Burke County Smart Start, Inc.
Board of Directors' In-Person/Zoom Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 5, 2025
4:00 p.m. – 4:25 p.m.

DIRECTORS PRESENT	DIRECTORS ABSENT	OTHERS PRESENT
Stephanie Ashley*	Brandon Collins	Kathy Smith
Brian Barrier	Kasey Gardner	Vickie Deal
Jacquie Grady	Thadd Hodge	Tammy Roper
Jasper Hemphill, Jr.	Kay Milton	Al Smith
Denise Hudson*	Miranda Smith	
Rebecca McLeod*	Jim Wilson	
Tina Mosley		
David Rust		
Sally Sandy		
Chuck Schlein		
Valerie Shook		
Joset Taylor		

**Attended via Zoom*

A. Establish a Quorum and Call to Order – Joset Taylor

1. Request participants attending via Zoom to sign the chat box as a record of attendance.

Board Chair Joset Taylor established a quorum with 12 of 18 directors in attendance and called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Mrs. Taylor requested the Zoom participants sign the chat box as a record of attendance.

Mrs. Taylor encouraged the directors to donate, in any amount, to the agency to show their support and vestment in Burke County Smart Start. Mrs. McLeod added that donations could be made very easily on the agency's website using PayPal.

The agenda and supporting documentation were emailed to all directors on 6/5/25.

B. Approval of Agenda

Motion: To approve the agenda as presented. Motion: Jacquie Grady, seconded by: Stephanie Ashley, carried by the board.

C. Approval of 4/3/25 Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes (emailed 4/16/25)

Motion: To approve the 4/3/25 Board of Directors' In-Person/Zoom Meeting Minutes as submitted. Motion: Brian Barrier, seconded by: Rebecca McLeod, carried by the board.

D. Approval of April 2025 Financial Reports

Motion: To approve the April 2025 Financial Reports as submitted. Motion: Brian Barrier, seconded by: Jacquie Grady, carried by the board.

Mrs. Smith reviewed the Financial Reports including the Private/Restricted and Non-Restricted Funds and Grant Report, the Smart Start Administrative Financial Report, and the Direct Service Provider (DSP) Financial Reports with the board.

Mrs. Smith stated the LP had received notification that the LP would be flat funded at 100% based on the FY 24-25 budget. She also notified the directors regarding the change to the program Quality Maintenance for Non-Subsidized Children which will be listed as a Cash Grant under the Child Care Connections' Resource and Referral Program. Lastly, she informed the board that the Family Literacy Programs will need a purveyor to continue in Smart Solutions after FY 25-26.

Board donations were at 44% for directors and 100% for staff.

There were no questions regarding the financial reports.

E. Action Items

1. **Motion from the Executive Committee (EC):** to allocate **$748,569** to Child Care Connections (CCC) for Dual Subsidy: TANF/CCDF Eligible Only for FY 25-26. **Motion: EC, seconded by: Chuck Schlein, carried by the board. Stephanie Ashley, Brian Barrier, Jacquie Grady, Denise Hudson, and Valerie Shook conflicted out of the vote.**

2. **Motion from the EC:** to allocate **$45,000** to CCC for Dual Subsidy Services Support for FY 25-26. **Motion: EC, seconded by: Tina Mosley, carried by the board. Stephanie Ashley, Brian Barrier, Jacquie Grady, Denise Hudson, and Valerie Shook conflicted out of the vote.**

3. **Motion from the EC:** to allocate **$465,737** to CCC for Child Care Resource & Referral Services for FY 25-26. **Motion: EC, seconded by: David Rust, carried by the board. Stephanie Ashley, Brian Barrier, Jacquie Grady, Denise Hudson, and Valerie Shook conflicted out of the vote.**
   Note: *This includes the $291,513 for the former program Quality Maintenance for Non-Subsidized Children which is now listed as Cash Grants under Child Care Resource and Referral.*

4. **Motion from the EC:** to allocate **$221,748** to CCC for Child Care Provider Insurance Benefit Pkg. for FY 25-26. **Motion: EC, seconded by: Jasper Hemphill, Jr., carried by the board. Stephanie Ashley, Denise Hudson, and Valerie Shook conflicted out of the vote.**

5. **Motion from the EC:** to allocate **$46,595** to the WAGE$ Activity for FY 25-26. **Motion: EC, seconded by: Valerie Shook, carried by the board. There were no conflicts of interest.**

6. **Motion from the EC:** to allocate **$197,015** to Burke County Public Schools for Part-day Program (STEPS) for FY 25-26. **Motion: EC, seconded by: Sally Sandy, carried by the board. Brian Barrier and Jacquie Grady conflicted out of the vote.**

7. **Motion from the EC:** to allocate **$33,225** to Burke County Literacy Council for Family Literacy Programs for FY 25-26. **Motion: EC, seconded by: Jasper Hemphill, Jr., carried by the board. There were no conflicts of interest.**

8. **Motion from the EC:** to allocate **$96,000** to BCSS for Program Evaluation/Coordination for FY 25-26. **Motion: EC, seconded by: Tina Mosley, carried by the board. There were no conflicts of interest.**

9. **Motion from the EC:** to allocate **$178,168** to Burke County Smart Start (BCSS) for Administration for FY 25-26. **Motion: EC, seconded by: Sally Sandy, carried by the board. There were no conflicts of interest.**

10. **Motion from the EC:** to approve BCSS to administer the NC Pre-Kindergarten (NC Pre-K) Budget for FY 25-26: $2,070,800 Services and $158,431 Administration for a total contract amount of $2,229,231. **Motion: EC, seconded by: Chuck Schlein, carried by the board. There were no conflicts of interest.**
    Mrs. Smith informed the board that BCSS's NC Pre-K received flat funding based on the FY 24-25 budget and did not receive a cut in the number of slots allocated.

11. **Motion from the EC:** to approve the FY 25-26 EC/BOD Meeting Schedule. **Motion: EC, seconded by: David Rust, carried by the board. There were no conflicts of interest.**

F. Adjournment

Mrs. Smith acknowledged the 20th Work Anniversary of Mr. Al Smith, Program Evaluator, with a video compilation from the past 20 years. She stated she, the agency, the staff and the board were very grateful for his dedication and commitment.

The directors were also given a "Thanks a Choco-Lot for all you do!" Hershey's chocolate bar as a small token of appreciation.

There being no further business, the board adjourned the meeting at 4:25 p.m. upon Motion by Brian Barrier, seconded by: Valerie Shook.

These Minutes are hereby certified as the official Burke County Smart Start Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes.

Submitted by: _____
Vickie Deal, BCSS Executive Assistant

Approved by: _____
Chuck Schlein, Board Secretary

Dated Approved by the Board of Directors _____