

Carteret County NC Pre-K Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 10, 2023 @ 10:00 AM
Carteret Preschool Center

The Carteret County's NC Pre-K Committee Meeting was called to order at 10:03am by Juliet Rogers, NC Pre-K Committee Co-Chair.

Members Present: Kay Huffman, Juliet Rogers, Misty Vargus, Virginia Hill, Justina Grady-Coaker, Cynthia Jackson

Members Absent: Maria Ward, Dr. Anna Brooks, Amber Johnson, Megan Hughes, Amy Parker, Stephanie Stevenson

Staff/Guests Attending: Kristi Farrell, Kimberly Hughes. Jeanne Barnes

Welcome and Introductions:

Juliet Rogers welcomed everyone to the meeting and committee members introduced themselves and provided information for their title/agency.

Review Contract:

Kimberly reviewed the number of slots per NC Pre-K site. Carteret County holds 271 total slots. (54 can be above income)
Currently there are 18 slots at Childcare Network, 81 slots at Excel, and 176 Slots with Carteret County Public Schools. (WOES- 32, BSES- 16, MCPS- 16, BES- 16, SES- 16, AES- 14, and 66 at CPC). Excel currently has 35 slots filled. Childcare Network currently has 7 filled. All public school sites are full.
Reviewed the reimbursement rates at \$496 for public school sites and \$719 for private sites. There is nothing to approve because we are currently reimbursing at the rate that is set by DCDEE.

Adopt a Conflict of Interest Policy:

Kimberly explained that the Conflict of Interest Policy sent out via email must be approved by a vote by members.

Juliet Rogers made a motion to approve the policy as written. Justina Grady-Coker seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All voted in favor.

Members must sign the statement annually and it is due by September 1, 2023.

Setting a Meeting Schedule:

Kimberly suggested the next meeting be scheduled for February 15th, 2024 at 10am and the meeting for the beginning of the school year be set for August 8th, 2024 at 10am.

Juliet Rogers made a motion to approve the meeting schedule as suggested by Kimberly Hughes. Virginia Hill seconded the motion. No discussion. All in favor.

Review Assurances and Requirements in Section I of the PLAN:

Kimberly reviewed the PLAN and the County/Region Committee Assurances and Requirements. Kimberly asked the committee to review the documents, sign and return them by September 15th.

Jeanne Huntley, community member, has expressed her interest in being a member of the committee. Kimberly told the committee about her past experience with NC Pre-K as well as her career in education. Juliet informed the committee this requires a vote. *Juliet Rogers made a motion to add Jeanne Huntley to the committee as a community member. Cynthia Jackson seconded the motion. No discussion. All in favor.*

Review and Approve Written Plans:

The committee was emailed the written plans (prevention of suspension/expulsion, transportation, transition, family engagement, working with children/families with Limited English Proficiency). Kimberly reviewed any changes that were made in the plans from the previous year. Juliet requested a vote from members to approve the plans.

Virginia Hill made a motion to approve the written plans as written. Cynthia Jackson seconded the motion. No discussion. All in favor.

Reallocation of slots:

Committee needs to approve by vote to grant authority to the contracting agency to reallocate slots across NC Pre-K sites without NC Pre-K committee approval.

Juliet Rogers made a motion to grant authority to the contracting agency (Carteret County schools) to reallocate slots across the sites with the committee approval.

Virginia seconded the motion. No discussion. All in favor.

Updates/changes to NC Pre-K Program Requirements:

- Contracting agencies are required to serve eligible children who are income eligible *and categorically eligible* first
 - Categorical Eligibility Requirement: Age-eligible children are considered “categorically eligible” for NC Pre-K if the child/family is:
 - Experiencing homelessness
 - In foster care
 - Receiving refugee services
 - Receiving Public Assistance (for family sizes of 8 or less*)
 - WIC

- Public Housing
 - TANF/Work First (Temp. Assistance for needy families)
 - Medicaid
 - SSI
 - Food and Nutrition Services (Food Stamps)
 - SNAP
 - Homelessness: Per-child reimbursement rates will not be reduced for a child with multiple absences due to homelessness.
 - COVID-19: Per-child reimbursement rates will not be reduced if:
 - A NCPre-K classroom/site is required to close due to COVID-19 exposure or positive cases, or
 - A child is unable to attend for an extended amount of days due to the child being sick and/or quarantined due to COVID-19
- NOTE: NC Pre-K teachers are required to provide remote learning services to children until in person instruction can resume.
- [Kindergarten Search Engine](#): The Kindergarten Search engine is available on the DCDEE website. (Link to the search engine in [program requirements and guidance](#)) NC Pre-K programs are required to provide all families with the address for the Kindergarten Search engine and a brief description of the information available. This will also be on Carteret County's NC Pre-K webpage. All sites can share links to our webpage to aid in communication.
 - Reimbursement rates are updated.

Regional Meeting Information:

- Star license rating on hold until 6/24 then roll out new system - transition period this year
- Expansion and access grant (applied for one of our sites- latest update will hear by end of August, funds released by mid September)
- Child enrollment is 90-91% across state - much better since COVID!
- Rate for private sites is now \$719/child/month. Public school is \$496
- New for eligibility: Categorical Eligible
- Budget updates:
 - Any non spent NC Pre-K contract funds will be carried forward to next year
 - Any unspent direct service funds must be reverted
 - Session law 2021-117 (Kindergarten Transition Policy)
 - "Facilities participating in the NC Pre-K program shall provide to all families the address of the website where the information can be found and a brief description of the information available. Upon request, a facility participating in the NC Pre-K program must furnish to a family a list of the following educational opportunities located in the same county as the NC Pre-K facility, or, if specified, any other county: (1) The educational opportunities for kindergarten offered by local school administrative units. (2) The educational opportunities for kindergarten offered by charter schools. (3)

Scholarships for enrollment in nonpublic schools provided pursuant to Part 2A of Article 39 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes, or any successor program.”

Other:

On the Carteret Preschool Center’s website, there is a NC Pre-K sub page that has a Committee tab with agendas, meeting minutes, and historical information on it. We encourage everyone to use it as well as share it with others.

New admin/staffing updates:

- Atlantic Elementary- new teacher Megan Anderson, vacant TA
- Beaufort Elementary - new principal Charity Godette
- Bogue Sound Elementary - new principal Ashley Melton, new TA Lindsey Moore
- CPC - new TA Mary Cameron Caison
- Morehead City Primary - new principal Mary Ellington, vacant TA
- Smyrna Elementary - vacant TA
- White Oak Elementary- new teacher Sarah Bartholomew
- Excel - new director Brianna Gagnon, new TA Autumn Davis, 2 vacant teachers, 2 vacant TAs,
- Childcare Network - new to us this year - director LaWanda Brown, Teacher Noelle Tolliver, TA Deidre Felton

Juliet asked if there was anything from anyone else. Misty with Excel informed the committee that Excel will be having an open house on August 26th. They will be accepting staff applications as well as student applications.

Juliet Rogers made a motion to adjourn the meeting with there being no other committee business. Justina Grady-Coker seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All were in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 10:37 a.m.