

NCPK Committee Meeting

Date: April 11, 2019 | Time: 11:00am | Location: Preschool Readiness Center | Meeting called to order by Seth Nagy, Co- Chair

In Attendance

Members Present: Seth Nagy (co-chair, Caldwell County Smart Start Board), Kristen Tufts (Caldwell County DSS), Paula Arrowood (Exceptional Children), Crystal Toller (Parent Representative), Ashley Key (Parent Representative), Geri Ward (Child Care Representative), Shawn Corpening (Child Care Representative), Ryan Cary for Karen Harshman (Blue Ridge Community Action)

Staff Present: Vickie Sproul (NCPK Contract Administrator), Helena Vanhorn (NCPK Coordinator), Sandra Beane (CCS Preschool Administrative Assistant)

Members Absent: Dr. Donald Phipps (co-chair, Caldwell County Schools), Shari Brown (Family Literacy, Caldwell Community College & Technical Institute)

Call to Order 11:00 AM

Seth Nagy called the meeting to order with a quorum present and welcomed the NCPK Committee Members. Committee members introduced themselves and gave a brief bio.

Helena Vanhorn announced that Sara Duggar, Childcare Representative had withdrawn from the NCPK Committee.

Approval of Agenda and Previous Minutes

Upon motion of Paula Arrowood, and second by Crystal Toller, the NCPK Committee unanimously voted to approve the April 11, 2019 agenda.

Upon motion of Paula Arrowood, and second by and Crystal Toller, The Committee unanimously approved the October 23, 2018 Minutes.

Approval of New NCPK Committee Members

Action Item:

Helena Vanhorn presented potential new NCPK Committee Members Shawn Corpening of A New Beginning Children's Learning Center, a current NCPK community site, and Geri Ward of Northlakes Academy, a non-NCPK site.

Upon motion of Paula Arrowood, and second by Kristen Tufts, the NCPK Committee unanimously approved Shawn Corpening and Geri Ward as the Child Care Representatives to the NCPK Committee.

Conflict of Interest Policy

Helena Vanhorn read the Conflict of Interest Policy to the members present. No questions or concerns were brought forward. New members Geri Ward and Shawn Corpening signed the Conflict of Interest Policy.

Public Comments

There were no public comments presented to the committee.

New Business: Information

Helena Vanhorn provided information on PreK and the importance of quality. NC's NC Pre-K Program is:

- one of only two in the nation that measure and meet standards for high quality teaching
- one of only nine programs judged to have effective curriculum
- one of only fourteen programs that meet criteria for high quality professional development
- one of only sixteen programs judged to make data-driven decisions

The Caldwell County Preschool Program has grown from 239 applications in 2015-16 to 367 in 2018-19. For the 2019-20 school year, the current application count though today is 129, 17 more than last year on the same date.

The percentage of classrooms at fidelity implementation of NC Social Emotional Foundations Early Learning (SEFEL) has increased from 30% in 2016-17 to 43% in 2018-19.

Also presented was the importance of the family/school partnership. Family/school partnership is key to addressing the school dropout rate, fosters higher education aspirations and motivation for children.

The CCS Preschool Program received a mini grant for family connections from NCPK. Backpacks were purchased for take home. This is a parent friendly activity that they can share with their children in their homes and begin introducing parents to working with their child at home.

Discussion concerning Creative Beginnings (Exhibit 1) and the closing of the NCPK classroom at that location was held. Helena presented a timeline of events leading up to the closure. Parents were notified that the class would be discontinued and the staff at the Preschool Readiness Center, when informed of the closure, made arrangements to place children at the center in other locations. It was noted that Creative Beginnings is free to apply for another NCPK class at their site in the future. Ryan Cary asked if the NCPK money for the slots remain at Creative Beginnings. Helena Vanhorn replied that the money for slots follows the child per Caldwell County's NCPK Committee action starting in the 2014-15 school year.

New Business: For Action

Action Items: Exhibit 2 (Assurances and Requirements) was read by each member.

Seth Nagy then called for a motion to accept Exhibit 2.

Upon motion from Paula Arrowood and a second by Kristen Tufts the motion passed to accept Assurances and Requirements as written. Discussion none.

Action Items: Exhibit 3 (Transportation Plan) was read by each member. The Preschool Program does not provide transportation. Currently there is no funding available to provide transportation to and from school. NCPK classes going on field trips must follow all relevant regulations under NC Division of Child Development guidelines. Public schools must also follow NC DPI regulations for transporting children. Seth Nagy questioned the wording of paragraph 3 line one. Between the words safe/arrival the word **and** is not needed. An amendment was suggested to eliminate the word and between the words.

Seth Nagy called for a motion to accept the Transportation plan, including the amendment.

Upon motion from Shawn Corpening and a second by Paula Arrowood the committee unanimously approved the Transportation Plan with the amendment.

Action Items: Exhibit 4 (Transition Plan) was read by each member. Change will occur to transition plans next year because our program is part of a pilot program. Kristen Tufts asked about the transition process from preschool to kindergarten. Helena explained that preschool children must enroll at their schools but, they do not need to be screened as this is part of the end of the year process in preschool classrooms. The preschool program sends a copy to the child's school. Shawn Corpening asked if the preschool program does home visits. Helena told him the program does not but, Head Start does. Seth Nagy asked the definition of IEP as stated in bullet 4 on page 2 of the plan. Helena explained the definition of IEP is Individualized Education Plan. This plan is for children with special education needs and lists goals for the child to work on during the school year. Seth asked if this wording could be changed in order for anyone reading the plan to have a better understanding. An amendment was suggested by Seth to use the name and not just the acronym IEP.

Seth Nagy called for a motion to accept the policy with the amendment.

Upon motion of Paula Arrowood and second by Kristen Tufts the NCPK Committee unanimously approved the motion to accept the Transition Plan with the amendment.

Action Items: Exhibit 5 (Serving Families with Limited English) was read by each member. Seth Nagy asked if translators for children are available upon request. Helena Vanhorn explained that the school system has translators that we use in cases as they are needed. Seth also wanted to know if there are hearing impaired families. Helena told him that the school system has hearing impaired teachers and interpreters to work with children needing those services.

Seth Nagy called for a motion to accept the policy as written.

Upon motion from Ryan Cary and second by Geri Ward the NCPK Committee unanimously approved the motion to accept the plan.

Action Items: Exhibit 6 (Attendance Policy) each member read the policy. Seth Nagy asked if there was more in the policy than necessary. Helena explained that the policy has been extended based on occurrences over the last five years. The goal is to retain students so a policy needs to have a firm cutoff. Efforts must be made to keep attendance up. Seth then asked if attendance is a big issue. Helena stated that it is not and that Head Start has now changed their calendar to be in line with the school system. Ryan Cary explained their calendar changes have made it more family friendly.

Seth Nagy called for a motion to accept the policy as written.

Upon motion from Paula Arrowood and a second from Geri Ward the NCPK Committee unanimously approved the Attendance Policy.

Action Items: Exhibit 7 (Family Involvement Plan) was read by committee members. Helena stated that family involvement is essential in a child's success in preschool and into their school years. Ryan Cary shared that Head Start has a committee in place for family engagement.

Seth Nagy called for a motion to accept the policy as written.

Upon motion of Ashley Key and second by Crystal Toller motion unanimously passed to accept the Family Involvement Plan.

Action Items: Exhibit 8 & 9 (Discipline and Behavior Management Plan and Challenging Behavior Plan and Challenging Behavior Plan) was read by all committee members. These two exhibits, since closely related, were read simultaneously. Ashley Key noted that she would like to see the word amended from invaluable to valuable on number 1 of the Set Goals and Analyze Data to Assess Progress section of Exhibit 9. During discussion Kristen asked how often trainings take place. Helena explained that this is the fifth year of training teachers and assistants to better manage challenging behavior. It was also stated that behavior continues to be a problem area. Crystal Toller asked if schools were recognizing challenging behavior as noted on their health assessment from doctors. Helena replied that we do look at the child health assessment from the doctor and take actions on those concerns noted.

Seth Nagy called for a motion to accept Exhibit 8.

Upon motion from Ashley Key and a second from Paula Arrowood the motion was unanimously passed as written.

Seth called for a motion to accept Exhibit 9 with the amendment of the word invaluable to valuable.

Upon motion from Ashley Key and a second from Geri Ward the motion unanimously passed with the amendment.

Additional Discussion

Helena Vanhorn stated that no funding had been available to date for expansion. She noted that a decision for expansion funds may not be known until August.

Next Meeting and Adjournment

October 24, 2019 | 11:00am at the Preschool Readiness Center

There being no further business to come before the NCPK Committee and upon the motion of Ashley Key, and the second by Crystal Toller, the NCPK Committee unanimously approved to adjourn.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:10pm.