

ADDED ITEM

# FORSYTH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING DATE: February 23, 2021 AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 9

**SUBJECT: RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A COMMUNITY EARLY CHILDHOOD  
EDUCATION TASK FORCE IN FORSYTH COUNTY**

**COUNTY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION OR COMMENTS:** Recommend Approval

**SUMMARY OF INFORMATION:** See Attached

ATTACHMENTS:  YES  NO

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY MANAGER DATE: February 15, 2021

**RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A COMMUNITY EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION  
TASK FORCE IN FORSYTH COUNTY**

**WHEREAS** the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners, the Winston-Salem City Council and the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Board of Education believe that high-quality pre-Kindergarten (Pre-K) education enables our children to succeed in school, work, and life;

**WHEREAS** ensuring access to high-quality Pre-K for four-year-olds has proven to be one of the soundest educational investments the public can make, providing demonstrated, significant, long-term savings on the costs of special education, grade retention, welfare, and crime;

**WHEREAS** during their K–12 years and beyond, children who attend high-quality Pre-K perform better on standardized achievement tests in reading and math, exhibit more positive behaviors in the classroom, and are more likely to graduate from high school, continue their education and be more productive and responsible as adults;

**WHEREAS** local organizations have formed the Pre-K Priority committee whose mission is to educate, engage, and mobilize the public and secure the commitment of civic leaders to support the establishment of a high-quality system of Pre-K programs available to all four-year-olds in Forsyth County; and

**WHEREAS** the Pre-K Priority has assessed Forsyth County's current and future capacity for providing high quality Pre-K and has established evidence-based standards, components, and practices of high-quality Pre-K to be incorporated into local programs;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Forsyth County Board of County Commissioners, in coordination with the Winston-Salem City Council and the Board of Education of the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools, does hereby agree to form a Community Early Childhood Education Task Force to lead our community in developing a plan for ensuring that all of Forsyth County's children have access to high-quality Pre-K programs;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Task Force plan will include:

- a) Methods for coordinating the Pre-K programs provided by private and public providers to ensure that parent choice and equity are maintained through a mixed system of high-quality Pre-K providers;
- b) Recommendations for the effective and efficient management, administration, and evaluation of the Pre-K system; and
- c) Recommendations for expanding Pre-K in Forsyth County, including establishing priorities for the order in which families will be served in an incremental expansion of Pre-K programs;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Task Force members will be selected by three members of the Pre-K Priority Steering Committee and three representatives, one each from

County government, City government, and the Board of Education, in consultation with elected officials, civic leaders, and community groups by March 31, 2021, and membership on the Task Force will represent all important stakeholder groups and will reflect the diversity of our community; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Task Force will report on its progress to the elected bodies quarterly and deliver a plan for expanding high-quality Pre-K by February 28, 2022.

Adopted this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of February 2021.