

**Caldwell County Schools
NCPK Committee Meeting
Wednesday, January 31, 2018
Preschool Readiness Center**



Members Present: Seth Nagy (co-chair, Caldwell County Smart Start Board Chair), Dr. Steve Stone (co-chair, Caldwell County Schools), Paula Arrowood (Exceptional Children), Shari Brown (Family Literacy, CCC & TI), Jackie Smith (Child Care Representative), Karen Harshman (Blue Ridge Community Action-Head Start), and Lauren King (Caldwell County Department of Social Services)

Members Absent: Jenny Rubisch (Parent Representative)

Staff Present: Vickie Sproul (NCPK Contract Administrator), Helena Vanhorn (Pre-K Coordinator), Sandra Beane (CCS PK Administrative Assistant)

Others Present: Teresa Branch (Director, Caldwell County Smart Start)

Welcome and Call to Order

Seth Nagy called the meeting to order at 11:00 am.

Agenda Review:

The agenda for today's meeting was reviewed by the Committee members. No changes or additions were recommended.

Paula Arrowood made the motion to approve the agenda and Shari Brown seconded the motion. None opposed. All in favor. Approved

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Shari Brown to accept the minutes from the committee meeting held on October 19, 2017, Paula Arrowood seconded the motion. None opposed. All in favor. Approved

Public Comments

No public comments submitted for discussion.

For Committee Information

Helena Vanhorn discussed the positive findings for universal PreK. PreK children have consistently shown higher math scores, are more likely to enroll in honors courses and are less likely to have been retained. Helena talked about DPI's Legislative Agenda including the goal to transfer Prek to DPI. This has the potential to increase the number of slots so that more at-risk children receive a higher quality education. The committee discussed this possible change and how Caldwell County could be impacted as more things are merging at the state level.

Caldwell County NCPK children. Caldwell County has grown in enrollment from 18% in 2014, 22% in 2015, 31% in 2016 to 41% in 2017.

Discussion about the reason behind the growth that is happening in Caldwell County. This can, in part, be attributed to getting the word out through signs posted throughout the county, the ability of families to walk their preschoolers to class due to the the location of additional classrooms, online applications and locations being in higher populated areas of the county. Continued growth is expected with the programs space, allocated state funds and qualified staff. Caldwell County has been awarded expansion funding for Fall 2018. Vickie informed the Committee that Caldwell County is still behind Burke County in funding. The committee discussed the goal of continuing to pursue equal funding. It was noted that most of the expansion has been due to grant funding sought by Caldwell County Schools, not NCPK funding.

In 2015/16 our NCPK had 239 applications, in 2016/17 we increased to 272 applications and in 2017/18 we received 323 applications. LEA classrooms served 189 children and 72 were served in community sites for a total of 261 children served through NCPK in Caldwell County. The current number of locations in Caldwell County is 22 and 16 of those are LEA classrooms with the others being community sites. Also discussed were the number of inquiries that have been received for the 2018/19 school year.

Social-Emotional Foundations of Early Learning (SEFEL) for the 2017/18 school year: There are now 5 certified coaches (3 preschool staff, 1 school psychologist and 1 school social worker). All returning fidelity classroom met beginning of year fidelity. New classrooms are being coached and it is expected that many of these will meet fidelity by the end of this school year.

To date NCPK has 39 children on the contact list for next year and 16 returning Head Start children.

A general discussion was presented regarding funding to Head Start for NCPK. The local Head Start provides an extended day to all Head Start children. Discussion arose regarding how Head Start applies NCPK funds since they already provide a longer day to all Head Start children. After discussion, Seth Nagy suggested that interested parties meet to gather more information and a better understanding of services offered by different agencies.

For Committee Action

Appointment of new representative Lauren King, Supervisor of Subsidized Childcare, Caldwell County Department of Social Services to the NCPK Committee.

Paula Arrowood made the motion to accept the appointment and Shari Brown seconded the motion. None opposed. All in favor. Motion passes.

New Business

- Site selection for the 2018/19 school year includes Collettsville School and Oak Hill School. No private applications for sites have been received.
Motion made by Shari Brown to accept. Paula Arrowood seconded the motion. None opposed. Approved
Dr. Stone recused himself from voting
- NCPK applications for 2018/19 were presented.
Motion made by Paula Arrowood and seconded by Shari Brown to accept the application as written. None opposed. All in favor. Approved
- Site Rates
Motion made by Paula Arrowood and seconded by Shari Brown to accept site rates for 2018/19 school year with no changes recommended. None opposed. All in favor.
Approved
Dr. Stone recused himself from voting.

Adjournment

Motion was made by Paula Arrowood and seconded by Shari Brown to adjourn meeting. None opposed. All in favor. Motion passed.

Seth Nagy adjourned the NCPK Committee meeting at 12:16 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for April 11, 2018 at 11:00 at the Freedman Staff Development Room.