

MINUTES

Committee Members in attendance: Al Whitesides, Brandy Bowman, Glenda Weinert, Jasmine Beach-Ferrara, Kit Cramer, Leslie Anderson, Linda McDaniel, Mark Taft, Mistie Reising-Cogbill, Philip Belcher, Rich Johnston, Robert Pressley, Susan Mims, Wendy Wieber

County staff in attendance: Rachael Nygaard, Matt Baker, Angelyn Johnson, Michael Frue, Trish Wallin

Others in attendance: Tiera Beale, Marcia Whitney, April Dockery, Susanna Smith, Amy Barry, Kaitlyn Guyer, Brian Repass, Corrie Price, Melissa Hedt, Pepi Acebo, Georgia Harvey, 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.

Minutes

Glenda Weinert made a motion to approve the minutes from March 1. Kit Cramer seconded the motion. Minutes were unanimously approved by roll call vote

Old Business

- Grant timeline overview:
 - Committee meeting on April 19 extended time from 12:30 to 2:30 pm
 - Possible additional meeting (if needed) on April 26 extended time from 12:30 to 2:30 pm
 - Recommendations due to Budget Office by April 30

New Business

- Asheville City Schools letter
 - The letter was from the majority of the Board of Commissioners. The intent is to reestablish clear line of communication around shared commitment and address concerns over cuts to PreK. There has been one meeting with Asheville City Schools, Chairman Newman and County staff. Asheville City Schools canceled the PreK meeting. There is a budget workshop on 5/10/22.
- FY2023 Grant Funding
 - Staff presented the “FY2023 ECE Grant Methodology” document that outlined the amount of the grant fund, existing multi-year awards, number of applications, etc. It also reviewed the changes for FY2023, which included adding a question “Do you recommend funding this project?” to the online portal. Because not all projects were scored by the same number of committee members (due to a conflict of interest or other reasons), staff recommends the committee consider % of scorers that recommended funding instead of the number of scorers which was used in FY2022. The committee could also consider combining overall

score and % of scorers recommending funding to create an overall composite score. Staff also recommends creating funding scenario rules and provided some examples of possible scenarios.

- The committee discussed the possible funding scenario rules. Dr Mims made a motion to remove option 3 and option 4 from consideration. Kit Cramer seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote. The committee decided to begin with scenario 2 for starting the conversation at the next meeting.

- Follow-up items
 - Staff will provide information about multi-year and partial year funding responses for each application. Staff will also provide the committee information on multi-year awards (how many exist, amount for each fiscal year, etc.). Staff will update the spreadsheet to include the “category” for each application and will send the revised spreadsheet to the committee. Committee members will come to the next meeting prepared to discuss and/or make motions on the funding scenario.

- ARPA Funding
 - Philip Belcher made a motion for the committee to recommend the Board of Commissioners fully fund the strategies endorsed in the NC Pre-K expansion report. Dr. Mims seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Announcements

- There were no announcements

Public Comment

- Pepi Acebo participated in public comment.

Next Meeting: Next meeting is April 19 at 12:30 pm.