

Carteret County NC Pre-K Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2023 @ 10:00 AM
Carteret Preschool Center

The Carteret County's NC Pre-K Committee Meeting was called to order at 10:00am by Dr. Anna Brooks, NC Pre-K Committee Co-Chair.

Members Present: Anna Brooks, Kay Huffman, Juliet Rogers, Stephanie Stevenson, Misty Vargus, Virginia Hill, Amy Parker, Justina Grady-Coker, Amber Johnson,

Members Absent: Maria Ward, Wanda Fulcher, Cynthia Jackson

Staff/Guests Attending: Kristi Farrell and Kimberly Hughes

Welcome and Introductions:

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

Agenda Overview and Approval of Minutes:

The agenda was emailed to all members prior to the meeting and reviewed by members. There were no corrections or additions needed.

Stephanie Stevenson made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Justina Grady-Coker seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All voted in favor.

Conduct Annual Planning for NC Pre-K and Approve an Implementation Plan:

Kimberly reviewed the number of slots per NC Pre-K site. Carteret County holds 271 total slots. (54 can be above income - currently we only have 50 with 4 remaining) Currently there are 18 slots at Beaufort Child Development Center, 90 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 51 slots filled. Beaufort Child Development Center was not able to have a classroom this year due to not being able to find qualified staff. The 18 slots at Beaufort Child Development Center need to be reallocated to another site.

Virginia Hill made a motion to reallocate the 18 slots to Carteret County Public Schools and keep all others the same. Amber Johnson seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All voted in favor.

Selection of Contracting Agency:

Kimberly Hughes explained the need for a vote for the contracting agency. Anna Brooks asked for any input from the committee and if anyone was interested in holding the contract.

Misty Vargus made a motion to have Carteret County Schools continue to serve as the Contractor for the 2023-2024 school year. Justina Grady-Coker seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All voted in favor.

Financial Update:

NC Pre-K approved a rate increase in the fall. This increase will be retroed to July 1, 2022. The rates for public schools increased from \$473/child to \$496/child. The rate for private sites went from a range of \$550/child for a teacher working on a license to \$663/child for a licensed teacher to \$682/child for all teachers regardless of their license status. There was a budget amendment to reflect these changes. Kristi and Casey will work on amendments for each classroom to receive the increased rate since July 1, 2022.

We have underspent in some areas so we have asked for these funds to be moved to supplies. Carteret County Schools has underspent in direct services by approximately \$30,000 due to not filling all slots. Subcontractors have underspent by close to \$315,175 due to not being able to open a classroom at Beaufort Child Development Center and Excel having 30 open slots.

Discussed some reasons why Carteret County is not able to fill all slots and talked about how we can try to improve next year.

Contract Compliance Update:

At this time, CCPS has 144 students enrolled in NC Pre-K and Excel has 51 students. This is a total of 195 students currently. Carteret County has 271 slots so 76 slots are open right now.

We are making progress toward meeting the scope of work in the contract with DCDEE by having all teachers involved in the science of reading training in LETRS for Early Childhood.

Kindergarten Transition:

Last year was the first year of the teachers using the TS Gold transition reports. The report is generated from the data that the teachers input throughout the year. The report is sent to PowerSchool and will follow the child to their next school. The kindergarten teachers were not able to find the reports at the beginning of the year. This year the Pre-K teachers will print the report and deliver it to the schools to ensure they see the report.

There will be transition meetings held for children with IEPs. The current school and the receiving school will be present at the meeting. This will help the receiving school know what the child will need to be successful in the transition.

NC Pre-K teachers prepare lessons on transitioning to kindergarten as well as use social stories with pictures of their new school. They talk about the differences in elementary school.

Carteret County Schools has a kindergarten registration held on March 8, 2023. This event is for all new children going to kindergarten. They will receive a bag with books and parent information. Some of the schools will allow a tour of the school. There is also a staggered start planned for the beginning of the year to help with the transition.

Standardized Site Selection:

Carteret County will be participating in Site Selection this year.

Excel is a current partner and they are maintaining all NC Pre-K contract requirements and do not have to reapply. Kimberly Hughes has reached out to Excel to ensure they are still interested in partnering with Carteret County NC Pre-K for the 2023-2024 school year. They do want to continue to be a partner.

Beaufort Child Development Center is also a current partner but they were not able to fulfill contract requirements and will not be an approved NC Pre-K site for 2023-2024.

A letter was sent out to all 4 & 5 star child care facilities in Carteret County. Only one facility reached out about site selection. The Childcare Network in Morehead City sent in their application.

The next step is for a site selection sub committee to be appointed and voted on. This will be 3 non conflicted members. Lisa Kitrell and Lauren Dudeck are interested in being on the sub committee. Kimberly Hughes will reach out to more people and also asked the committee if anyone else would be interested. Once 3 potential members are identified, Kimberly will call a meeting to vote on the members.

The process of the sub committee was discussed and explained that all steps are in the Program Requirements.

NC Pre-K Site Monitoring Results:

Kimberly Hughes, the site administrator visits each site at a minimum of 2 times each year. This is for all 8 sites/16 classrooms. At this time, there are no action plans with any of the sites. Private sites are having difficulty finding qualified staff and the increase in educational requirements is exacerbating the problem.

NC Pre-K Updates:

Carteret County has 8 sites total and 16 classrooms. This has not changed this year.

There are a few staffing updates. Reba Lewis is the new principal/site administrator at Smyrna Elementary. There are no new lead teachers in the school sites and there are 3 new teacher assistants. Excel has one new lead teacher and 3 new assistants. Training and professional development this year include Ready Rosie, Teaching Strategies, LETRS, and child assessments (formative assessment data and TS Gold Checkpoint data)

The NC Pre-K Committee has all required member positions filled. All committee members are currently in PLAN and have all signed the PLAN and Conflict of Interest. We will be taking Wanda Fowler off of the committee for lack of participation. The only changes recently from the NC Pre-K program requirements is the increase in the per child reimbursement rate as noted earlier. Also the Childcare Rule .3013 went into effect this year.

Other:

NC Pre-K Spring Roundup for 2023-2024 fliers have been posted throughout the community. Yard signs will also be posted around the county soon. Round-up will begin on March 1st but the online application will be live later this month. Roundup procedures have been changed some for this year. The new procedures were explained to the committee. Developmental screenings will be utilized for students who do not meet one of the other eligibility requirements at a separate appointment. Goodie bags will be given out at the Roundup. Juliette said the partnership will be able to provide books for the bags again. The health department will provide brochures. Dolly Parton's Imagination Library application, a document of recommended sleep for preschoolers, and a timeline of what to expect and when to expect it will be in the goodie bags. Kimberly asked the committee if anyone had anything else that they would like to recommend or donate to the bags. Excel said they would check to see if they had anything they could donate.

Kimberly asked if anyone knew anyone else that would be interested in becoming a member of the committee and requested that they email her if they are interested. Juliet Rogers and the Partnership have been working on the lending library. It is getting a revamp so it will be closed for about a month and Juliet will send out more information about it after it is reopened. Juliet would be happy to meet with anyone and any other agency to tell people all about what they have to offer.

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 10:56 a.m.