

# NCPK Committee Meeting

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*Date: January 20, 2022 | Time: 12:32pm | Location: Preschool Readiness Center Zoom Meeting | Meeting called to order by Dr. Donald Phipps (Co-Chair, Caldwell County Schools Superintendent) with a quorum present.*

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## In Attendance

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Members Present: Kim Burns (Co-Chair, Smart Start), Dr. Don Phipps (Co-Chair, Caldwell County Schools Superintendent), Shari Brown (Family Literacy, CCC&TI), Paula Arrowood (Caldwell County Schools, Exceptional Children), Lacey Kincaid (Parent Representative), Stephanie Ashley (Blue Ridge Community Action), and Geri Ward (Child Care Representative)

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

Members Absent: Candida Kiziah (Parent Representative), Shawn Corpening (Child Care Representative), Kristen Tufts (Caldwell County Department of Social Services), Robert Semple (Caldwell County Schools)

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## Call to Order 12:32 PM

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### Approval of Agenda and Previous Minutes

Dr. Phipps called for approval of the August 18, 2021 agenda.

Upon motion of Paula Arrowood and a second by Stephanie Ashley the committee unanimously approved the agenda.

No conflict of interest.

Dr. Phipps asked that a correction be made to the Public Comment section on the August 18, 2021 minutes. The Public Comment section was duplicated.

Dr. Phipps called for approval of the August 18, 2021 minutes. Upon motion of Shari Brown and seconded by Lacey Kincaid the minutes were unanimously approved.

No conflict of interest.

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## Public Comment

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There were no public comments presented to the Committee.

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## New Business: Information

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Helena Vanhorn, Preschool Coordinator, shared information on application numbers from past NCPK years until present.

- 2015/16 Total Applications: 239
- 2016/17 Total Applications: 272
- 2017/18 Total Applications: 331
- 2018/19 Total Applications: 367
- 2019/20 Total Applications: 354 (Covid began)
- 2020/21 Total Applications: 278 (-21.4 %)

For the 2021/22 school year applications to date are 350. This number is down 1.2% from last year at the same time. At this time 281 slots have been filled. NCPK funds 274 slots. Additional children were placed through private grant funding secured for Caldwell County School sites. In 2021/22, the largest income group served by NCPK continued to be in the 130% or below range. This means these households had incomes at 130% or more below the federal poverty level.

By October 31, 2021, site Directors/Principals submitted 100% compliance on the annual Site Monitoring Tool, indicating that all NCPK criteria were met. As Contractor, Caldwell County Schools submitted 100% compliance by January 15, 2022 following a second audit of criteria.

As with staffing across all sectors, NCPK classrooms have been impacted with staff shortages. At present all public school classrooms have positions filled with qualified staff. Two community sites have special approval. A New Beginning has a residency licensed lead teacher. That teacher has a temporary license while he continues to add preschool to his current teacher license. Northside Children's Learning Center has a lead teacher with a Bachelor's degree in Child Development, who is completing her teacher license requirements this semester.

Transition to kindergarten is important for child success in school. This year, kindergarten teachers have the opportunity to visit NCPK classrooms to support the transition process. Teachers will be able to visit during spring semester to help children who will enter kindergarten in the fall. Data from the preschool assessment system will migrate into the kindergarten assessment system over the summer for the first time. This system has progress reports which are shared with parents and plans are made for preschool and kindergarten teachers to discuss child progress with one another.

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### **New Business: For Action**

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**Action Item:** Dr. Phipps called for the motion to approve by vote the NCPK Contracting Agency for the 2022/23 program year.

Upon motion of Lacey Kincaid and a second by Geri Ward, the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Phipps recused himself from voting.

No conflict of interest.

**Action Item:** Dr. Phipps called for the motion to approve placing children in classrooms by parent choice.

Upon motion of Lacey Kincaid and a second by Paula Arrowood, the motion passed unanimously.

No conflict of interest.

**Action Item:** Dr. Phipps called for a motion to approve the use of CCDF funds for classroom quality maintenance (consumables, sanitation for Covid), professional development materials, lending library request, and refurbishment of social-emotional/mental health materials.

Upon motion by Kim Burns and a second by Lacey Kincaid the motion passed unanimously.

No conflict of interest.

**Action Item:** Dr. Phipps called for a motion to approve the NCPK application for the 2022/23 school year with no changes recommended.

Upon motion by Lacey Kincaid and a second by Shari Brown the motion passed unanimously.

No conflict of interest.

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### **Additional Discussion**

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No additional discussion.

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### **Next Meeting and Adjournment**

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The NCPK Committee meeting for August is to be determined.

Kim Burns called for a motion to adjourn. Upon motion by Paula Arrowood and a second by Stephanie Ashley the meeting was adjourned at 12:48 pm.