

NCPK Committee
Special Called Meeting of Non-Conflicted Members
For the purpose of approving new budget to allocate 57 newly awarded slots by DCDEE.
January 7, 2026

Members present: Waynett Taylor, Sue Rebich, Hoke Pittman, Amanda Martin, Elizabeth Heston, Tracy Thiery, Erin Anderson

Staff members present: Ann Benfield, Patricia Sehorn, Tu'Nicquia Bradley

A quorum was established

Ann opened the meeting welcoming and thanking members for agreeing to meet on such short notice. The meeting focused on the allocation of 57 additional NC Pre-K slots, which were unexpectedly awarded to the organization after a recent survey about capacity and waitlists. Ann explained that we could only award slots to private sites due to Smart Start funds not available to support public school placement. A survey was sent to all private sites to assess their capacity to serve additional children this school year with 4 sites responding. Bilingual Preschool at St. James had space for another class of 18. Kids R Kids has space for an additional class of 18. Smart Kids has space for an additional class of 18 and Lockhart has space for 3 children. Waynett Taylor made a motion to approve the proposed allocation. Sue Rebich 2nd and all approved. The board approved the proposed allocation, which includes 9 slots at St. James, 9 at Bilingual, 18 at Kids R Kids, 18 at Smart Kids and 3 additional children at Lockhart. Patricia explained that these slots would be recurring annually. The group discussed the quick turnaround needed to place children in the new slots by the end of January, with a screening scheduled for the following Friday. Ann noted that this was the first time in many years that additional slots were awarded, and the board expressed appreciation for the support in making quick decisions about the new allocations.

Next steps

- Screening event planned for identified children next Friday.
- Work to place children in the 57 new slots by the end of this month.
- Site Selection Committee: Meet in February to begin site selection process for new private sites.

Patricia also commented that we have already started receiving applications for next year. The application is live online on the Partnership website. Tracy Thiery stated she will start to communicate and get the word out about the new application for next year, including sending the information to Cabarrus County Schools for broader dissemination.

The next scheduled meeting will be on January 21st at 10 o'clock.

Meeting adjourned at 1:15