BUNCOMBE COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Early Childhood Education & Development Committee

May 18, 2021, 12:30 – 2:30 Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

Committee Members in attendance: Al Whitesides, Brandy Bowman, Chavaun Letman, Jane Hatley, Jasmine Beach-Ferrara, Kit Cramer, Leslie Anderson, Mistie Reising-Cogbill, Philip Belcher, Rich Johnston, Robert Pressley, Susan Mims, Wendy Wieber

County support staff in attendance: Rachael Nygaard, Michael Frue, Burnett Walz, Trish Wallin, Angelyn Johnson, Rasheeda McDaniels, Kimberly Fullerton

Others in attendance: Shelby Harris, Amy Barry, Katlyn Guyer, Gabriel Guyton, Brian Repass, Deanna LaMotte, Sunshine Request

Welcome and agenda review by Jasmine Beach-Ferrara.

Virtual meeting reminder: Identify yourself when speaking. All votes will be conducted by roll call. This is a public meeting. If any community members are in attendance, there will be a time for public comment at the end of the meeting.

Old Business

• Minutes: Philip Belcher made a motion to approve the minutes from April 27. Susan Mims seconded the motion. Minutes were unanimously approved by roll call vote.

New Business

- Committee Reappointments
 - Several committee members' term expires in June 2021. Chavaun Letman and Jane Hatley have decided not to continue on the committee once their term expires in June. Their vacant seats are currently posted on the Board of Commissioners website and applications are due by May 28. The other 6 members whose terms expire in June are:
 - Al Whitesides
 - Brandy Bowman
 - Glenda Weinert
 - Jasmine Beach-Ferrara
 - Rich Johnston
 - Wendy Wieber
 - Susan Mims made motion for the committee to recommend these 6 committee members for reappointment for an additional 2-year term. Philip Belcher seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.
- Pre-k ad hoc group recommendation
 - The ad hoc group presented their recommendation to the committee



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- Multiple members of the committee expressed their appreciation to the ad hoc group and staff for their hard work and the tremendous job they did.
- There was a discussion about the presentation including:
- How are other counties handling the funding and how long they have been in existence?
- Suggestion of an additional slide to give more info on what a model might look like.
- How does this play into the work that ABPPC has been doing for years? Will there be 2 systems developed at the same time that will compete for funding?
- How will Federal Universal PreK initiative trickle to our community?
- Data shows 7%-13% ROI
- Need to be clear that this is not a monetary ask at this time. Suggest including there will be a funding model developed in the planning phase.
- Jasmine Beach-Ferrara made a motion for the committee to endorse the group's recommendation with noted revisions. Rich Johnston seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote with Kit Cramer abstaining from vote due to not being present for the entire presentation.
- The revised presentation will be published online with the meeting materials for the Board of Commissioners June 1 meeting.
- The Board of Commissioners meeting is now open for public attendance if any committee member wants to attend. The meetings will continue to be streamed online for those who are not comfortable attending in person.

Announcements

• There were no announcements.

Public Comment

• Amy Barry participated with public comment

Next Meeting: No meeting in June. Next meeting is July 6 at 1:00 pm.