

Minutes of the North Carolina Charter School Advisory Board

State Board Room 755, Department of Public Instruction

December 5, 2022

9 AM

Attendance – CSAB Members	
Jamey Falkenbury (non:voting) Rita Haire John Eldridge Cheryl Turner Hilda Parlér Shelly Shope: remote	Eric Sanchez Bruce Friend Dave Machado Todd Godbey Bartley Danielsen
Attendance – Other	
<i>Office of Charter Schools</i> Ashley Baquero, Director Joseph Letterio, Consultant Melanie Rackley, Consultant Jenna Cook, Consultant Darian Jones, Consultant: Absent Natasha Norins, Consultant Nicky Niewinski, Consultant Jay Whalen, NC ACCESS Davida Robinson, NC ACCESS Barbara O’Neal, NC ACCESS Lakisha Robinson, NC ACCESS	<i>Attorney General</i> Zach Padget <i>SBE Attorney</i> Allison Schafer: absent Tim Hoegemeyer (for closed session) <i>Teacher/Principal of Year</i> William Storrs Maria Mills: absent Jeremy White: Arrived 9:35

Call To Order

Pledge of Allegiance: Hilda Parlér

Mission and Ethics Statement:

- Mission and Ethics Statement read by Cheryl Turner.
- Recuse: Dave Machado from ALA:Monroe & Cabarrus Charter
- Recuse: Hilda Parlér from Aristotle & Riverside

Approval of the Agenda and Minutes

Motion: Bruce Friend motioned to approve the agenda for December Meeting

Second: John Eldridge

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

Motion: John Eldridge motioned to approve the November minutes

Second: Todd Godbey

Vote: Unanimous

Recusal: Hilda Parlér

Passed Failed

Motion: Todd Godbey motioned to approve the 2023 CSAB meeting calendar

Second: Hilda Parlér

Vote: Unanimous

Passed Failed

December Charter School Advisory Board Meeting

New OCS Staff Introductions

- Director Ashley Baquero introduced two new consultants.

Second Round Interviews – 2022 Application Cycle

Heritage Collegiate Leadership Academy

Introduction

- Ms. Rackley gave an introduction on the school (located in Wake County). Stated the number of schools in the region as well as proposed subgroup and demographic data.
- Opening Remarks: Dr. Bazemore, Board Chair. Shared community outreach efforts in person and future virtual sessions. Introduces team in attendance.

Questions / Discussion

- Hilda Parlér : How long have new board members been on board? Answer: Since 2019.
- Cheryl Turner: 501c3. A requirement? Answer: Ashley Baquero states they must be a non:profit board. They have 24 months to apply for 501c3.
- Bruce Friend: location? Answer: Looking at 27616. School location may be available. Casa Esperanza is now vacant since they have moved to a new building.
- Bruce Friend: other community events? Answer: want to be a choice for students throughout the county. County Board members, NAACP contacts and school proposals were very well received. N. Raleigh: Need to do continued outreach.
- Hilda Parlér: data showing family interest? Answer: Submitted about 15 pages of signed petitions. Has spoken to families from Torchlight.
- Rita Haire: updated submissions for bylaws? Answer: Thought she had submitted. Couldn't open board on track agreement. They help support groups who want to open a school with governance. Filing reference for 3 years? When school closed, she immediately tried to re:open. Files, information was taken when school closed. Had to contact IRS and others to get records. Corporation was never stopped. IRS: 501c3 was suspended as standard operating procedure. Don't owe any money. Accounting firm did not send information to keep.

- Rita Haire: already a school named Heritage Elementary School in the area. Could that be an issue? Goal is to reflect LEA demographics. Application states they are aggressively pursuing better diversity. How can you do that? Answer: proposed charter for any child. Will focus recruitment efforts in communities they wish to have where students need a better education choice. Place where they are cared for and change trajectory of their lives. Not doing weighted lottery. White children are also not getting the education they deserve in poverty.
- Rita Haire: 45% white in the LEA area. How do you accomplish 10% white population? Answer: teaches at Early College in Durham. Put on HBCU campus. Didn't say they wouldn't enroll white students. We will be candid about recruiting students who are not getting a good education. We want to be that option.
- Rita Haire: Not as diverse as it should be in Wake County? Answer: Two best HS in Wake County. When you look at NE part of county. Those students get moved around more than any other. Attend D and F schools. No stability. Have experience in wake county. Wants to be proactive. Provide parents a good choice for their students.
- Dave Machado: Physical education during a typical day? Dr. Poole responds: Shares a study done in Illinois.
- Cheryl Turner: Students would have an hour of PE a day? Answer: would be part of class. Did study about music playing in classroom and scores went up.
- Bruce Friend: question related to budget. Location funding? Answer: Offer to you that we've done this before. Found a partner to secure modulars to get school off the ground. Working with organizations that can help. We are looking into leasing. Upon approval, want to start right away with fundraising. Last time we negotiated a lease. Bruce Friend: Do you have a cash resource available? Answer: We've done this before and we'll do it again. We don't have cash resources now but will start fundraising as soon as we get approval. Confident we'll have resources needed.
- Bruce Friend: how many buses? Answer: right now 6. Based on student interest.
- Eric Sanchez: Are you planning on working at the school? Answer: I will be the leader. Director. Eric Sanchez: So you're stepping off the board then? Answer: Yes. This is founding board.
- Cheryl Turner: So this may not be the board? Answer: not all will stay. Cheryl Turner: We give the charter based on board. Answer: to move from founding board to governing board is not unusual. Trust that the founding board will make sure the governing board is strong.
- Bruce Friend: Board that receives charter, there could be turnover. Answer: we can guarantee that this board will be together for planning year. If there are any changes we will inform OCS and CSAB.
- Rita Haire: Budget has two leaders for the school. Is that still the plan? Answer: still two leaders but haven't chosen second one yet. Rita Haire asked about budget revision. Answer: Still need to revise but is a priority.

Closing Statement

- Acknowledge we have history but move forward. Unwavering focus on the children.
- Firmly believe that we have model that will be beneficial to kids. Innovative practices that make us good option.
- Provides stability. Black and brown and poor children need better than what Wake is providing.

Deliberation:

- John Eldridge opens for deliberation.
- Rita Haire: enrollment demographics. What is your take?

- Cheryl Turner: Our school has mission to eradicate generational poverty. Part of charter. Weighted lottery. Depends on where you are located.
- Bart Danielson: Doesn't reflect LEA demographics but does reflect demographics of school location.
- Cheryl Turner doesn't see as issue. Has to do with where you put the school.
- Rita Haire: I've never seen that in an application.
- Bruce Friend: Appreciate answers to our questions. Still skeptical about ability to recruit teachers at \$40,000. Tend to get inexperienced teachers so I'm struggling with that. Transportation: fuel budget seems low.
- Cheryl Turner: there is a need for the school. Concerns about teacher recruitment. Understand partnering with colleges but all of us are.
- Hilda Parlér: Knows teachers who start then leave when offered more money.
- Eric Sanchez brings up impact letter.
- John Eldridge: addressed in first round.
- Bruce Friend: fair question for OCS. Remind us: why was school closed?
- Ashley Baquero: I wasn't part of the whole process. Charter was going to be revoked due to academics, failure to turn in things.
- Bruce Friend: On path to being closed.
- Dave Machado: This board is much more impressive than the previous board for a school. You can tell leadership has worked hard to improve areas. A school like this is needed.
- Bruce Friend: How many of this board were on the old board? Answer: none. Bruce Friend: How many were employed from this board? Answer: 3. One was hired as teacher a few months before closing. Teacher from previous school: Believes in model. Bruce Friend: Were their lawsuits or some type of litigation? Is all of that taken care of? Answer: all done.
- Dave Machado: Academics weren't where we wanted to be but documents not being turned in was issue.
- Cheryl Turner: still concerned about hiring.
- John Eldridge: I wasn't around when this happened. We've seen difficult situations during my time here. Given everyone's awareness of challenges we must be confident in our recommendation so OCS can present in a strong way. Schools don't get to present. We've heard from the director of mistakes made and how it will be fixed.
- Cheryl Turner: That will be reflected in notes that we did look at past performance and asked the hard questions.
- Todd Godbey questions that there would be a different board so how do I know board will continue to be strong? Cheryl Turner: who will be board chair? Answer: Dr. Dunn expressed she will be chair. This board is committed to being around.
- Eric Sanchez: Yes there are differences, but we need to know the same leader who didn't get results is still going to lead.
- Cheryl Turner: This is a very different leader this time.
- Rita Haire: Leader response has been consistent. Thorough. Clear they want to be different.
- Cheryl Turner: Torchlight had 600 kids who need to go somewhere. Recruitment won't be an issue for students.
- Dave Machado: Third time they've submitted so shows commitment. Continuous improvement with process. Can't punish them for past.
- Hilda Parlér: Likes the idea of movement and music.

- Bart Danielson: Used to live in Chicago. Saw results in Naperville. Two mistakes can get made: approve a school that shouldn't be approved. And not approving a school who should have been approved. We have a process to close a school if needed.
- Eric Sanchez: School closed for academics. How long was the school around and what were academic issues? Ashley Baquero: doesn't have that information in front of her. Dr. Bazemore answers: open 4 years. Made growth 2 of the 4 years. Many of our students were grade levels behind. We believe in pulling retired and new teachers. Enrollment never an issue.
- Cheryl Turner: Bigger issue was compliance. Similar schools with academic issues that got 3:year renewal.
- Eric Sanchez: In spite of having same leader with compliance issue you see that it will be different?
- Cheryl Turner: This is a different leader before us. Mom wasn't there before, and she has strong EC experience. I do think they have the people to make it happen.

Motion: Cheryl Turner moves to forward application for approval

Seconded: Dave Machado

Discussion:

- John Eldridge: Anyone in here can tell that the presentation made a difference. Given that, hope that we will see mutual relationship of OCS and school. Prove us right. SBE won't be able to hear from school. We dug on everything, and you answered well. Prove us right.
- Eric Sanchez: Great reluctance. Leader is important. Colleagues have shown me how different this team is. I don't want to make mistake of not opening a school for kids who need it. If it comes back here with any issues, there will not be any latitude given.
- Bruce Friend: Human nature to feel "here we go again." I have been thoroughly impressed with this round. I support. Budget needs work and that's what planning year is for. I have confidence in Dr. Bazemore. Mistakes were made and they recognize that. Prove us right but also what's best for students.

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

Centerpoint Classical Academy

Introduction

- Melanie Rackley gave an introduction on the school (located in Wake County). Stated the number of schools in the region as well as proposed subgroup and demographic data.

Opening Remarks

- Paula McMillan: Treasurer. Questions from the board were financial in nature. I understand finance, budget. Partners with another school's board. ATA requires fee but may be changed at any time. Federal grants: remain open to grants. Addresses concerns with transportation. Taken money from furniture budget to cover bus expenses. Revised budget for school lunches: lunch provider has increased cost. Make up difference with surcharge for those students who can pay. Also take money from textbooks. Student Support Specialist in place of a specials teacher. This

person will take on responsibilities of counselor, nurse, in first year. We are prepared to be proactive. Strength of board, management company, leader we are confident we can meet needs.

Questions / Discussion

- Cheryl Turner: you will not be able to do 3 students per seat K:5. Maybe for K:2. Ask you to be openminded about that knowing the economically disadvantaged numbers may vary. Answer: We are open to federal funds down the road, but we don't count on that to start.
- Todd Godbey: not a district school. Kids could be on bus for 2 hours. Answer: The schedule will have to be strategic.
- Cheryl Turner: you are assuming only economically disadvantaged kids want the bus. Others may want it as well.
- Dave Machado: Have you determined bus stops? Answer: We will determine stops based on enrollment and need. Hard to say now where the stops will be until we have facility and enrollment. Dave Machado: when recruiting the not knowing may be a hindrance. Answer: Asking during student recruitment so they have a better understanding of where everyone was coming from.
- Eric Sanchez: contracts with EMO. ATA: has board member Morely, wife. Who is that? Answer: She is a partner in ATA. His relationship to Mike Morley. His father I believe. One is on board of EMO, separate company that one family member is in charge. Eric Sanchez: Son being on EMO bothers me. Answer: History of what they've done in Guilford County. Eric Sanchez: 14% of revenue including federal to EMO. Separate contract with father who is development person who you will pay interest. Answer: That is a possibility but not at the beginning until we are ready to build. Eric Sanchez: development agreement is part of charter.
- Bruce Friend: How many schools is ATA EMO for? Answer: They have no schools in NC. They have developed schools before as another company.
- Cheryl Turner: ATA doesn't have history. Mary Cathryn has done stuff before but not ATA.
- Eric Sanchez: Any other contracts that are part of family? Answer: no. Mary Cathryn developed 3 schools in Guilford. She was not part of ATA.
- Cheryl Turner: What did Morley have to do with other schools? Answer: He was the developer of the schools.
- Hilda Parlér: So he's ATA. Dad on board of EMO?
- Todd Godbey: Dad is listed as CEO.
- Cheryl Turner: You don't see that as a conflict?
- Jamey Falkenbury: Application says they will give line of credit. Interest? Answer: They don't know the interest.
- Bruce Friend: EMO propose to manage schools and help open. ATA had \$400 in account. How are they pulling this off? Answer: We've started with less. Bruce Friend: what are things they are going to pay for? Answer: prior schools we didn't have this.
- Cheryl Turner: Purpose of EMO is to get money up front. Concerning that you can't tell me what they are going to help with. Answer: They support Mary Catherine. Cheryl Turner: So you're contracting with her? Answer: pg. 169. Support for principal in planning year. ATA will finance that. Line of credit \$150,000. Cheryl Turner: They have used the \$150,000 for another school as well. You don't see that as a problem? Answer: Bank has given statement that they are good for \$500,000. Taft Mortgage. Cheryl Turner: so it's a loan but you don't know the terms. Answer: ACD has helped over 100 schools. They're not new. Grass roots effort.
- Eric Sanchez: Agreement is with ATA and dad is board of ACD.

- Bruce Friend: Struggling with this. You've done this before but not with EMO. When you partner with EMO: access to the cash to do all the expenses to help open: hiring, facilities. We're used to working with EMO who has millions of dollars available.
- Josh Eldridge: \$150,000 won't go very far. Trying to understand EMO. 14% of total budget. Can't give money to them from federal funds. Small startup but then paying 14%.
- Dave Machado: Let EMO speak since there is so much question. Mary Catherine speaks: In application there are parts of budget left blank because they are coming from EMO. Years ago, I presented and this concern came up and I was able to get those resources. They have been reliable to me. Gave money to help open Piedmont Academy. ACD with school. Two separate organizations help so contract for facility is separate than contract with EMO. School has ability to own school down the road.
- Jamey Falkenbury: Can you walk through what ACD provides? Answer: Back office support. HR, student data, budget. Board can stay a governing board and we handle day to day operations of school. Handle PD and marketing.
- Bruce Friend: Still trying to understand role of your organization to provide facilities for board. Couldn't this board have gone to Taft themselves? Answer: He knows me. I can get creative. Open in a temp facility is best. Other resources. They are using my expertise to help open the school. If they need more money, there is the possibility. Bruce Friend: what services for ATA for that 14%. Is your company doing payroll, HR, etc. Answer: In beginning we will outsource. Because we are a startup. Plan as we grow is that can change.
- Rita Haire: Confirm you're doing a weighted lottery? Employees jointly employed? Answer: yes.

Closing Statement

- Schneider: sensed that this board rightly has misgivings about relationship between charter board and EMO board. I understand what can happen when an executive tries to influence a board for their gain. Mission first attracted me to this position. Meets legislative requirement of innovative school. I've seen impact of this model as a university professor. If there is a sense of this happening it will be addressed quickly. Huge responsibility of board to contribute to students. 36 years as an educator. I see need for this. Hoping for your approval.

Deliberation

- Rita Haire: This board came before us in 2021. CSAB gave recommendations and they have responded. I'm confident in their application. They have thoroughly responded to our inquiries.
- Bart Danielson: Resources available. May not have a legally forcible guarantee they do have a promise of support from an individual who has been engaged in charter schools in past. From bank, resources available to do this. Legal formalities don't exist, but promise is there.
- John Eldridge: I would like to hear more from this board about the conflict of interest that has come up. Do you feel comfortable with these relationships given past issues?
- Rita Haire: How is this different?
- Dave Machado: EMO role is to manage day to day operations. Most have an arm that deals with facility/building. Different arm to help with day-to-day operations. 14% is normal. This doesn't bother me. Where I am is, I don't think the EMO has the capacity to open 2 schools at this point. We've committed to one that we sent to SBE. Disappointing they sent it back to us. Show what you can do then come back to us for second school.

- Cheryl Turner: I agree. See how the first school does. I don't think they have the capacity to open a second school. I would rather put off the vote until we know if the other school will be moved further.
- Rita Haire: So would they have a better chance if they didn't have an EMO?
- Bruce Friend: Why have an EMO? It makes opening a charter school easier. I am also concerned about the EMO capacity to take on another school. EMO is going to outsource so why can't school just do that? I am struggling with what EMO can bring. Someone has to give them a shot.
- Cheryl Turner: We have already given them an opportunity with the other school. Even if you have the money, which is coming from somewhere else, the bandwidth of EMO is in question. I think we push on the one we've already approved.
- Rita Haire: Are the challenges of other school related to EMO. Answer was yes.
- Bruce Friend: If we wait until the other school responds?
- John Eldridge: Other school already has facility. Which school can sustain itself better?
- Dave Machado: Unfortunately, we must compare both applicants in this situation which is unfair. When you come forward as a new EMO and try to open 3 schools, I don't think it's quite ready to open schools.
- Eric Sanchez: Why isn't the Taft Morley relationship a bigger concern? Money isn't an issue.
- Bart Danielson: Board will have to approve this though. That person would have to recuse themselves. The board is aware of this relationship.
- Rita Haire: Provided a separate contract which is helpful.
- Cheryl Turner: That's good. We have schools who don't have that and are now stuck.
- Jamey Falkenbury: In this structure they could separate. Most EMOs are also developer.
- Bart Danielson: If there is a buy out, they would be separated.
- Todd Godbey: We have schools who are stuck.
- Jamey Falkenbury: I also don't have a problem with the set up. But think we need to vote either way.

Motion: Dave Machado moves to not recommend this application for approval.

Seconded By: Eric Sanchez

Discussion:

Rita Haire: Do we base our decision on what we believe the SBE will do? CSAB members answered, no.

Bart Danielson: We are an advisory board.

Vote: JE, BR, RH, HP, SS, CT, TG, ES, DM

Opposed: BD

Passed 9:1 Failed

Riverside Leadership Academy

Introduction

- Melanie Rackley gave an introduction on the school (located in Wake County). Stated the number of schools in the region as well as proposed subgroup and demographic data.

Opening Remarks

- Board Chair: Amy Hobgood: Shared growth and development of board and community interest. Clear that Craven County and Project Based Learning will be transformative. Board Chair: at time of application, I was charter leader but now employee of DPI. Board grown by 3 members. 130% increase in parent interest. We are not part of CMO or EMO so we can stay true to roots. Funding source for facility is Charter Success Partners. Facility developer will pay for facility and initial supplies with opportunity to purchase. Affordability conscious plans true to mission of school.

Questions / Discussion

Hilda Parlér is recused.

- Jamey Falkenbury: Can we have new board members talk about why they joined? Greg Sims joins remotely. Community lacks charter school option. Expertise in opening of school with my experience. Wonderful addition to the community. Others: No choice schools. Hearing about the school I wanted to help. I can fundraise.
- Cheryl Turner: Lots of connections with businesses but don't hear parent response. Concerned that connection with families doesn't exist. Not a huge concern.
- Jamey Falkenbury: Impressed that they have increased contacts. They listened to our advice. People go to these local stores, and I would hope these businesses will help promote the school. Huge learning curve for areas that haven't had one before. Especially when there is no tangible place.
- Bruce Friend: Asked for clarification board. New additions to board not replacements. Cheryl Turner responds yes.
- Dave Machado: Charter Success Partners. How did that relationship come to be? Fees? Answer: Amy Hobgood worked with them in previous schools. No fee currently. If charter approved, then they will offer back office support.
- Rita Haire: Strong application to begin with. They have addressed all questions. I'm very comfortable with what they've provided. It's an area of need.
- Cheryl Turner: prepared to make a motion? Address: concerns about parents. Businesses have offered to have events with parents to fundraise and garner interest. One of the owners has a student.

Closing Statement

No charter in Craven County. Board has grown locally. Parents invested in school. 2 military bases. 2 Project Based Learning experts. Military liaison. Address whole child. Expanded business support network.

Deliberation

Motion: John Eldridge moves to forward application for approval

Seconded By: Bart Danielson

Recused: Hilda Parlér

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

Renewal Report and Interviews

LEA Number	School
24B	Thomas Academy
61P	VERITAS Community School, CFA
32P	The Institute Development Young Leaders
60N	Aristotle Preparatory Academy
13B	Cabarrus Charter Academy

Jenna Cook, Office of Charter Schools presents Renewals Cohort 2023 report. Three year placement group today. Renewal guidelines shared.

Thomas Academy

Jenna Cook, OCS, shares school data.

Board Chair and Principal present information regarding school performance. Students are 3 to 4 years behind. Mentally, physically, emotionally abused. New Principal has overhauled academic system. First time staff has had data for students to target learning using benchmarks and MTSS used for first time. Purchased new curriculum aligned with NC standards. Shares challenges: staff retention, achievement gaps, qualified teachers for after school tutoring. Need to purchase chrome books. Celebration: family nights. MTSS. Community partnership with IPG, Rotary Club, SRO. Principal is part of NC ACCESS program.

Questions/Discussion:

- Hilda Parlér: Who facilitates SEL? Answer: Chief clinician from boys and girls home. IPG provides money.
- Rita Haire: Paws for People. How are you using this? Answer: Partnership. Students work with therapeutic dogs, training.
- Bruce Friend: Students come to you then go back to their regular school? Answer: Ultimately we want them to graduate from Thomas Academy but that doesn't always happen.
- Dave Machado: 6:12 correct? Do you track attrition rate for 6:12? Answer: Do track. Most stay until graduation.
- Hilda Parlér: Current senior class? Answer: 20. Total students = 77. Below the 80.
- Dave Machado: Do you recruit kids not in home? Answer: Yes.

VERITAS Community School

Jenna Cook, OCS, shares information about school.

School representatives present information. Tremendous academic growth with focus on SEL/Restorative Practices. Community partnerships include Boys and Girls Club of Charlotte and home therapy services. Finances: Better place than several years ago. Largest surplus in 5 years. Grant to renovate library. Staffing: Confident about retention. Growing staff from within. Teachers have more support.

Questions/Discussion:

- Jamey Falkenbury: Surplus is great. ESSER funds: 40% left. How much of this is inflated because of the money? Answer: Utilized for unexpected expenditures. CMS facility in need of repair so spent money there.
- Dave Machado: Lease arrangement is with CMS? Answer: 5:year lease. Actively engaged in conversation for long term building.
- Rita Haire: Appreciate investing money for students even in a leased building.
- John Eldridge: Are you at capacity for space? Answer: No. 2 classrooms empty. Specials teachers are mobile, on carts. Can hold 220. Goal is 20:1
- Eric Sanchez: Academics show consistent stretch of good. Biggest decrease before COVID. What's your way back? Answer: Population has changed drastically. 50% of school is new each year. Academically must be focused on instruction through DDI. Buses going far to keep families, but turnover is high. Long term students do well. New students have hard time adjusting. Eric Sanchez: What is the XYZ to make sure decline doesn't continue academically. Answer: DDI, student retention, intervention, meeting them where they are. Board member: had 3 head of schools in 2019. Now have steady leadership. Disaggregated data shows long term students are doing well.
- Rita Haire: Any combined grade levels? Answer: no.
- Dave Machado: Is there redevelopment around school? Answer: School is in center of development where families are being priced out. Dave Machado: Are you trying to recruit the new families? Answer: physical location is a barrier.
- Bruce Friend: are you still a Challenge Foundation school? Answer: Use them more for leadership cohort participation. Have one outstanding loan from them. Partnership and not rely on them for finances.

The Institute for Developing Young Leaders

Jenna Cook, OCS, shares information. First renewal.

School Representatives: Recruited exclusively students who are failing or at risk of failing. Chairman of Board: Dr. Edwards. COVID was first real stress test of system. Shares EVAAS trends and curriculum. DDI blocks for weekly assessment data. Extended day: students go into a double dose of instruction. Culture: work hard to have joy in their day and see themselves as leaders.

Questions/Discussion:

- John Eldridge: Social workers. Do they push in or case to case? Answer: both. Work with teachers as well to be proactive with behaviors.
- Ashley Baquero: Didn't show drop in scores during COVID. Answer: only school in Durham opened for majority of time. Pushed by neediness of students.
- Rita Haire: What is your current enrollment? Answer: 377. Still have Saturday School? Answer: We do beginning in January. All students expected to come. Most come.

- Eric Sanchez: How do you crack the code? How do you get to the next level? Answer: curriculum director and instructional coaches are new and we needed that to move to next level. Five staff members involved in ILA. Learning to coach teachers effectively. Board member: best thing we do is address Maslow needs of students. Over the years we have become more effective and efficient in that. We are recruiting children who need this school the most. Our children are safe. We are in McDougall Terrace.
- John Eldridge: Commend you for the work and how many have joined you today. Nice building. 5 buses. Well done.

Aristotle Prep Academy

Jenna Cook, OCS, presented school information. First renewal.

School representatives: Board liaison for Charter One and several board members joined online. Director: 6 years with school. When started at school it was an F. Student engagement, DDI, 2019 received a C. Challenges during COVID, 2020. Impacted achievement. Last year added Academic Coach. Core Knowledge and Eureka Math with fidelity. EVAAS data shared. Academic Goals: Core Academics, DDI, Raise Leadership. Tier Coaching for teachers with frequent observations. Sense of Urgency by evaluating system for maximizing learning time. Transportation provided. Recruit high qualified teachers. Address academic learning loss. Part of NC ACCESS.

Questions/Discussion

- Hilda Parlér: recuse
- Cheryl Turner: plan is solid. Fidelity is important. Answer: we've done this before so we're going back to it.
- School representatives explain EC. Student came to us with expired IEP and left the school before it could be fixed. Has been cleared.

Cabarrus Charter Academy

Jenna Cook, OCS, presents school information. First renewal.

School Representatives: Principal since 2019. CSUSA organization. Opened in 2013. Principal started with a needs assessment: problem with alignment, fiscal alignment, instructional alignment, monitoring alignment. Shares data from 2022. Under performing but bright spots. Growth shared. Growth trending in right direction. Current goals: increase math proficiency; increase SEL; improve overall proficiency. First time with research-based interventions in K:5. Life Stance provides onsite counseling services. Celebration: Math acceleration. Dual enrollment starting in grade 9. Position to support community engagement. 8th leader in 10 years. Bring stability and traditions.

Questions/Discussion:

- John Eldridge: Using CCP? Answer: yes. Remote access to college classes. Opportunity to achieve Associates and HS diploma.
- Hilda Parlér: you are the 8th leader? Answer: Current principal is longest tenure.
- Bart Danielson: turnover happened well before COVID so why? Answer: K:12 is a different model. Trying to figure out what model of leadership works best for the school.
- Hilda Parlér: How does salary compare to area? Answer: Competitive salary.
- John Eldridge: What math curriculum are you using? Answer: K:5 Envisions. Ready support. 6:8, IXL, Ready. John Eldridge: Are math teachers certified? Answer: not all.

Bruce Friend moves to go into closed session.

Second: Todd Godbey

Open Session resumes @ 3:18pm

Ashley Baquero shares information re: the two applications sent back from SBE.

ALA Monroe:

Dave Machado: recuse

Hilda Parlér: recuse

Gregg Sindors introduced himself as working for Charter One. EMO proposed for ALA Monroe. Start with letting ALA: Monroe Board attorney address concerns from SBE. Common themes: remind that EMO agreement has been approved 6 times with no law change. Concern that Charter One is growing too fast. Schools in AZ that are successful. EMO Attorney: Governance issue: this board knows who the governing body of the school is. It is them. They are already going through training. EMO must operate within budget set by board. Lease: very common. Somebody builds the school then they lease the school. Schwab is able to serve as board chair. Good for the board. If it's a problem, he will step aside. 2,000 families showing interest in this school that may be denied the opportunity. Asking for unanimous approval.

Questions/Discussion:

- Bruce Friend: Too many too soon? Answer: Vast organization. ALA: Garner may be withdrawn if that is needed to move Monroe forward. Monroe is accelerated application. Monroe is very prepared. We have a building. We have a leader. We have the interest. We've heard the concerns. We are committed to NC. Opened two schools with 1800 and 2000 students. Will give us time to gain more data on NC schools. Mr. Schwab: virtual. Board is submitting application, not EMO. If we were a board with no EMO this wouldn't be an issue. This EMO has a track record of success when independent application doesn't. First hand knowledge of expertise of Charter One. What we need to do to help the kids is what we will do.
- Cheryl Turner: Concern in contract. The EMO picks the lawyer for the board? Answer: That's not what happens in practice.
- Eric Sanchez: Landlord is SH Monroe. What relationship do they have to CEO? Answer: separate from Charter One. One of the founders for Charter One and founder of this separate company. Eric Sanchez: Huge level of profit, what is expected return on this? Answer: no idea. With school they have, fair market value lease. Eric Sanchez: The chairperson of the board does some contract work with Charter One and is previous employee. Answer: Mr. Schwab: virtual. Charter One CEO, Wade: virtual. Minority owner of SH Development. Built 84 schools across the country. Reporter from AZ who has tried to discredit the model. Sold facility at or below market value. Has given 8 million or rent free to some charter schools. When some schools were having trouble running a school we took it over and became successful. Done so with complete disclosure. Profit: lease contracts are customary. State lease back buildings across the country. Sold buildings to state or private 120% of project cost. We don't take money from the school until school is

ready. We don't collect a fee until they're ready. Won't bond a school unless financials strong. Building for Monroe has not paid EMO anything and won't need to pay back. Eric Sanchez: Article reference. Answer: CEO responds. That article didn't consider cost of land, etc. Lists companies that are associated with Charter One with various names. CEO: only one entity which is Charter One Apparel part of Charter One to keep brand. Majority owner is Charter One and 25% owned by son of his. Wake construction is a company that helped ALA in AZ. No profit came to me. Everything done was done at cost.

- Jamey Falkenbury: Why are we going down this rabbit hole when we have kids who want a great education? Did you all during COVID open without fees? Answer: during COVID we opened so we can serve students. Took 750 students and did not get paid for the additional 150.
- Cheryl Turner: What are issues we need to decide if we're going to send this back to SBE?
- Jamey Falkenbury: Product is there. Can't use AZ data for NC but the information is there. Building is there. 2000 families interested.
- John Eldridge: Everyone is hyper sensitive to past problem with EMO. Weight on me as member of CSAB. We spend so much time on the contract and never get to education. It's up to the board of the school to decide if that contract works for them. I know we are making sure schools are taken care of.
- Jamey Falkenbury: No baseline. Whatever they make some charter boards need that assistance to be able to open a school. Some can open a school without the EMO. Look at EMO as initial investment. The board is good, qualified. Shouldn't penalize them for using the EMO. Are they opening too many? This board can take that up later.
- Bruce Friend: I've been to Charter One schools and exceptionally impressed. Talked to students and their experience is good. The debate at SBE I'm tired of it. We're asking Charters to explain their budget when we don't do that for regular public schools. Agreement has been reviewed at least 6 times by legal. Data to open new schools: no independent charter school would ever be approved because they don't have data. Feels like we're punishing them. Expressed a willingness to remove Garner to open right now. I've voted for this school before, and I still feel I made the right vote.
- Rita Haire: I agree. Good process to take a look at some of these concerns.
- Bruce Friend: They don't need to remove Garner for me to vote for them today but am willing to make a motion.
- Bart Danielson: For profit business exist for a reason, surprised SBE has expressed a reluctance for for-profit to support a school. School systems across the country engage for profit businesses to help them improve. For SBE to express hostility with for profit business doesn't make sense. I'm discouraged by it. I don't see a problem with a for-profit business wanting to support a school.
- Eric Sanchez: Necessary to ask the questions about decision making for making money. We know the two EMOs before us today are similar. Question the autonomy of the EMO. If you're not vetting the EMO like you do the school. Are personnel who work with EMO really able to make independent decisions for their school? If we're not going to ask those questions then what are we doing. I'm going to ask about an organization who comes into our state.
- Bruce Friend: I've been to their schools and they don't skimp.
- Rita Haire: Add that for-profit doesn't always make a profit. They have to run efficiently and hope to make a profit.
- John Eldridge: I would be a lot less worried. We could have these same conversations about a public school.

- Cheryl Turner: Several years ago when Charter One came to NC I was not a fan. We addressed the issues, and they did everything they said they were going to do. I have no reason to think that now all of a sudden they aren't going to do what's best for kids. School is successful for all kids. Contract issue is not a Charter One issue. Issue is how much do we get involved in these contracts.

Motion: John Eldridge moves to forward application for approval

Second: Cheryl Turner

Discussion:

- Eric Sanchez: Moving too fast. Over simplified. Schools have been opened. There are results. We are approving or not approving that the EMO is running the school.
- Cheryl Turner: The two schools you are talking about were taken over.
- Eric Sanchez: Two schools at a D, two new schools this year then what's the rush? They have a building and interest? Want to force our hand with that.
- Jamey Falkenbury: Rush is 2000 families who want this.
- Bart Danielson: If you start punishing a company for wanting to help a failing school then no one will want to do it.
- Eric Sanchez: Other conversations made a big deal about family/cross over and we're not doing that here.
- Bruce Friend: I disagree. 16 of the 18 are A or B and 2 are C? I have a hard time. I know we're NC but I think there is a track record of data that is worth looking into.
- Eric Sanchez: Why not wait to see results? I guess I'm concerned that just because they have a building and interest, we just let them do it.
- Bruce Friend: I spend a lot of time volunteering and reading all of these applications.
- Any further discussion.
- Todd Godbey: Where did we land with the board chair doing legal contract work? Feels like conflict of interest. Where are we with Garner? Let's not penalize 2000 families but where do we stand with the others?
- Bruce Friend: They can pull Garner anytime they want to, or we can include that in our motion.
- Cheryl Turner: Is your intention to pull it? EMO Rep: We are willing to pull Garner. We can send a letter to OCS to pull.
- John Eldridge: If that's going to get us a unanimous vote then I can change the motion. I'd rather open a school than wish I would have opened. Moves that contingent upon Charter One pulling Garner we move to move ALA Monroe forward to ready to open status.

Motion: John Eldridge moves to revise his motion to the following: forward application for approval contingent upon the applicant pulling the ALA Garner application.

Second: Cheryl Turner

Recused: Hilda Parlér recused. Dave Machado recused.

Vote: JE, BF, RH, SS, CT, TG, BD

Opposed: ES

Passed 7:1 Failed

Legacy Classical Academy

Ashley Baquero: second reconsideration for Legacy Classical

Board Member from School: Appeal for approval for our school. Rockingham County has one charter school for 6-12. They still have no elementary charter school. No choice for those who can't afford private school. What dollar figure do you put on educating our kids at a higher level than LEA? If we can minimally duplicate the LEA and it doesn't cost you anything why not? Need to answer this for us and those who come behind us. We don't know what you expect of us. We have justifiably shown a need for charter in our county. Rockingham: 1 Early College school, 1 Lab school= F. Other 20 schools were C and D. No B or A school. If that doesn't demonstrate a need I don't understand. We're here today to see if we can understand what we need to change. I'm not sure I understand why we're here.

- John Eldridge: Update on facility? Answer: Been through zoning process, architecture is complete.
- John Eldridge: This is a refurbish? Answer: Leasing space from church.
- Cheryl Turner: What was the SBE issue?
- Todd Godbey: Facility only issue?
- Ashley Baquero: Also, structure of EMO. EMO contract considerations.
- Todd Godbey: Is this the group that was made reference to earlier of not approving so we can move this one forward? CSAB responded, no, that was Charter One and this is ATA.
- ATA: we've taken your feedback and anxious to show what we can do.

Questions/Comments

- School Board representatives state they have looked at handbooks, policies already. We are going to be very involved. This board is committed to our parents and students. They have been willing to work with us.
- Eric Sanchez: What role did EMO play in vetting building? Answer: EMO gave us guidance. We don't have the expertise, so we seek guidance. We interviewed the developers, had lunch with them, conversations about philosophies, they toured the school.
- Eric Sanchez: Was there a discussion about son being part of EMO and dad being developer? Answer: I knew that going in. We've had several conversations. Learning what he has done through the years. Built schools throughout the country.
- Eric Sanchez: Why 15% of federal funding? Why not challenge that? Answer: I don't care if it's 100% if we're educating our kids at a high level. This country was based on free enterprise. People that are willing to stick their necks out and take a risk.
- John Eldridge: Is it your understanding that this is an EMO or CMO? Answer: EMO. How do you put a price on education? What I've looked at is the range can be 8:9% to over 15%.
- Eric Sanchez: You keep saying that there is no price but our kids deserve a good education. Answer: We have ability to pull them if they're not getting the education.

Motion: Todd Godbey moves to forward application for approval

Second: Bart Danielson

Discussion:

- Eric Sanchez: Board Chair is a genuine guy. Obvious that he is seeing the EMO as responsible for the education.

Vote: JE, BF, RH, HP, CT, TG, BD

Opposed: ES

Absent: DM and SS

Passed 7:1 Failed

Motion to adjourn: 5:00 pm.

Minutes of the North Carolina Charter School Advisory Board

State Board Room 755, Department of Public Instruction

December 6, 2022

9 AM

Attendance – CSAB Members	
Jamey Falkenbury (non-voting): Remote Rita Haire John Eldridge Cheryl Turner Hilda Parlér Shelly Shope: Absent	Eric Sanchez Bruce Friend Dave Machado Todd Godbey Bart Danielsen
Attendance – Other	
<i>Office of Charter Schools</i> Ashley Baquero, Director Joseph Letterio, Consultant - Absent Melanie Rackley, Consultant Jenna Cook, Consultant Darian Jones, Consultant - Absent Nicky Niewinski, Consultant Natasha Norrins, Consultant Jay Whalen, NC ACCESS Davida Robinson, NC ACCESS Barbara O’Neal, NC ACCESS Lakisha Robinson, NC ACCESS	<i>Attorney General</i> Zach Padgett <i>SBE Attorney</i> Allison Schafer – Absent <i>Teacher/Principal of Year</i> William Storrs - Absent Maria Mills - Absent Jeremy White

Call To Order

Pledge of Allegiance: Bruce Friend

Mission and Ethics Statement:

- Bruce Friend read the Mission and Ethics Statement.

December Charter School Advisory Board Meeting

Portrait of a Graduate: Kristie Van Auken

- Launched in October 2022
- Seven Competencies: prepare for success beyond high school.
- Students need to develop soft skills
- Looked at over 2 million job postings to see what employers are looking for.
- 1200 people across the state in process, collaborated for 3 months
- Shared portrait graphics with Spanish translation, release of playbook, resources on website
- Charter schools not required to implement. Strongly encouraged

- Dave Machado: have you seen participation from charter school community? Answer: Some were involved in the design process. Encouraged to participate in the next phase of development.
- Cheryl Turner: What kind of skills are you looking for? Answer: Leaders, teachers, to help develop rubric, curriculum design. Contact Ashley Baquero and she can forward to right people for those interested.

NAEP Data Presentation: Terry L Stoops, Jeni Corn

- Drive evidence-based policy decisions: Research Recovery Network (NC Collaboratory ARPA funds)
- Ready to release next report related to learning loss: may be able to identify what areas had rebound gains.
- NAEP in NC: Charter Schools are subgroup of NC sample size.
- Charter school results are linked in presentation.
- Reviewed and discussed previously released Learning Loss data: tells what happened, not why

Amendment (Ms. Ashley Baquero)

- No amendments to approve today
- Update on openings: 15 current approvals for opening. 3 pending delays in first year. 1 school has delayed 3 times due to litigation with Durham. They will get full 5 years. The other 2 will be 4 per legislation. Ready To Open= 12. Could be 10 depending on SBE vote. Most delays are facility related.
- Discussion about difficulty for new schools to establish a facility, related to current real estate market without additional money from state for charters.
- Some delays, relocations can be approved by OCS, others must come before board.
- 120 amendments processed so far this year, 20 to 30 in process currently.

2022 Charter Application Interviews: Second Round

Granite State Charter Academy

Melanie Rackley shares information re: school demographics and data

Opening statement: Board Chair addresses community need: specific discussion around need for construction workers. Top 5 career need. Closest charter has wait list of 1,000.

Questions/Discussion:

- Cheryl Turner: Don't understand what is going on in classrooms in K:8 that is CTE based.
- Bruce Friend: Wasn't actual curriculum chosen last time. Answer: detailed curriculum in application. Math: Reveal Math. Heinemann, Words Their Way, CKLA. Bruce Friend: Is there a curriculum focus on trade. Answer: utilize K:8 to get ready for HS.
- John Eldridge: Do you plan to work with local community college who has equipment? Answer: no letter of support but they are highly engaged. Will use the CCP. Northwoods also has a great program with wide variety of CTE. Application is to get us started then build on.
- Cheryl Turner: What is your relationship with Alliance? Answer: Haven't decided to hire outside operators yet. Alliance has good schools that are high performing. We will interview several

consultants to help us. Cheryl Turner: what skills are you looking for in consulting? Answer: we have a good principal. Cheryl Turner: So looking for back office support? Answer: yes.

- Bruce Friend: Not looking to partner with CMO or EMO? Where in budget are you accounting for this back office support? Answer: We don't right now. Focused on curriculum. Looking at grants to help with funding.
- Dave Machado: Did Alliance help you with application? Answer: They were one of the people who helped us. No charge for consultants used to date. Dave Machado: What are your transportation plans? Answer: We put in application 10 miles but we've discussed going further than that. Substantial amount of money for transportation so we can reach Siler City which is an area we want to draw from. Want to get into communities "at:risk". Experience getting buses into communities so feel good about plan. Dave Machado: Strongly recommend determining stops so families see there won't be a transportation barrier. Answer: We could cluster and let families know we will be there. Line item to contract work for areas where the board may not have expertise. Stipulation in application regarding cluster stop.
- Jamey Falkenbury: K:8 in application, HS in the future? When would you expand to 9th grade? Answer: Visualize a feeder high school. High school is expensive to run.
- Cheryl Turner: Still don't understand what is going on in classroom for CTE. Answer: Start in MS with CTE focus. Bring people in to show the professions and how it works. Offering coding, Lego, in application pg. 41:50. Light a fire to pursue CTE track in high school.
- Bruce Friend: budget. Do not see where the consultants are included in budget. Answer: They have line item for that of \$200,000. Bruce Friend: Reason for not having a school counselor? Answer: One position that was going to be floating. 22:1 ratio for Instructional Assistant that principal can use as needed for students. Bruce Friend: What about school counselor?
- Rita Haire: Seems to be wavering on going to HS level. Application says no. Answer: No for this application but doesn't prevent us from deciding to do HS in the future. Grow organically. Part of vision.
- Dave Machado: Heard conversation regarding delays with facilities. What is your plan for facility? Answer: Challenge is we can't get a handle on cost. Confident on land and financial support. Can't tell you exactly what it will cost. Site is identified already. Letter of intent from bond provider.
- Eric Sanchez: Potential relationship with AES? Answer: No agreement with them. They have consulted with us at no charge for application: governance focus, assisted with answering questions. We are not approved yet as a charter so haven't decided on using them or not.
- Cheryl Turner: What skills do you feel you need to fill gaps for school? Answer: Finding a principal that would lead and create, sustain a successful school. Recognize we struggle in state for educators. Believe we will find educators who believe in model.

Closing: Refers to housing report that shows demand in Triangle, affordability crisis. We are going to need innovative schools in the area. Include arts along with CTE experiences. Develop young people who feel confident, feel good about what they're doing for our community. Started as non-believer of charters until this model was presented and we need this in our area. We have a location to share with people for recruiting families. Beacon for our community and the need for this school in our area with industry coming in.

Discussion:

John Eldridge recuses self. Buses would come into his school area.

- Hilda Parlér: Struggling with consultancy.
- Bruce Friend: Struggling with this as well. I don't need to be convinced that we need a school in this area. Disconnect with what I'm hearing and the application. No issue to contract out with consultant. Hard to believe that the one who helped write the application won't be part of the opening and don't see in budget.
- Bart Danielson: Is it possible that the document we received with the budget was altered? Ashley Baquero: No. Uploaded as pdf.
- Bruce Friend: No school counselor, no support personnel in budget. Application and what was presented today has mixed information re: buying buses or contracting out.
- Rita Haire: Didn't ask them to bring community support evidence but do have business support. Not such a unique model when CTE won't happen until HS. But the demand is there so would like to see the parent support. We did have 4 questions they answered well.
- Todd Godbey: Question 4 did ask for parent evidence. Referred to charter application for that support. Parent interest is not included. Bruce is not wrong. There is a need for school in the area.
- Bruce Friend: Challenge to build school when most homes aren't built yet.
- Bart Danielson: Charter school can be the reason people move to an area.
- Bruce Friend: Still struggling with what I'm seeing and what I'm hearing.
- Rita Haire: I don't see a concern with discrepancies when compared to other budgets we've seen. Do have back up plan for facility.
- Bart Danielson: Have location and access to funding. Doesn't mean it'll be done on time. Board has wide variety of experience but not education expertise. Are willing to hire out for experts they need to do this. Impressed with board, funding, location. Unique curriculum. Lots of kids and parents who need a place to go to school.
- Dave Machado: No arguing there is a need. Question how well can do CTE instruction in elementary school. Many questions board couldn't answer. Demand is there but not sure group is ready to open a school. Board very passionate but not sure they are ready because of questions they couldn't answer.
- Rita Haire: They have 18 months to figure out some of the concerns.

Motion: Rita Haire moves to forward application for approval

Second: Bart Danielson

Discussion:

- Eric Sanchez: Answers often weren't straight forward. Many great stories of schools that were given a chance and did great things. Use tax money and do it right because of the learning process. Leaning toward come back and refine process.
- Bruce Friend: Could come back next year as accelerated application and still open when they proposed.
- Rita Haire: I'm willing to withdraw motion for the option to apply under acceleration hoping to get more consulting.

Vote: RH, HP, BD

Recused: JE

Opposed: BF, SS, CT, TG, ES, DM

Passed 3:6 Failed

Agape Achievement Academy

Melanie Rackley, OCS, introduces school and relevant information.

Opening Comments: Board Chair: given seven questions by board to address. Budget adjustments for SEL and counselor/social worker. Benefits of SEL program listed. Included in budget a dual role for Instructional Asst as bus drivers so salaries adjusted in budget. Confirm that breakfast and lunch will be provided for all.

Questions:

- Hilda Parlér: Counselor or social worker to train staff? Answer: Use them interchangeably. Intensive training for staff before school starts.
- Bruce Friend: Either a counselor or social worker? Answer: To start it is not both.
- Rita Haire: Community interest/parent contact interest. Answer: Team has gone out and gathered interest on forms. Own ad on radio in Fayetteville. About 110 families since October. Seabrook Recreation Center will do event for the kids to attract community.
- Cheryl Turner: Have you had an event to raise awareness? Answer: yes. Brochure at printer right now to give parents and survey sheet for parents to fill out. Looking at other recreation centers to hold events in the area where they want school.
- Hilda Parlér: Boys and Girls Club nearby? Answer: No. Could go to those areas also. Churches in area can get information out.
- Bruce Friend: Budget has low number for technology. Even if not 1:1 still seems like low number. Rational? Answer: Persons in Fayetteville who will donate to help with some costs once charter approved. Grant writing to try and get a Chromebook for each student. Working with Acadia to get some grants once charter approved.
- Hilda Parlér: Is it in writing? Answer: No. To clarify. Donor is like a son to me and will support us.
- John Eldridge: School will partner with local district to provide lunch? Answer: Yes. Only hiccup was who would pick up lunches, but they have that worked out. John Eldridge: That is very encouraging.
- Bruce Friend: Confident you can recruit teachers at the salary proposed? Answer: Confident. Last week I was approached by two who want to teach at charter. I believe with what we have to offer we will get the teachers. Believe in our vision.
- Dave Machado: Anticipate a lot of military families? Answer: I would say maybe 40%. There are a lot of military families in that area. Dave Machado: Plans for military liaison? Answer: They have someone to do that.
- Eric Sanchez: Goals. High bar/ambitious. How did you choose goals? Answer: Come from high rigor situation. Previous schools were high achieving. Meet students where they're at and help them hit the mark. Eric Sanchez: Did you base B score on any local school comparisons? Answer: Schools in area are low. We have high expectations based on our previous experience.
- Rita Haire: Still have same board? Will you be consulting for legal/financial support? Answer: Yes. Hutchison Law Firm. Acadia for finances. Local businessperson.

Closing Statement: Hearts are in this. We just want to help disadvantaged children. Parents want their child to have better. Believe academia will speak for itself. We did visit some high performing schools, want our school to be like that.

Discussion:

- Hilda Parlér: Feel like they know what they're doing. Clear vision.
- John Eldridge: Obvious they gained experience in the presentation process.
- Bruce Friend: Feel this is how the process is supposed to work. Feel good about the responses provided. Budget needs some adjustment but reaffirms

Motion: John Eldridge moves Agape forward for approval

Second: Hilda Parlér

Discussion:

- Dave Machado: Not only did they come back for second, but they were here last year. They listened to our feedback.
- Eric Sanchez: Feel similar. Obvious growth.
- Rita Haire: Updated vision statement. Satisfied they took feedback, listened to our suggestions.

Vote: Unanimous

Passed Failed

Renewals Report and Interviews

Classical Charter Schools of Wilmington 65C

Jenna Cook, OCS, presents school information, first renewal

School Headmaster: shares background information on school. 90% minority. 100% FRL. Contract with county for nutrition. Transportation provided. Network of 4 schools. Classical curriculum. Saxon Math. Shirley Grammar for 1st. Token reward behavior system. Shares testing data. Voluntarily chose to put school in high needs area.

Discussion/Questions:

- Cheryl Turner: Can't do 10 years because of low performing according to statute. Mixed feelings. D school but they are outperforming district. Do we say a D school can be a 5:year renewal?
- Bruce Friend: Enrollment seems to have gone down. Answer: Facility may be a contributing factor. We have a school uniform policy. Bruce Friend: What is capacity? Answer: 150. Half of the building is condemned. Bruce Friend: Is there a waiting list? Answer: No.
- Rita Haire: Do you have wifi? Answer: yes
- Dave Machado: How many go to Leland campus? Answer: Often lose students for middle school due to athletics.
- John Eldridge: Encouraging to see outperforming certain areas of school district. Answer: passionate staff. Bus rides of up to 2 hours. Students often see police activity along the way.
- Dave Machado: Outperforming speaks highly of school. Put resources in this area. This school needs to be rewarded for serving this neighborhood. Suggest 7 year renewal but a definitely a 5.

Davidson Charter Academy 29A

Jenna Cook, OCS, presents school information. 1st renewal

Board Vice Chair: Shares historical information. Admin roles: Director of Academics and Director of Operations rather than one leader. Has been successful. Shares school goals: academic, financial, operational. Only charter in Davidson County. Retaining good staff has been a challenge but haven't offered supplements. Would like to do that. Develop 5 year strategic plan. Director of Academics shares comparison data and curriculum information. Shares challenges: alternative evaluation tool. Instructional framework. DDI. Collaborative learning teams. Solid beginning teacher program. Working to improve parent support and student attendance.

Discussion:

- Rita Haire: Do you provide transportation? Answer: Yes until covid. No requests for transportation so have not continued.
- Bruce Friend: Exit interviews? Answer: yes.
- Rita Haire: Enrollment of 580 is that accurate? Answer: yes
- Bart Danielson: Proficiency rate comparison chart: helpful if there was a weighted average since LEA is only 50% of school. Unique district situation. Answer: Ashley Baquero says it is difficult to provide comparison to all LEA school pulls from.
- Dave Machado: Is that a picture of new MS? Answer: Will open next August.
- Bruce Friend: Guidelines for low performing? Have we ever done a 5 year for low performing?
- Cheryl Turner: Past schools were continuously low performing. Have to consider pandemic.

Eastside STREAM Academy 60P

Jenna Cook, OCS, introduces school information. First renewal.

Board Chair presents: Board introductions. Current leadership is brand new. Unique challenge of this school. Called to serve challenging population. New facility for one year. Provides for more diversity. Allows for mixed population. Focus on new leadership: where we are going. Addresses financial noncompliance never had a bad audit. Late reporting with new companies contributes to noncompliance. Resolution was to change companies. Head of School shares current goals: Core Instruction, Professional Learning, Family Engagement. Recruit and Retain. Implement Teach Like a Champion. Staff recognitions. Attendance incentives. Board Chair shares highlights: Parent involvement. Saturday academy. Comprehensive corrective programming. Developing teachers.

Questions/Discussion:

- Dave Machado: What was testing violation? Answer: Not sure. Dave Machado: Nonresponse to BT program? Answer: Last year it wasn't followed properly. Business Manager: nonresponsiveness happened when emails went to person not employed at school. Because of that new process for email was implemented. Board Chair: Since then we have addressed communication issues. Dave Machado: How many people who work at your school are related? Chair: One part time individual who works in transportation.
- Rita Haire: Use of Teach Like a Champion: how long? Answer: Started it in April.
- Dave Machado: 25% below LEA. Answer: Students at our school have not been successful at CMS with discipline. Population is better served with us. Dave Machado: Who is landlord? Answer: American Charter Development.
- Ashley Baquero: If you have any communication issues, that explains the process you've used for the email but we need specific person for email rather than general. EDDIE is used by DPI for school leaders specifically.

Invest Collegiate Transform 60Q

Jenna Cook, OCS, presents school information. First renewal.

Interim head of school presents: Graphics. Shares trends for academic growth. Board Chair: working hard to improve financial standing. Shares strategies including location of school. Staff: continues to discuss school model. Looking ahead: increase academics. Increase enrollment. Engage families and community.

Questions:

- Bruce Friend: 6 current board members.
- Cheryl Turner: Asks about interim HOS and Board chair. Why do you still have him as interim HOS. Chair states there has been a lot of change in board.
- Bruce Friend: Web site only shows 3 board members, and you are not interim. Answer: needs to change.
- John Eldridge: Where are minutes? Answer: Board minutes are there but none since July.
- Cheryl Turner: Not feeling really secure about what's going on at Transform.
- Bruce Friend: Where are you moving? Do parents know? Answer: They do not know.
- Cheryl Turner: Far from original location. Answer: We know we may lose some families.
- Dave Machado: Are you sure you will get a Certificate of Occupancy? Answer: Working with commercial realtor.
- Cheryl Turner: Really need to get someone in there to let you know what you may be missing.
- Dave Machado: BTSP is nonresponsive. Answer: During time of noncompliance there was a quick staff change.
- Hilda Parlér: What is rational for not allowing board members to have children at the school? Answer: Board member says she has kids at the school and didn't know that was in by laws. Used to be with an organization so bylaws may have been missed for review.
- Bruce Friend: Staff turnover. Answer: 30% returned from last year. Certification level 55%.
- Hilda Parlér: What are you doing for recruitment. Answer: More rigorous recruitment process.
- Cheryl Turner: How many classes doing Elevate K:12? Answer: about 8 classes. Cheryl Turner: What's your plan? It's super expensive. Answer: Next year plan to hire.
- Rita Haire: Moving facility to reduce rental cost. Are you in good standing with current landlord? Answer: yes.
- Bruce Friend: Concerns. Staff turnover. Board minutes missing. Noncompliance/non responsiveness. Not aware of new building questions.

Rocky Mount Preparatory 64A

Jenna Cook, OCS, introduces school information.

School representative: Shares school background. 2019 goals. Shares academic results, trends, and instructional strategies for improvement. Shares celebrations: dual enrollment in HS, AVID strategies, academic recovery program, pre:k summer program, 85% staff returned, fully staffed admin team, strategic partners for STEM, restorative practices, parent involvement.

Questions/Discussion:

- Rita Haire: Strategy says dean of culture, instructional coaches already hired? Answer: yes.
- John Eldridge: We've had the opportunity to work with her. Faith and trust in this individual to do good things.
- Rita Haire: Time in this role? Answer: 3 years.
- Dave Machado: Have worked with this school. Strong leader and board. Confident they have a plan.
- Bruce Friend: Visited school years ago. Blended learning still part of school? Answer: No. Use those spaces for classrooms, collaborative spaces.
- Cheryl Turner: Highly invested because I opened it. Really want the school to do well.
- Rita Haire: Board minutes not updated. Answer: Recently updated web site.
- Ashley Baquero: Leader has called often for brainstorming and support.

The Experiential School of Greensboro 41N

Jenna Cook, OCS, presents school information.

Board President introduced the head of school, went over core academic data summary. Shares academic goals. Challenged with teacher shortages, impacts of COVID. Celebrations: 89% of staff are certified, EVASS data did show Reading proficiency was met, student and teacher community are diverse. Requesting a 5:year renewal.

Questions/Discussion:

- John Eldridge: Where is your school located in Greensboro? Answer: Southeast Greensboro near the candy shop.
- John Eldridge: What is the attraction to teacher retention? Answer: Location and Guilford County attracts them with an ad in the newspaper, working with full time staff membership.
- Bruce Friend: Do you have a waiting list? Answer: Small list. Just opened up for lottery.

Paul R. Brown Leadership Academy 09A

Jenna Cook, OCS, presents school information. 3:year or nonrenewal situation. Reviews nonrenewal guidelines.

Superintendent presents: At school since Jan of 2020. Came from Bladen County HS that was low performing and is no longer under his leadership. Wants to discuss how school over last 12 months is not the school of last 10 years. 3 SMART goals. 5 key indicators to move needle. Regular review of performance data which wasn't happening before. Goals/SIT connections. Build better/stronger team.

Questions/Discussion:

- Cheryl Turner: 139 enrollment
- Dave Machado: How many teachers? Answer: 10
- Hilda Parlér: Math I in 10th grade? Answer: Foundations of Math in 9th grade.
- John Eldridge: Something to consider. We did Foundations and Math I in same semester. 2 periods of math content.
- Bruce Friend: Where is your Board Chair? Answer: he's listening online. Bruce Friend: Understand you're new. Does the Board know this is a possible nonrenewal? Answer: yes.

- Cheryl Turner: What drives interventions? Answer: Morning is homework. Afternoon uses iReady.
- Dave Machado: Teacher attendance? Answer: Not a problem this year. Only 10 teachers so when 1 is missing it upsets routine of school.
- Hilda Parlér: What is your substitute list like? Answer: 2. Use staff to cover as well.
- Dave Machado: Where were you? Answer: Took a leap of faith from former high school. Retired from Army but not education. Dave Machado: Some courses being taught by County teachers? Answer: Teacher from county come at end of day to do face to face. During day students use google classroom answers.
- John Eldridge: I like the plan. Appreciate you taking the risk to lead this school.
- Todd Godbey: I've spent time in Bladen County. I'm familiar with the work you've done at the HS. The alternatives for kids are worse.
- Rita Haire: Information on web site is up to date. Disappointing that none of the board is here.
- John Eldridge: I hope board knows what they have and support you.
- Cheryl Turner: This is the 3rd renewal I've seen. Each time it's new leader and they say it will be different but it's not. At some point we have to consider totality. I've heard this story before.
- Dave Machado: When was last school visit? Answer: Ashley Baquero: Last visit was November 2021.
- Cheryl Turner: Can we visit the school? It would be helpful.
- John Eldridge: What might be nice is to have board members there during site visit. Beneficial for them to be there.
- Dave Machado: Suggests available professional development and you're not attending. I appreciate you're local.
- Bart Danielson: If there is any time to have a hard discussion with board members the time is now.

Z.E.C.A. School of Arts and Technology 67B

Jenna Cook, OCS, presents school information. First renewal.

Vice Chair begins. Site visit in May. At that time, we were adding board members. Shares financial report. Operational data and actions shared. Shares Academic Growth. Military town, transient. Started calling us the alternative to the alternative. Shared Cohort growth 4th – 8th grades. Focused on growth. EVAAS data shared.

Questions/Discussion:

- Dave Machado: Awful lot of outside PD. Expensive. Answer: they're charging me but not their full price.
- Bruce Friend: Board meetings on web site. Agenda posted but not minutes and only last 3 months. Answer: Missing because technology person left, and we haven't had time. We do have the recordings if you need them. Bruce Friend: True minutes are from Sept. 2022 and uploaded this afternoon.
- Dave Machado: Are you founding leader? Asks vice chair to speak. Answer: we meet regularly. September, we had board training. Visit the school. Fundraise. Earnest Wright is attorney.

- Bruce Friend: Minutes discusses lower enrollment and says there will be a deficit. What are you doing about that? Answer: Made cuts. Deficit will come out of fund balance. Plan to change marketing program.
- Dave Machado: How active are you in approving nonrenewals and hires. Answer: We receive personnel report and approve.
- Rita Haire: Confirm that you are the Founder, CEO, and Head of School since opening in 2013. Answer: Yes

Dave Machado: Wish everyone a Merry Christmas. Thank team for being here and sense positivity.

Motion to end meeting: Hilda Parlér 3:53PM

Second: Bruce Friend

Unanimously adjourned