

Durham PreK Governance Committee Meeting NOTES

Jim and Carolyn Hunt Early Childhood Resource Center

May 19, 2022 (9:30am-11:30am)

In Attendance:

Voting Members: Leigh Bordley, Deric Boston, Xavier Cason, Dr. Anna Gassman-Pines, Wykeshia Glass, Dr. Nakia Hardy, Sharon Hirsch, , Michelle Lynn, Beth Messersmith, Michael Page, Ben Rose, Dr. Kimberly Sowell, June Shillito

Non-voting Members: Drew Cummings, Marsha Basloe, Dr. Linda Chappel, Cate Elander, Jena Fuchs, Monnie Griggs, Melinda Rodriguez, Katie Thayer, Joy Turner, Jameka Wells

Invited Guests: Alena Antonowich, Maria Ariza Cabrera, Ana Claros, Cecilia Gaytan Avila, Ella Hargrove, Adrianna Smith, Samantha Smith, Zakiya Smith, Christy Thalheimer

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Welcome and Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome and Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recording on our DPK YouTube channel, https://youtu.be/CRn-jKtKFCU
Meeting Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve final notes for March 2022 meeting • Share program updates, Meet Family Support team members • Review budget • Set reimbursement rates and parent fees for School Year 2023 • Discuss licensure policy • Receive an update on the wrap care pilot • Governance committee nominations • Introduce Governance Portal
Action Item	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance approved the March 2022 meeting notes
Durham PreK Program Update*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of 5/18/22 there were 1,213 student applications in progress for the School Year 2023 • 905 children’s screenings completed • Parents and community members can Text “DPK” to 59925 to subscribe to program updates • Increased social media presence with a 30% increase in followers this fiscal year • Our <i>Meet the Team</i> Facebook campaign saw quite a bit of engagement

<p>Quality Subcommittee Meeting Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actively recruiting members for Quality Subcommittee and Governance Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Open recruitment for the Quality Subcommittee • Provided update on our Professional Development alignment requirements and how it will impact DPK and NC Pre-K. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Aligning Professional Development with State requirements ○ Working together with Partner agencies not to over-burden teachers with too many trainings • Kelly Eppley, Consultant, presented to the Subcommittee on the Wrap Care paper • Our next Quality Subcommittee meeting is on June 2, 2022, 12pm – 2pm
<p>Introduction of the Family Support Referral Team Members</p>	<p>As in the March 2022 meeting, we introduced DPK team members to the Governance Committee. These team members work closely with parents and families to complete applications for DPK and to educate families about high quality early education.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christy Thalheimer, Director, Child Care Referral Program • Cecilia Gaytan, Admin Assistant • Ana Claros, Child Care Referral Manager • Kathy Guerrero, Family Support Coordinator • Adriana Smith, Child Care Referral Counselor • Katia Gonzalez, Child Care Referral Counselor • Maria Araiza, Child Care Referral Counselor
<p>Budget Overview</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FY 2021 - 2022 Budget \$4,178,517 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Local investment from Durham County ○ \$3,254,784 Instructional Services ○ \$923,733 Program and Financial Management, Universal Application Process, Family Engagement, Capacity Building, Quality Improvement, Instructional Strategies, Coaching, Professional Development ○ In a future meeting we will present on all braided funding dollars spent on public preschool • FY 2022 - 2023 DPK Funding Request is for an increase of \$1,140,000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Presently Local funding dollars/vs a consideration for ARPA funds ○ DPK is in the County Manager’s recommended budget for an increase ○ Additional funds would: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prioritize an increase in seats ▪ Fund components of the DPK Equity Plan such as wrap care scholarships ▪ Fund an RFP Process to Create a Program Evaluation Design for DPK
<p>School Year 2022 – 2023 Policy Guidance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examination of Reimbursement Rates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Presented by Joy Turner, CCSA Director, Data and Provider Relations ○ Rates for 4-Year Olds in 5-Star Durham Centers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Current market rates were established in 2018 and were based on a 2015 market rate study

- The current market rate is \$1,077 per month based on the 2015 study
 - Increased private tuition rates
 - Private tuition rates have continued to rise
 - A 2017 market rate study was completed but never implemented by the legislature
 - Range of Tuition Rates for 4-Year Olds
 - Tuition rates for 4 year olds in 5 star centers range from \$680 to \$1,720 per month
 - Most centers fall right at or above the market rate of \$1,077 per month
 - Only 30% of providers have tuition below the current market rate
 - Current Pre-K Rates in Durham County
 - The market rate is at \$1,077
 - The NC Pre-K rate is \$944
 - The DPK Rate is \$1,250
 - The average Tuition rate is \$1,151 for Private Child Care
 - The average tuition rate is approaching the current Durham PreK reimbursement rate
 - Durham PreK covers a 6.5 hour day
 - DPK has higher standards than traditional 5-star child care
 - School Year 2022 – 2023 Rates
 - Consider 4% Rate Increase to \$1300 per child per month, pending final budget allocation
 - Vote to Set SY 23 Reimbursement Rate

Conversation Highlights

- Important to pay our teachers to maintain quality
- It is hard not to think about an increase during these times. We need to build our capacity and consider what is happening today and the economic challenges our providers and teachers are facing. In favor of a rate increase.
- Think of this an equity issue and providing support to our workforce.
- Supports increase to stabilize the workforce. Xavier supports increase.
- Motion for a 4% increase to \$1300 a month per child

Action Taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Unanimous Approval of a 4% increase to \$1300 per child per month
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Parent Fees for
2022 – 2023 SY

- Parent Fees for 2022-2023 School Term
 - DPK Governance voted to suspend Parent fees in SY21 and SY22
- There are no parent fees associated with NC Pre-K, Head start, Title One or most DPS seats
 - Not universally available to all families. Income eligibility restrictions.
- Durham PreK is a universal program with seats for everyone.
 - DPK seats are universal but prioritize families with greater income needs
- Each school year the Governance Committee votes on the Parent Fee rate for the following school term
- Before the pandemic and the suspension of Parent Fees, DPK Families at or above the 400% FPL were assigned a Parent Fee of 4% of their Gross Monthly Income
 - The Range of Parent Fees if they had been collected in SY22: \$190.30 to \$992.06 per month
 - Median Parent Fee: \$395.27
- Parent Fees for 2022 – 2023 School Term
 - SY 23 Budget Projects 30 Families will owe parent fee
 - In the proposed budget, estimated \$11,700 per month in Revenue based on average parent fee of \$390
 - Some families will decline seat due to parent fees
- Vote on Parent Fee Policy

Conversation Highlights

- A modest upsurge in families at or above 400% FPL income families applying for Durham PreK
- Families that are higher income often apply earlier
 - They submit all required documentation sooner, so their applications may be processed more quickly.
 - The assigned fees do not include fees for wrap care so that would be an additional cost to families needing care for extended hours
- With rising inflation and prices, the burden has become heavier on families.
- Look at policy amendments to factor in for families that need extended care
 - Administrative Challenge
 - Some strategies to consider:
 - You can implement the parent fee at a higher income level
 - You can lower the percentage of the parent fee
- There is a benefit of invested support of DPK
- Consider the value that Durham PreK provides and the possibility that the families at or above 400% will continue to invest in DPK even without the parent fee waiver

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● “Are we more likely to get more buy-in from more middle class families if they like that they are paying for it and it’s a good program or are we driving them away?” ● When we calculate the reimbursement rate of parent fees about 6-8 additional children can be served ● Prioritize lower income families <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Braided system with some seats having funding restrictions ○ Family centric approach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Matching the child and family to whichever program can best meet their needs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Based on child screening ▪ First we place children based on criteria for each program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Greatest need, Income Need and then opening it up to families over 300 FPL ● Goal is to have each classroom as diverse as possible ● Selection process among the partners ● Motion to reduce parent fees to 2% for SY 2022- 2023
Action Taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Unanimously passed to re-introduce a parent fee and reduce the amount to 2%; DPK Families at or above the 400% FPL will be assigned a Parent Fee of 2% of their Gross Monthly Income
Licensure Policy in Durham PeK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In the absence of a DPK Policy, NC PreK Rules Apply to DPK ● In DPK, funded sites require a 5-star license ● In NC Pre-K, Funded sites require a 4 or 5 star license ● When there is not a specific policy that Governance has set, then we use NC Pre-K policies to guide the DPK program ● Licensure Process in Durham PreK <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pre-licensing – Centers complete and pass all inspections ○ Staff members are approved to work in early childhood settings ○ Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE) issues the New Center a <i>Temporary License</i> ○ All new centers are required to be on a temporary license for 6 months <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Announced and unannounced visits are conducted by NCDCEE licensing consultants ▪ Staff education is evaluated by NCDCEE ▪ Centers prepare for the Environmental Rating Scale (ERS) ▪ ERS assessment is completed and reviewed with staff education and quality points to set the star rating ● At the end of 6 months a Star Rated License is issued ● In SY 23, DPS will Open Lyon Farm Elementary School with 2 Preschool Classrooms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ School is located in “High Need” zone – more children than seats in this area of Durham <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 27713 zip code in South Durham

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ DPS Plans to Open Lyon Farm with a Temporary License in Place ○ Public Schools are not required to be licensed to operate preschool classrooms ● Consider revisiting DPK Policy to allow DPS to operate under temporary license <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Require technical assistance contract from DPK team until fully licensed ○ Must obtain 5-star license ● Vote if Change in Policy is Supported <p><u>Conversation Highlights</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In support of policy change because it will bring seats into a high need area ● Motion for a policy change to allow a temporary license into Durham PreK with the expectation of the Program becoming fully licensed within a year
Action Taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Unanimously approved policy change to allow the public schools to operate DPK with a temporary license, pending completion of licensure process to obtain a 5-Star Rating
Wrap Care Pilot in SY2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Develop Wrap Care support for DPK families living with income up to 400% FPL ● Make incentive payments to sites to pay for materials and supplies ● Pilot 40 seats
Governance Committee Nominations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Submit nominations by June 15th ● Nomination form available on the Governance Portal ● Applicants will be contacted to provide biographical information ● Nominees will be submitted to the County Manager for Consideration ● New Members to join DPK Governance in September or November <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ideally we would like to recruit 2 new parent representatives ○ Someone from the Business Community ○ Early Educator from a Non DPK Program Provider ○ Replace Anna Gassman-Pines with another member with early childhood research background ○ People can self-nominate
Governance Portal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Meeting Resources ● Supporting Documents ● Meeting Archive (Agenda and Notes) ● We emailed login password information for the Governance Portal that is now active on the DPK website. The direct link to the portal is here.

Summary and Adjournments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 3rd Thursday every other month, 9:30-11:30<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ September 15, 2022○ November 17, 2022○ January 19, 2023○ March 16, 2023○ May 18, 2023● Summer dates, if needed<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ July 21, 2022○ August 4, 2022● Next Governance Meeting Date<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ September 15, 2022 9:30am – 11:30am
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**** Agenda items with handouts***