

Durham PreK Governance Committee Meeting NOTES

Special Virtual Meeting of the Membership

August 19, 2021 (3:00pm-4:00pm)

In Attendance:

Voting Members: Peggy Ball, Deric Boston, Xavier Cason, Cathy Collie-Robinson, Dr. Wykeshia Glass, Claudia Hager, Dr. Nakia Hardy, Dr. Iheoma Iruka, Michelle Lynn, Beth Messersmith, June Shillito, Darnella Warthen

Non-voting Resource Members: Dr. Linda Chappel, Drew Cummings, Cate Elander, Brittany Gregory, Monnie Griggs, Melinda Rodriguez, Katie Thayer, Jameka Wells

Voting Members Absent Absent: Leigh Bordley, Dr. Anna Gassman-Pines, Karen McLeod, Michael Page, Ben Rose

WHAT	NOTES
Welcome and Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome and Introductions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Roll call of voting members to verify quorum ○ Meetings will be livestreamed on the DPK YouTube channel moving forward
Meeting Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive Durham PreK Update* • Share the plan for reopening • Review the NCDCEE guidance for NC Pre-K and Child Care Payments* • Vote on Policy for Durham PreK SY 21-22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Payment policies ○ Parent fees
NC Pre-K SY22 Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On August 2, 2021 DCDEE issued new NC Pre-K guidance* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NC Pre-K will be offered the full 36 weeks as in a typical program year ○ In-person instruction is required unless very specific needs arise
NC Pre-K Reopening Payment Policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To stabilize Pre-K Infrastructure during the Pandemic: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ August through November, DCDEE will provide payments to NC Pre-K based upon ALL contracted seats, regardless of enrollment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Payments will not be based on attendance ▪ Payments will be based on assigned teacher rate and number of spaces allocated to each classroom

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ For the months of December through June, DCDEE will provide payments to NC Pre-K based on the traditional per-child, attendance-based model ● Potential Budget Challenge: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Indicators point to an extension of this payment method for the rest of the fiscal year
<p>COVID-19 Child Care Payment Policies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● DCDEE waived parent fees for the child care subsidy program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No parent copayments for April-October 2021 ○ Potentially plan to extend the waiver through the fiscal year ○ Providers received the full rate payments from DCDEE ● Last year the DPK Governance board voted unanimously to waive the parent fees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Most programs last year were virtual and all parent fees were waived
<p>Durham PreK School Year 20-21 Staff Recommendation to Governance Committee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● For program consistency and sustainability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pay providers based upon allocated seats in alignment with NC Pre-K guidelines ○ Leave Parent fees in place for DPK as long as services are in-person ● Adopting NC Pre-K payment guidelines creates a DPK budget shortfall <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SY22 DPK Instructional budget is \$3,173,107 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Budget currently projects costs using a 95% attendance model ▪ Calculates an average parent fee of \$71 per seat per month ○ Staff worked with Durham’s Partnership for Children to shift some student costs to Smart Start funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DPK uses a braided funding model using multiple funding streams <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Local Durham county dollars are spent last ● We spend all other available fund first ○ The shift in expenses to Smart Start leaves an approximate \$70,000 to \$112,000 shortfall <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Range in cost is due to seats potentially changing their braided source ● If we align our payment policies with NC Pre-K we will need to adopt multiple strategies to meet budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ First we will have to accept that there could be a potential to underspend <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If we budget for the whole year to pay in alignment with NC Pre-K’s current method, there is a possibility that DCDEE will revert to the old payment method (based upon attendance and enrollment). ○ We also have to acknowledge that teachers’ salaries are not set yet (no statewide budget yet) and may result in an additional shortage once we have to increase salary supplements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No budget yet from the State, but we believe based on all the indicators there will be a teacher salary increase

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reminder that Durham PreK providers must pay their teachers based on the DPS scale for teachers ▪ We provide a teacher supplement to Durham PreK sites to help them pay for teacher salaries ▪ We have budgeted based on an estimated raise for teachers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The reality is that we don't know the exact amount of salary increases for teachers ● There is potential for an additional budget shortage if the increase is higher than we are anticipating
Potential Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Request additional funding from County <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Not wise to recommend only one option. A request for additional funding from Durham County may take significant time. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ So many competing priorities for funding in Durham ▪ DPK previously received an additional \$250,000 in funding for this school year ● Eliminate 9 DPK only seats to cover shortfall ● Option rejected last year was to reduce the DPK monthly reimbursement standard of \$1250 per child for ALL seats, regardless of classroom type <p>Governance Committee Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Parent fees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Parent fees affect very few families. Only higher income families pay a fee ○ Thus far for the upcoming school year, approximately \$2000 per month in parent fees are projected ● To date, out of 1,074 seats we have 381 total seats still available; enrollment is ongoing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In comparison: ○ August 12, 2020 we received 1,296 student applications compared to 1607 as of August 12, 2021 ● The projected budget shortfall of \$70,000 to \$112,000 is based upon paying on seat allocation versus enrollment/attendance <i>for the entire school year</i>. If we pay on allocation we will need to budget that cost for the full year. If DCDEE does not decide to pay on allocation for the whole year, we may end the year underspent. ● The proposed cut of 9 seats are seats that do not have braided funding. There are no enrollment restrictions on these seats. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We will not displace any children—only cut seats that have not been offered to families yet ● American Rescue Plan will provide more funding into Durham County <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Funding source may be available by the end of the year ● Parent fees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NC Pre-K does not have parent fees

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Members expressed concern with the impact of the pandemic and the eviction ban set to expire on October 3rd ○ Many families are facing hardships and are destabilized as a result of the pandemic ○ In terms of the DPK budget the parent fees do not generate much revenue into the budget but may represent a hardship for families ● Some options to consider for a motion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Go to Durham County for more money ○ Removal of 9 DPK seats ⊖ Waive parent fees
● 1 st Motion	● Motion to Waive Parent Fees for the full school year
Action Taken	● Motion approved unanimously to waive parent fees for SY 21-22
2 nd Motion	● Motion to eliminate the 9 DPK seats while also requesting additional funds from Durham County for SY 21-22. If additional funding is received then the 9 seats will be filled later in the school term
Action Taken	● Motion approved unanimously to eliminate 9 DPK seats and to request additions funds from the County for SY 21-22.
Summary and Adjournments	● The next Durham PreK Governance meeting is on Thursday, September 23, 2021 9:30am – 11:30am

*** Agenda items with handouts**