

NCPK Committee Meeting

Date: October 23, 2018 | 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), Dr. Don Phipps (Co-Chair, Caldwell County Schools Superintendent) Lauren King (Caldwell County DSS), Paula Arrowood (Exceptional Children), Karen Harshman (Blue Ridge Community Action), Shari Brown (Family Literacy, CCC&TI), Ashley Key (Parent Representative)

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

Others Present: Teresa Branch (Executive Director, Caldwell County Smart Start), Jennifer Griffith (NCPK Regional Consultant)

Members Absent: Crystal Toller (Parent Representative), Sara Duggar (Child Care Representative)

Call to Order 11:00 AM

Seth Nagy welcomed Dr. Don Phipps to the NCPK Committee. Dr. Phipps presented a brief bio on his background before coming to Caldwell County Schools.

Approval of Agenda and Previous Minutes

Upon motion of Karen Harshman, and second by Shari Brown, the NCPK Committee unanimously approved the October 23, 2018, Agenda.

Upon motion of Seth Nagy, and second by Paula Arrowood, The Committee unanimously approved the April 11, 2018 minutes.

Approval of New NCPK Committee Members

Action Item:

Upon motion of Seth Nagy, and second by Paula Arrowood, the NCPK Committee unanimously approved Ashley Key and Crystal Toller as the Parent Representatives and Sara Duggar as the Child Care Representative 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. Copies of the statement were made available to each member for their signature. Seth directed everyone to sign their copy and give it to Sandra Beane before leaving the meeting.

Public Comment

There were no public comments presented to the committee.

New Business: Information

Helena Vanhorn presented the committee with applications received so far versus prior years totals received.

- 2015/2016 239
- 2016/2017 272
- 2017/2018 323
- 2018/2019 357

Twenty six children are homeless or in foster/kinship care at this time.

Karen Harshman posed the question of how have we have been able to increase applications and enrollment over this short period of time. Vickie Sproul shared ongoing marketing strategies being used to increase enrollment. Signs have been posted, local radio station announcements, media coverage, flyers, brochures, webpages, Twitter and word of mouth throughout the community has had a positive impact. Paula Arrowood also shared that a Facebook page was created for parents, family members and friends to increase community engagement. Families enjoy seeing what their children are working on in their classroom.

Helena stated that 9 children have moved out of Caldwell County School District since enrolling in the program. She explained that it is a daily change with children moving in and out of the district.

The committee discussed the income levels for NCPK for the 2018/19 school year. Helena shared the income level chart for NCPK for the current school year. The income level rose slightly from last year. Karen Harshman asked about families that had no income. Helena shared that when a family has no income they sign the statement declaring that they have a 0 income level. She also explained that a family's income could possibly change throughout the year but eligibility is determined based on income at the time of application.

Helena introduced the Caldwell NCPK funding changes. The NC Quality Grant is \$15,000.00. Grant money was received and has been applied toward training and materials related to Modules 1-11 for Social/Emotional Foundations of Early Learning (SEFEL) as well as course textbooks and online access to Conscious Discipline Resilient Schools and Families training.

Smart Start has decreased their funding to NCPK \$10,000.00. Making their 2018-2019 contribution \$90,000.00.

The committee members discussed funding changes that may possibly be coming in the future regarding funding from NCPK.

Discussion was held concerning the NC Early Childhood Foundations of Early Learning growth results for 2017-2018 school year. Vickie Sproul explained the target percentage for achievement, why the target were much lower than the growth student's achieved. The unusually high growth rate for this cohort is being tracked to try to determine if it is an anomaly or what factors may have contributed to such high results. Teaching Strategies Gold is a comprehensive classroom assessment measuring social/emotional, language, literacy, physical, content development and approaches to play and learning. Areas are measured over 3 grading periods. This is a second measure used in our NCPK classrooms and results corroborate those identified using the beginning and end of year Developmental Indicators for the Assessment of Learning, fourth edition (DIAL-4) for this cohort.

New Business: For Action

Site selection for NCPK in the county was discussed. Helena informed the NCPK Committee that no new community sites had applied for a NCPK classroom in the last 3 years. The committee discussed that the site selection application process is recommended every 2 years per Jennifer Griffith. Seth asked if after approved, do sites need to re-apply every year. Discussion was held concerning the school system opening an additional sites in the county. Vickie commented that opening an additional site may hurt the community sites as we have some that are not full at this time and that we have a classroom that we could reopen at Sawmills that the school system opted to close. Seth wanted to know if sites are automatically accepted. Both Paula and Vickie

stated no. The selection process we have completed each year must be completed any time a new site is added. Teresa Branch stated that small centers are not likely to apply.

Action Items:

Upon motion of Seth Nagy, and second by Shari Brown, the NCPK Committee unanimously approved the motion to open the Site Selection process every 2 years.

The Committee discussed whether any changes were recommended for the Child Application for the 2018-2019 year. None were recommended by the Contractor. Karen opened discussion about parents making Head Start/Northside their first choice. She stated that the current application is not clear enough to parents who only want Head Start/Northside on the site ranking page. The recommended change would be to include wording on the ranking/selection page "Applicants ONLY interested in Head Start and NC PreK will select Northside as first choice."

Action Items:

Upon motion of Karen Harshman, and second by Paula Arrowood, the NCPK Committee unanimously approved the motion to change the wording on the NCPK/Head Start application in order for parents to have a better understanding and to proceed with approving the application for 2019/2020.

Karen asked if the General Assembly will roll over money for slots. Jennifer stated in past years money was returned. Last year the money was used for expansion funds and the special grant were offered.

Action Items:

Upon motion of Karen Harshman, and second by Shari Brown, the NCPK Committee unanimously approved the motion to request additional slots if they become available.

Additional Discussion

Jennifer Griffith, our regional NC PreK consultant, stated that a medicaid card may be used in the future to document income. She also made everyone aware that the system is being fine tuned as to the information needed. She stated that changes may require several months worth of income. She does not anticipate that information will be sent out until sometime in the Spring. Karen brought up the self declaration statement as proof if the families income is 0 and made some comparisons to Head Start requirements as an example for the Committee.

Lauren King, DSS, stated that the Wait List for subsidy will be completed by the end of this month. She informed the Committee that she will be moving to the accounting department at DSS but will be helping until the end of the 2018 year to assist with the transition.

Committee discussion also included the expansion/addition of NCPK slots from the Special Grants funds. Jennifer stated that a survey would be completed in January to determine slots available so expansion could be a possibility. She stated fallout from the sites damaged by the hurricane would be considered in decisions made. Some sites were lost due to the heavy damage.

Next Meeting and Adjournment

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

Being no further business to come before the NCPK Committee and upon the motion of Paula Arrowood, and the second by Shari Brown, the NCPK Committee unanimously approved to adjourn.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:00pm.

