

MINUTES

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

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

Other Guests: Kaitlyn Guyer, Dana Ayers, Marcia Whitney, Brian Repass, Mary Arnold, Georgia-ACS and 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.

Meeting Minutes: Philip Belcher made a motion to approve the minutes from February 2. Kit Cramer seconded motion. Vote by roll call vote was unanimous in approval.

Old Business

- Reminder of grant review and meeting schedule:
 - March
 - Questions sent to applicants on March 4 with responses due March 12
 - Responses sent to committee March 15
 - April
 - Deadline for scoring by 5:00 pm on April 5
 - Regular meeting on April 6 extended time from 12:00 to 2:30 pm
 - Additional meeting on April 20 extended time from 12:00 to 2:30 pm
 - Possible additional meeting (if needed) on April 27 extended time from 12:00 to 2:30 pm
 - Recommendations due to Budget Office by April 30
- There was a brief discussion about the amount of funds available for grants this year. The overall total is \$3,745,440, and the Commissioners have asked for 2 scenarios. One that excludes the \$851,400 for Asheville City School's local allocation that has been used for their preschool, and one for the entire \$3,745,440. \$600,000 is already committed for the two multi-year awards that were granted last grant cycle (Buncombe County Schools and YWCA). The committee would like to find out the total dollar amount that Buncombe County Schools and Asheville City Schools invest in early childhood programs. They would also like to know the population size of early childhood aged children and the total number served from each school district.

New Business

- Review of questions for applicants:
 - Rachael reviewed the questions that have been submitted by committee members so far. Committee members were given the opportunity to add additional questions as each one was reviewed. Due to time constraints, the committee didn't make it through the entire list. Rachael advised the committee to review the remainder of the questions on the document and to submit any additional questions by the end of the day on Wednesday, 3/3.
- Universal Pre-K ad hoc group
 - The group had their first meeting. They had conversation about pulling from Partnership and work they have done, looking at other counties in NC, data collection, fidelity, teacher retention, quality assurance. Looking to build off other's success and lesson learned. Identified several terms that need to be defined, such as what does universal Pre-k mean. Will look at how to collect data to define efficacy. The goal of the group is to have recommendations for the June Board of Commissioners meeting. The recommendations will be brought to this committee in May.

Announcements

- Jasmine recommends everyone check www.buncombeready.org for latest COVID info including vaccine information. Walgreens has begun doing vaccines locally. Educators are eligible to be vaccinated, and this includes early childhood teachers.

Public Comment

- There was no public comment

Next Meeting: Next meeting is April 6 at 12:30 pm.