

## MINUTES

**Attendees:** Jasmine Beach-Ferrara, Al Whitesides, Martin Moore, Leslie Anderson, Philip Belcher, Susan Mims, Mark Taft, Mistie Reising-Cogbill (virtual), Carol Steen (virtual)

**Absent:** Linda McDaniel, Kit Kramer

**Staff in attendance:** Rachael Nygaard, Angelyn Johnson, Sara Joss, Michael Frue, Rocio Quintero

### Welcome

### Minutes

- Approval of minutes from September 5, 2023
  - Motion to approve by Al Whitesides. Seconded by Mark Taft. The minutes were unanimously approved.

### Old Business

- Election of Committee Chairperson
  - Jasmine Beach-Ferrara made a motion to appoint Commissioner Martin Moore to serve as Chairperson. Seconded by Al Whitesides. Approved unanimously.

### New Business

- Reflections from Board of Commissioners presentation
  - Commissioner Moore and Carol Steen presented on behalf of the committee in congruence with Buncombe Partnership for Children’s update on the first year of NC Pre-K expansion funding (ARPA).
    - Potential for further funding on top of the initial \$3.2 million needed for the continuation of the project to extend the contract an additional year.
- Session 3 of ECE Workforce Development: presented by Rachael Sawyer Nygaard
  - Takeaways from the series:
    - Money invested in salaries helped to retain staff during COVID
    - Are we utilizing our funds in the best way possible?
    - Can we provide a salary supplement for early childhood workers?
    - Can we create more of a workforce pipeline by incentivizing ECE licensure and/or degrees?
    - How do private partners engage with this committee and its efforts?

### Announcements

- Dr Mims informed the committee of Dogwood Health Trust’s Care and Learning Data on Early Care and Education. There is a link to the report and presentation slides available on their website:

Meeting materials are posted online at [www.BuncombeCounty.org/Grants](http://www.BuncombeCounty.org/Grants)

<https://dogwoodhealthtrust.org/strategic-priority/education/>

- Membership Update:
  - 3 new committee members are slated to be voted in at tonight's Board of Commissioners meeting.

**Public Comment**

- Caitlin Johnson from Buncombe County Schools made public comment.

**Next Meeting**

Next meeting is November 7, 2023, 1:00-2:30 pm, 200 College St, Ground Floor Conference Room