

# NCPK Committee Meeting

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*Date: February 11, 2021 | Time: 11:00am | Location: Preschool Readiness Center via Zoom | Meeting called to order by Dr. Don Phipps with a quorum present.*

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## In Attendance

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Members Present: Kim Burns (Co-Chair, Smart Start), Dr. Don Phipps (Co-Chair, Caldwell County Schools Superintendent), Shari Brown (Family Literacy, CCC&TI), Katherine Walker (Parent Representative), Kristen Tufts (Caldwell County Department of Social Services), Geri Ward (Child Care Representative), Paula Arrowood (Caldwell County Schools, Exceptional Children), Candida Kiziah (Parent Representative), and Stephanie Ashley (Blue Ridge Community Action)

Staff Present: Helena Vanhorn (NCPK Coordinator), Vickie Sproul (Early Childhood Director, CCS), and Sandra Beane (CCS Preschool Administrative Assistant),

Members Absent: Shawn Corpening (Child Care Representative)

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## Call to Order 11:00 AM

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### Approval of Agenda

Dr. Phipps called for a motion to approve the February 11, 2021 agenda with the correct time.

Upon the motion of Paula Arrowood, and a second by Kristen Tufts, the NCPK Committee unanimously approved the February 11, 2021 agenda.

No conflict of interest.

### Approval of Previous Minutes

Dr. Phipps called for a motion to accept the minutes from the August 13, 2020 NCPK Committee meeting.

Upon the motion of Paula Arrowood, and a second by Stephanie Ashley, the Committee unanimously approved the August 13, 2020 minutes.

No conflict of interest.

### Public Comment

There were no public comments presented to the Committee.

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## New Business: Information

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Helen Vanhorn presented information regarding the number of NCPK applications that Caldwell has received to date. At the present time, 278 applications have been received. This is down from 354 at the same time last year. This is a 21.4% decrease. The program is still receiving applications.

Allocated slots for this year is 274 and 228 (83.2%) have been filled to date. In previous years (2015-2019) the program saw 100% allocated slots filled.

Applications for the 2021/22 school year are available and parents have started submitting for next year.

Caldwell NCPK Funding:

NCPK: 1,308,230 equals 274 children

Smart Start Funds: \$120,000 equals 42 children partially funded.

The program also received full Hold Harmless funds for the 2020/21 school year.

Bright Beginnings has requested not to participate in NCPK this year so that they can utilize their classroom space for school age children.

Current NCPK sites are distributed throughout the county and sites are readily accessible for communities.

Income levels for 62.7% of families fall below a 130% poverty level and 27.1% of families fall below 131-185% poverty level. One obstacle for these families is transportation. Parents that have children accepted into the program often can not find transportation to bring their children to class.

NCPK CCDF Quality Funds: \$21,812 was received from this grant for the program. These funds were used to purchase items to replace classroom supplies that had to be removed due to Covid. It was also used to replace damaged furniture in the NCPK classrooms.

NCPK RFA Funds: \$26,917 was approved for classroom sanitation items, child face masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, thermometers, and batteries. Study kits for the Lending Library were also purchased with these funds.

No additional applications were submitted for new sites in the county. The next anticipated open application process will be in December of 2022.

Annual site monitoring results are delayed by NCPK due to Covid. January 15, 2021 site directors/principals submitted for 100% compliance. Contractor completion is due March 31, 2021 and the DCDEE licensing review will be by May 2021.

At the present time the Whitnel Elementary NCPK classroom is staffed by a licensed teacher under an emergency license.

The classrooms at Northside Children's Learning Center and a New Beginning Child Care have qualified staff with AAS degrees in Early Childhood Education. This reduced the reimbursement rate due to staff not being licensed.

A child development inventory will be completed by the classroom teacher and shared with parents and the kindergarten teacher. Kindergarten teachers are invited to visit the NCPK classroom to ease the transition from preschool to kindergarten.

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## **New Business: For Action**

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### **Action Item:**

Approval by vote the NCPK contracting agency for the 2021/22 program year. Dr. Phipps called for the motion to approve the contracting agency for the 2021/22 program year. Upon motion by Shari Brown and a second by Kristen Tufts the Committee voted unanimously to approve the contracting agency.

No conflict of interest.

### **Action Item:**

Approval by vote on the allocation of slots for the 2021/22 program year. Dr. Phipps called for the motion to approve parent choice to continue and the slot follows the child. Upon motion by Kim Burns and a second by Shari Brown the committee unanimously approved the allocation of slots.

No conflict of interest

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## **Next Meeting and Adjournment**

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Being no further business to come before the NCPK Committee Kim Burns called for a motion to adjourn upon the motion of Paula Arrowood, and the second by Shari Brown, the NCPK Committee unanimously approved adjournment.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:30am.