

EE/NCPK Committee
March 18, 2026
Meeting Minutes

Present: Waynett Taylor, Sue Davis, Elizabeth Heston, Amanda Martin, Lashonda Huston, Dana Stikeleather, Tracy Thiery (Co-Chair) , Erin Anderson (Co-Chair), Jennifer Baucom, Debra Pless

Staff Members- Patricia Sehorn, Tu’Nicquia Bradley, Lauren Westin (Co-Chair)

Welcome and introduce new ED

Patricia started the meeting with the introduction of the new Cabarrus Partnership for Children Executive Director. Lauren will be taking over after the retirement of Ann Benfield.

Establish Quorum – A quorum was not yet established. More people are expected to join.

We did get enough people to establish a quorum.

Action Items

- Approve January 21, 2026 Minutes 1st Amanda Martin, 2nd All in favor
- Site Selection Recommendations Sue Davis/Waynett Taylor

Site Selection Committee Members: Waynett Taylor, Sue Davis, Elizabeth Heston, Amanda Martin, Christy Hopkins (not present) , Carolyn Anderson (not present),

Sue Davis went over the site selection process and how the scores affect the site. Some scored lower due to not yet having staff. She then went over the scoring with notes that were taken during the site visits- A quorum was still not established. We are going to move on to updates and then come back once more non-conflicted people join in. The roster will be made part of these minutes.

- **NCPK Updates** Patricia Sehorn
- Applications- 289 total received, 158 on waitlist- need to ramp up outreach
- Outreach – Tee Tee and Starla attending all community events. Tee Tee has gone to children’s events at the Cabarrus Libraries. Special Olympics will be on April 15-16.
- Staffing- Mostly stable. Kids R Kids has had multiple turnovers in one of their classrooms. They are currently fully staffed in all 3 of their classrooms.

- All 57 slots have been filled in 4 classrooms,

Tracy Thiery, CCS

- Kindergarten Transition: CCS Kinder Quest offered two sessions to meet parents' needs, including one was held midday and one at night. Booths were available for services such as transportation and lunch, and CCS highlighted its play-based learning approach with a sample classroom for parents to tour and learn more about.
- Kindergarten Transition KCS - K-Rising Jennifer Baucom

Will have a transition meeting. Theme "Taking A Flight" will be able to do applications while there. Different stations will be set for families to go to. They will be able to tour the school, playground and cafeteria and have a healthy snack, as well as get to talk to Principal or Assistant Principal. They will be there from each school.

Agency Updates

- Smart Start Updates Lauren Westin
- Starla Hatley has taken over the role of Program Manager to run the programs that Lauren was doing before taking the role of ED. State Funded Grant is running out. Waynett is in training now for a new Smart Start Program.
- DHS Subsidy Updates Elizabeth Heston

No waitlist, still taking applications daily. Parents cannot afford the parent fee plus overages. Start a new site and then leave. Staffing shortages are hurting families.

- Head Start: Jennifer Baucom
- Had a monitoring review in January. Had no findings. Really proud of the staff, they do a really good job. Working on transitioning children to Kinder. Jennifer is retiring as of May. Her children have moved away. She is taking a job with HS as a monitoring reviewer.
- CCS Tracy Thiery
Working on Kindergarten Transitions. Will be moving into new building in June. Getting ready to start the Finch Assessments
- RCCC- Had to leave. Amanda Martin
- Endless Opportunities Lashonda Houston
- P.U.R.E Excellence Waynett Taylor

2 of their programs will end in June. They are looking for new funding opportunities to keep the programs going. A CD Training is taking place on May 26th and another one on May 28th.

- Cabarrus County Libraries- Not Present

Jordan Maddox

**Next Meeting
May 20, 2026
10:00am
Zoom**