

Head Start Policy Council
February 9, 2023 Noon
Virtual/Stearns Education Center

***Policy Council members had attended the NCPReK Committee meeting just prior to this meeting, so much of the usual information (financials, etc.) had been shared in the first meeting.*

Attending: Philicia Pace (parent, Sunny View Elementary), Alicia Avellaneda (parent-Polk Central), Calan Halford (Polk County DSS), Amy Smith (WNC Source)

Others Present: Kathy Harding, Amanda VanDuyne, Jan Crump, Xan Morse, Lisa Brown, Courtney Edney

Call Meeting to Order: Ms. VanDuyne called the meeting to order at 11:38am. She welcomed everyone to the meeting. Each member introduced themselves. In Ms. Epley's absence, Mrs. Crump was asked to lead the meeting.

Approval of January 24, 2023 minutes: Mrs. Crump asked for a motion to approve the November minutes. Ms. Avellaneda made a motion to approve and Mrs. Pace seconded. The vote to approve was unanimous.

Reports/Information: Copies of the preschool monthly report and the financial reports were shared with members electronically prior to the meeting. Much of the information in these reports was discussed in the NCPReK Committee meeting prior to this meeting and members had already heard the information.

Mrs. Harding did share that bids for the new Tryon Elementary building will be opened on February 14th and hope to schedule ground-breaking soon after that. She also told members the Head Start budget is on track at this point in the year for all funds to be spent out by year end.

New Business: Mrs. Harding presented information on the 2023-2024 budget. She told members the majority of Head Start funding was used for staff salaries and benefits. Some money is also available for materials and building maintenance. She explained that extra funds had been provided during COVID and had been used to hire two floating teacher aides for PreK, but these funds are running out at the end of the year. We are working hard to find a way in the budget to keep these two positions. She said members will be asked to vote to approve the budget at the March meeting.

She also presented the Community Assessment for the upcoming Head Start grant reapplication. She told members Head Start programs are required to complete a full community assessment every five years, with updates to information in other years in the cycle. She explained that she had completed a full community assessment for this year's grant cycle. She told members one of the most important changes was that Polk County had moved from

Tier 3 to Tier 2 in an economic indicator ranking. She said this ranking affects organizations when applying for grants. She shared that Community Assessment information helps the program determine where classrooms might be needed in the county.

Old Business: None

Comments or Questions: None

The next meeting date for Policy Council is March 21, 2023 at 12 noon at Stearns Education Center.

Adjournment: Mrs. Pace made a motion to adjourn and Ms. Avellaneda seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 1:13pm.

Policy Council Secretary

Date