



**Board Meeting  
January 15, 2015**

**Board members present:**

Bob Ashley	Linzie Atkins	LaDonna Allison	Tammy Baggett
Michael Becketts	Linda Chappel	Cathy Collie	Danielle Caldwell
Drew Cummings	Terry David	Teresa Daye	Keeva Kase
Mike Lee	Karen O'Mansky	Michael Page	Rhonda Parker
David Reese	Joy Sotolongo	Kara Turner	Victoria Smith (non-voting)

**Board members absent/excused:**

Brenda Berlin	Ilene Britt	David Covington	Patrick Hannah
Gayle Harris	Ann Oshel	Dinah Parker	Daniel Robinson Delphine
Sellars	Ashley Taylor	Jenn Kadel (non-voting)	

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Summary of Discussion</b>	<b>Motion</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>Call to order</b>	The meeting was called to order by Linzie Atkins with a quorum at 3:11 p.m.		
<b>Announcements and Introductions</b>	Linzie recognized Duke Fuqua School of Business Student, Victoria Smith, as a new non-voting member of the Board. She gave a few words of introduction.		
<b>Consent Agenda</b> -12/18/14 meeting minutes -Spending Analysis December 2014 (DEHS reports for December and January will be presented in February)	No items were lifted from the consent agenda for additional discussion.  -Rhonda Parker pointed out the incorrect spelling of her name in the meeting minutes. This will be corrected.	<b>It was moved to accept the consent agenda.</b>  <b>Motion: Bob Ashley</b> <b>Second: Rhonda Parker</b>  Not voting due to conflict of interest: None	<b>Motion carried</b>
<b>Agenda Modifications</b>	There were no agenda modifications.		
<b>Public Comment</b>	<p>Two board members were called on during this time to make reports on important community issues.</p> <p><u>On the Whitted School</u> renovation that would include 8 pre-k classrooms, Drew Cummings reported, and Teresa Daye concurred, that county and school officials agree that it is desirable for those to be new classrooms generating more pre-k seats rather than moving existing classrooms of children to the new facility. The question is how to fund the \$100K/classroom cost.</p> <p><u>On the significant child care subsidy changes.</u> Michael Becketts reported that approximately 60 children lost subsidy services due to income eligibility and approximately 65 families due to the change in household income unit (64 of which did not respond to requests for information, perhaps due to the impact it may have on other benefit eligibility like Medicaid). Because Smart Start funds are not impacted by the changes, DPfC has worked with CCSA and DSS to insure that Smart Start scholarship can continue services to families who have lost DSS subsidy. Approximately 20 children have been picked up. The Board questioned what motivated these changes, considering that it may be seen as a strategy for eliminating the statewide waiting list. Terry David commented that some Head Start parents stopped working when they couldn't afford to pay for after school care without the voucher assistance. Laura also stated that three out of five subsidy changes are the highest priority in the</p>		

	legislative agenda now: the definition of the household unit, parent fee/proration, and income eligibility.		
<b>Treasurer's Report</b> -Final Audit and Single Audit FY 13-14	Karen O'Mansky presented the treasurer's report. She stated that the FY 13-14 audit was clean with no findings or management letter. Bound copies of the audit are available upon request and electronic versions will be shared with the Board.	<b>It was moved to accept the FY 13-14 final audit and single audit.</b>  <b>Motion: Terry David</b> <b>Second: Drew Cummings</b>  Not voting due to conflict of interest: None	<b>Motion carried</b>
<b>Fund Development Report</b> -Individual Year-End Giving	Laura reported on Fund Development. Between 11/10-12/31/15 over \$11,000 in private, individual donations was received, which is a high mark. Significantly, 44 of 61 donors were new, including a \$3K gift from a Family Foundation that learned of us through the Give!Guide. 7 gifts were from board members or former board members, and 5 gifts were from staff or former staff. 2 of the gifts were corporate match gifts; matching gifts are important for continuing our reach. The most significant strategy for reaching new donors was being selected for the INDY Week Give!Guide. DPfC posted in all holiday giving lists, and every bus tour attendee receives the annual report and appeal letter. Our volunteer program also engages new people with our work, and volunteers are solicited at year-end.		
<b>20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year and Gala</b> -Planning Report and Request for Board Contacts	Keeva Kase reported on the 20 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning Committee. A letter from the chair, Barbara VanDewoestine, asking for board support was circulated. With an assertive \$120,000 fundraising goal for the Anniversary event, he requested that every board member submit 5 names of people to introduce us to so that we can engage them (guests, donors, sponsors) regarding this event. There will be a children's rocking chair auction. Suggestions were made to be sure to include people who have been involved in DPfC for a long time, including founding board members. Committee members include Barbara VanDewoestine (Chair), Drew Cummings, Frances Dyer, Keeva Kase, Diana Medoff, Delphine Sellars, Kara Turner, and Angie Welsh. The two subcommittees are the fundraising committee and program committee. We applied for a skill-based volunteer graphic designer to design the anniversary logo, invitations, etc.		
<b>Allocations Committee Report</b> -Update on Process through the Spring	As co-chair of the Allocations Committee, Cathy Collie reported on committee activity. New committee members were oriented prior to the well-attended first meeting in October. The Committee has incorporated the Partnership's three program priorities into the RFP process this year for FY 15-17 Smart Start funding requests: 1) Expanding access to early education, particularly for 4 year olds in low-income households; 2) Health, including physical as well as social/emotional, with an emphasis on early childhood obesity; 3) empowering families to engage in developmentally appropriate parenting practices with an emphasis on early literacy. Applicants for Smart Start funding will each make presentation on February 23 <sup>rd</sup> and the Board is encouraged to attend. Discussion included how the scoring rubric correlates to the actual allocation dollar amount for each program or activity that receives funding.		
<b>Evaluation Committee Report</b> -Data Workshop for Board on Feb. 12	-As Chair of the Evaluation Committee, Joy Sotolongo reported that Sarah Heinemeier led training for the committee on the role of the evaluation committee and how it aligns with other committees on the board, especially allocations. The committee includes early childhood experts and professional evaluators. Its members are charged with carrying out tasks based on the Board's priorities. The committee's vision is for all board members to have a shared base of understanding around particular data points about young children in Durham. One of the strategies suggested at the last board meeting		

	<p>was to have a data dashboard to help us determine if we're moving the right needle in the right direction. On Feb 12<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Heinemeier will conduct a data training for the Board. This training series is made possible through Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge funds awarded through a mini-grant from NCPC. Sarah will also lead two additional sessions for funded partners and staff. The data dashboard will help us determine if we're moving the needle and if we're moving the <i>right</i> needle. The aim is to build a common language to bring the data to our spheres of influence. Data driven decision-making has been gaining public attention in Durham. These training sessions could be used in the media to highlight the Partnership's work, perhaps as a part of our communications strategy leading up to the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala. The sessions will not be open to the general public, however.</p>
<p><b>Leading to a Vibrant Future: Board Engagement</b> -Next Steps in Action Areas</p>	<p>Because information leads to transformation and <i>vibrant</i> information leads to <i>vibrant</i> transformation, Linzie asked that board members be fully engaged on every level of the Partnership's work. As the board engagement work deepens, Linzie asked board members to share with the Partnership what they don't know so we can have a complete conversation. A request was made for an update on the Durham Touchpoints Collaborative. Laura stated that we are at the two-year mark of the 30-month funding period. There is close reporting to the funder and to the Brazelton Center in Boston. Sarah Heinemeier is the external evaluator, and we have the first evaluation results as well. A fuller report will be shared with the board in the future.</p>
<p><b>Executive Director's Report</b></p>	<p>Laura pointed out that a tent card with our mission statement sits on each table at board meetings to remind us why we're here and why what we do is important. Tables are arranged to indicate that this is a place of discussion and dialogue.</p> <p><u>Advocacy:</u> During the long session of the General Assembly, child care subsidy is expected to be the critical early childhood issue. The state budget process timeline was described. Information to educate the board and community is available through a privately funded <i>Champions for Children</i> website. DPfC is also a member of the Child Care Coalition, and the board is encouraged to share the information that the coalition provides. This year, our Communications Manager also has a Duke Senior Public Policy student interning (unpaid) for 20 hours per week on shaping a community awareness message. Michael Page encouraged us to share legislative agenda items on early childhood with the Board of County Commissioners. It was discussed that early childhood is a non-partisan issue, and that the better we can make data-based arguments, the stronger we can make a case for statewide investments in young children. Using a personal relationship-building approach was also noted as an important strategy so that our delegation is informed on needs in the community for young children and parents. Laura also reported that the Dept of Health and Human Services, which was charged to make a \$16M flex cut in last year's budget, has not yet announced where those cuts will come from. It is expected that Smart Start will not be impacted, but it is not known at this time if there might be a mid-year cut to our allocation.</p> <p><u>Community Events:</u> The next bus tour is set for Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>, with scholarship and subsidy as one of the focus themes. The tour will also cover information about Head Start, NC Pre-K, WAGE\$, and EChO. Laura encouraged the board to come on the tour or invite those who they think need to learn more.</p> <p><u>Universal Pre-K:</u>The Universal Pre-K application process opens on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. We lead a collaborative team with CCSA, DPS, DSS, Head Start, and EDCI to saturate the community. Up to 1,200 applications are expected. There will be some application 'Blitz' nights so parents can come without an</p>

	<p>appointment. We are analyzing surveys from the past about where parents heard about NC Pre-K so that applications are available in the best places to reach parents. A temporary, bilingual staff person (30 hrs/week) will help take appointments and receive applications.</p> <p><u>Week of the Young Child</u>: During April 12-18, the key activity will be a Kindergarten Registration Week, in close partnership with Durham Public Schools. This concentrated kindergarten registration week is a new, community wide effort through our Transition to Kindergarten Initiative. Businesses will be engaged to host information distribution tables. Many volunteers will be recruited. We want to spread the message that Kindergarten Readiness is everybody's business. A clear outcome measure is to increase the number of children who are present in school on the first day. Teresa Daye announced that tonight is the first Kindergarten Welcome Night at Durham Public Schools.</p> <p>Laura also reported that Tina Bernardoni has resigned from her position as Contracts &amp; Accounting Manager. She is one of longest tenured staff members and has held several important roles at the Partnership. She is an expert in many things and we are excited for her future. Our Contract Bookkeeper has agreed to support Sandra Roberts, Finance Director, during the transition.</p>		
<b>Adjourn</b>	<p>It was moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:32pm.</p> <p>The next full Board meeting will be March 19, 3:00-5:00pm.</p>	<b>It was moved to adjourn the meeting.</b>	<b>Motion carried</b>