael Weisel moved to adopt the agenda, Nell Barnes seconded, and the motion carried. (01-09-28)

Donna Rutowski moved to adopt the consent agenda which included minutes from the December 10, 2008 Board of Directors Meeting, the December 2008 Financial Reports and an update on WCSS Employee Health Insurance. Norris Thurston seconded and the motion carried. (01-09-29)

Mr. Zonderman began the meeting with his Chairman's Report highlighting the following items in his report: He first recognized the effort put forward by staff to reduce the overall costs of health insurance premiums by changing the policy provisions. This is genuinely appreciated as an effort to assist in the budget shortfall. The NC Legislature goes back into session today and will be addressing the 10% budget shortfall. WCSS has had no further specifics but there could be an additional 1% reduction ahead based on news reports. There is potential for a merger of Smart Start and MAF. Legislative staff is working on information and this seems to be the direction that Gov. Perdue is heading. Mr. Zonderman noted that Smart Start has strong grass roots support which could be impacted by changes. Mr. Zonderman also touched on the importance of child care subsidy and how these funds support the economic stimulus. David finished his comments suggesting that further budget cuts will be shared by both DSPs and SmartStart.

Executive Director, Pam Dowdy presented her Executive Director's Report thanking the Board for their insight and participation at the meeting today and noted that staff is beginning the proposal preparation process with in house programs and DSPs.

Peter Morris moved to adjourn at 9:40 a.m. Louise Orr seconded, all voted and the motion carried. (01-09-30)

  
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Board Secretary Signature

2-25-09  
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Date