

## Durham PreK Governance Committee Meeting NOTES

Jim and Carolyn Hunt Early Childhood Resource Center

August 14, 2020 (1:30pm – 2:45pm)

**In Attendance:**

**Voting Members:** Peggy Ball, Leigh Bordley, Deric Boston, Dr. Nakia Hardy, Cathy Collie-Robinson, Dr. Anna Gassman-Pines, Dr. Wykeshia-Glass, Dr. Iheoma Iruka, Karen McLeod, June Shillito, Darnella Warthen

**Non-voting Members:** Marsha Basloe, Dr. Linda Chappel, Drew Cummings, Cate Elander, Brittany Gregory, Dr. Alex Livas-Dlott, Melinda Rodriguez

**Absent:** Wendell Davis, Andrea Daye, Tammy Jacobs, Michelle Lynn, Beth Messersmith, Ben Rose

WHAT	NOTES
Brief welcome and overview of virtual meeting protocols	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Overview of meeting objectives:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Share the plan for opening Durham PreK in school term 2020 - 2021</li> <li>○ Review the NC Division of Child Development and Early Education’s (NCDCDEE) <i>Guidance for NC Pre-K and Child Care Payments</i></li> <li>○ Vote on policy for Durham PreK SY 20-21                                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Payment policies</li> <li>▪ Parent fees</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Identify and vote to set guiding principles to direct necessary budget adjustments</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
NC Pre-K SY21 Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● DCDEE issued <a href="#">Interim COVID-19 Policies for NC Pre-K Programs</a> on August 3, 2020                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ NC Pre-K will meet a full 36 weeks as in a typical program year</li> <li>○ In-person instruction is promoted as the optimal choice for young children</li> <li>○ Remote learning as an alternative option “only” for specific circumstances</li> <li>○ Remote learning only option available through at least November 6<sup>th</sup> with option to extend pending COVID metrics and future state directives.                                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Guidance provided on how to provide remote learning, including expectations around teacher training, Remote Moments, family check-ins 1-2X a week</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Reopening of DPS, Private Childcare and Durham Head Start Classrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Durham Public Schools PreK Classrooms:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Start date: Monday, August 17<sup>th</sup></li> <li>○ Virtual for at least the first 9 weeks of the school year</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Private Childcare PreK Classrooms:</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Start date: Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup></li> <li>○ Hybrid model – Families choose virtual or in-person instruction</li> <li>● Durham Head Start Classrooms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Start date: Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup></li> <li>○ Virtual. In October families can choose in-person instruction for students, dependent upon COVID metrics</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>Child Care Infrastructure in Danger During Pandemic – NAEYC Survey Results</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <a href="#">NAEYC's North Carolina Survey Results - How Child Care is Holding On Until Help Comes</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 45% of child care programs are certain that, without additional public assistance, they will close permanently</li> <li>○ 80% of child care programs are serving fewer children. The average enrollment is down 52%</li> <li>○ 71% of respondents to the survey have engaged in furlough, pay cuts, or layoffs</li> </ul> </li> <li>● NC DHHS Local Data for Child Care <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 90% of child care facilities that traditionally open in the summer have reopened</li> <li>○ Only 43% of children (106,000) are currently attending child care vs 245,000 in Feb. 2020</li> <li>○ Programs are reporting significant vacancies among private paying families</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>NC Pre-K Reopening Payment Policies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>NCDCDEE NC Pre-K SY 20-21 Payment Policies</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ DCDEE will provide payments to NC Pre-K based upon <b>all</b> contracted seats, regardless of enrollment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Payments will not be based on attendance</li> <li>▪ Payments will be based on assigned teacher rate and number of spaces allocated to each classroom</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>COVID-19 Child Care Subsidy Payment Policies</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ DCDEE waived parent fees for the child care subsidy program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No parent copayments for April through August 2020. Decision beyond August has not been released.</li> <li>▪ Providers received full rate payments, inclusive of parent fees, from DCDEE</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>● Governance committee is tasked with deciding how to move forward with Durham PreK Payment Policies and Parent Fees for the 20-21 school year. If Governance chooses not to act, in the absence of a DPK specific policy, DPK follows the NC Pre-K guidelines.</li> <li>● <b>Durham PreK SY 20-21 Recommendation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ For program consistency and sustainability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Pay providers based upon allocated seats in alignment with NC Pre-K guidelines</li> <li>▪ Waive parent fees in alignment with NCDCDEE subsidy guidelines</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ If adopted the Durham PreK budget will have a budget shortfall, ranging from approximately \$63,077 to \$158,691</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Governance committee to decide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Do we pay providers based upon allocated seats like NC Pre-K? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ If we align our payment policies with NC Pre-K we will need to decide on strategies to meet budget</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify the guiding principles and rank</li> <li>• “Can you talk about why we would waive parent fees?” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Many families do not want to pay a parent fee for virtual preschool.</li> <li>○ Potential for the parent fee to contribute to a parent’s decision to decline a seat. Seats are contracted and we pay on the seat even if it’s vacant.</li> <li>○ DPS Board waived PreK fees while in remote learning.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Save the providers and waive the parent fee. We will become responsible for the parent fee and pay providers.</li> </ul>
<b>Action Taken</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motion passed unanimously to pay reimbursements based upon allocated seats rather than attendance.</li> <li>• Separate motion passed unanimously to waive parent fees in alignment with NCDCEE child care subsidy policies.</li> </ul>
Guiding Principles for budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify the guiding principles for budget decision-making <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Potential Options <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Request additional funding from Durham County</li> <li>2) Suspend gap payments for DPK seats at the Whitted School</li> <li>3) Reduce DPK monthly reimbursement standard of \$1,250 per child for <i>blended</i> NC Pre-K seats in Head Start and Durham Public Schools</li> <li>4) Reduce DPK monthly reimbursement standard of \$1,250 per child for ALL seats, regardless of classroom type</li> </ol> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Option to set cuts and revisit at a later date.</li> <li>• Discussion about protecting private providers as much as possible since they do not have additional funding streams to support them during the pandemic as the public sites have in their budgets.</li> <li>• Motion made for guiding principles ranked as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Suspend gap payments for DPK seats at Whitted School</li> <li>2) Reduce DPK monthly reimbursement standard of \$1,250 per child for <i>blended</i> NC Pre-K seats in Head Start and Durham Public Schools</li> <li>3) Request additional funding from Durham County</li> <li>4) If needed, reduce DPK monthly reimbursement standard of \$1,250 per child for ALL seats, regardless of classroom type</li> </ol> </li> </ul>

<b>Action Taken</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Motion passed for guiding principles for budget decision-making<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ First suspend gap payments</li><li>○ Second reduce monthly reimbursement standard of \$1,250 per child for <i>blended</i> NC Pre-K seats in Head Start and Durham Public Schools (seats with multiple funding sources)</li><li>○ Third request additional funding from Durham County</li><li>○ Last resort is to reduce the DPK monthly reimbursement standard of \$1,250 per child for ALL seats, regardless of classroom type</li></ul></li></ul>
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**NEXT MEETING:** September 17, 2020 - 9:30 to 12:30 pm