

MINUTES

Committee Members in attendance: Al Whitesides, Brandy Bowman, Chavaun Letman, Jane Hatley, Jasmine Beach-Ferrara, Kidada Wynn, 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

Others in attendance: Deanna LaMotte, Kaitlyn Guyer, Mary Arnold, Susanna Smith, Brian Repass, Amy Barry, Marcia Whitney, Richard Caro, Melissa Headt, Ashely Parks, Jenny Vial, Dana Ayers, 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: Kit Cramer made a motion to approve the minutes from April 6 and April 20. Susan Mims seconded the motion. Minutes were unanimously approved by roll call vote.
- Status of follow-up from last meeting
 - The funding scenario spreadsheet has been updated to include slot information. Staff also shared information for multi-year requests and partial funding amounts
 - Buncombe County Schools/Verner provided an update on their request via email. They decreased the amount of their request from \$1 million to \$685,313 due to a grant and low-interest loan from Dogwood Health Trust. This \$685,313 can be awarded over 2 years at no additional cost. They also provided information about the timeline for opening slots.
- Jasmine provided an update from the Board of Commissioners budget workshop. The increase in the Early Childhood fund is included in the budget that is moving forward. This is to allow the full allocated amount to be available for grants instead of including the Asheville City's Schools' allocation to be included.

New Business

- Funding scenarios
 - Rachael reminded the committee about the \$100k that is earmarked for Avery's Creek PreK classroom. The committee agreed during the last meeting to allocate funds for the planning process to expand access to quality PreK.

- Philip Belcher indicated he is worried about 2 items and would like them to be considered. One is Asheville City Schools and the other is Southwestern Child Development.
- Jasmine Beach-Ferrara would like to consider supporting grassroots organizations and start-ups, specifically Evolve Early Learning.
- There was a discussion about the Asheville City Schools' application.
- The committee decided to begin the scenario with awarding the Buncombe County Schools as a 2 year grant (\$342,657 each year). They then added \$157,000 to Evolve.
- Kit Cramer made a motion to approve the current funding scenario. Al Whitesides seconded the motion. Jane Hatley asked for a friendly amendment to change Evolve's amount to their partial funding request of \$118,000, change Irene Wortham to their partial funding request of \$148,547, and to grant Southwestern Child Development \$95,076. Kit and Al approved the proposed friendly amendment. The vote to approve carried with 12 votes for and 2 opposed.
- The committee discussed multi-year requests. Kit Cramer made a motion to grant Buncombe County Schools and Colaborativa la Milpa a multi-year award. Philip Belcher seconded the motion. Jane Hatley proposed a friendly amendment to include Buncombe County Partnership for Children's Child Care Resources project. Kit and Philip accepted the proposed friendly amendment. The vote to approve was unanimous by roll call vote.
- The committee discussed the second funding scenario, which reduces the overall amount by the \$851,440 that Asheville City Schools dedicates to their preschool from their local allocation. Al Whitesides indicates that he believe this is just a formality and hopefully it will not be needed. The committee decided to give 80% to the top scorers and 50% to the lower scorers. They also decided to lower the planning amount to \$59,657. Susan Mims made a motion to approve this funding scenario and Rich Johnston seconded the motion. The motion was approved with 13 votes to approve and 1 vote against.
- The committee identified items for consideration before next year's process:
 - Analysis of Behavioral Health supports – what is most effective, what are the challenges, etc.
 - Develop framework for multi-year requests
 - Develop a process for large capital requests and operational funding
 - Analysis of what we are funding and what the connection is to the fund's objective

Announcements

- The ad-hoc committee will present their recommendations to the committee on May 18. They will present to the Board of Commissioners on June 1.

Public Comment

- There was no public comment

Next Meeting: Next meeting is May 18 at 1:00 pm.