

**Minutes of the
North Carolina Charter School Advisory Board
State Board Rm. 755
May 7, 2018
9:00 am**

Attendance/NCCSAB	Alan Hawkes - <i>Absent</i> Joseph Maimone Phyllis Gibbs – <i>Absent</i> Sherry Reeves Cheryl Turner – <i>Absent</i> Lindalyn Kakadelis Lynn Kroeger	Alex Quigley Tammi Sutton - <i>Absent</i> Steven Walker Heather Vuncannon Kevin Wilkinson
Attendance/SBE/DPI	<i>Office of Charter Schools</i> Dave Machado, Director Ashley Baquero, Consultant Danielle Allen, Consultant Keebler Williams, Consultant	<i>SBE</i> <i>Attorney General</i> Tiffany Lucas Deanna Townsend-Smith <i>SBE Attorney</i> Eric Snider

CALL TO ORDER

- The North Carolina Charter School Advisory Board (CSAB) meeting was called to order at 9:01 am by Chairman Alex Quigley who read the Ethics Statement and CSAB Mission Statement. Mr. Quigley led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Mr. Quigley reminded CSAB of conflict of interest policies and stated that he would be abstaining from conversations regarding Healthy Start Academy and Research Triangle Charter.
- Mr. Quigley acknowledged that this is Teacher Appreciation Week and we recognize, acknowledge, and thank all the educators for their hard work.
- **Ms. Sherry Reeves made a motion to approve the April 9, 2018 meeting minutes. Ms. Lindalyn Kakadelis seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

MTSS SUPPORT AND POWERSCHOOL IMPLICATIONS UPDATES

- Dr. Amy Jablonski presented on ECATS – The Every Child Accountability Tracking System. She stated there is an outside vendor working on this – a public consulting group PCG.
- Dr. Jablonski explained there are three components: special education, service documentation, and multi-tiered system of support – all of these modules are free.
- She continued to tell CSAB that ECATS is comprised of three integrated modules. She said end users are teachers, administrators, and deans. ECATS has a direct interface with PowerSchool which means the data will come directly from PowerSchool. We don't want conflicting data sources, so PowerSchool is the authoritative source.
- Dr. Jablonski continued by stating the Special Education module (in March 2016) became part of the what the agency calls the Unified Education Reporting System which is saying all schools must use this. So as kids move from school to school, LEA to LEA, they are tracked and services documented and provided so there are no lapses.
- Dr. Jablonski explained the service documentation portion is optional. She continued to explain details regarding service documentation: This allows service providers to document services performed with students based on the IEP. We are not providing billing functions but schools can bill for services through Medicaid. This comes from an idea of equity by allowing schools a platform to document services so they can then bill for those services.
- Dr. Jablonski explained the multi-tiered system of support (MTSS). MTSS has three components – early warning system (EWS), intervention planning, and analytics. She continued:
 - Early warning system: the purpose is to use different types of data to identify students at risk of having adverse outcomes as early as possible. If we know students are at risk, we can adjust their services. EWS is comprised of different indicators that have a high level of risk of adverse student outcomes. We are doing statewide thresholds so no matter where kids move in NC, their thresholds are understood.
 - In Pre-K to 8th grade the indicators are: attendance, disciplinary incidents, literacy, and math.
 - They are working with PowerSchool to make discipline reporting more user-friendly.
 - In 9th to 12th grade, we're looking at attendance, disciplinary incidents, and academics (GPA, course failures, end of course tests).
- Dr. Jablonski stated that the Early Warning System will look at all this data. She showed an example of a dashboard for teacher use and grade level view for classroom and school level views. The grade level view starts in PowerSchool but you can build groups outside of what comes from PowerSchool. At the grade level view, you can see how a grade level is doing in

attendance, behavior, literacy, and math. A classroom teacher sees how an entire class is doing in each indicator and all her/his individual students. If a student is using intervention planning, it connects here on this platform.

- Dr. Jablonski said that a user can find the data sources on this same platform. She stated there is high level of data security.
- Dr. Jablonski explained that the implementation planning is helping us meet G.S. 115C-105.41(a). She stated we are asking all LEAs to identify their kids at risk of adverse academic outcomes.
- Dr. Jablonski said there are about 109 charter schools involved in MTSS cohorts. Cohort 1 & 2 will receive training in Fall, 3 & 4 Winter 2019, and 5 Spring 2019. She stated that there has been a lot of communication about the roll out. She stated that communication, professional development, and technical assistance/coaching is taking place for users.
- Dr. Jablonski explained that putting this into the Unified Education Reporting System means data will be available for every student in NC. She said this doesn't prescribe what to do, it alerts users to risk indicators.
- Ms. Reeves asked how teachers will access this. Dr. Jablonski said there will be an ECATS button on PowerSchool. Case managers and EC teachers can now have access to this and access is based on which role the person has in relation to the student. Ms. Reeves wondered if a teacher would be able to access data for an IEP student in his/her classroom. Dr. Jablonski demonstrated how to access IEP information using the dashboard. She stated a general education teacher would have a read only access to an IEP for that student. Ms. Reeves stated that is a great way to give access to IEPs without relying on paper trails.
- Dr. Jablonski stated North Carolina is the first state to do this statewide, Pre-K to 12, with state thresholds.
- Mr. Joe Maimone expressed the concern that we're the first state doing this – what safeguards are being implemented for data? Dr. Jablonski said the authoritative source is PowerSchool and putting in one place allows us to make sense of it. She said that DIT, DMG, and legal team have tested and made sure everything is secure. She stated the amount of testing is robust.
- Mr. Quigley wondered where the data is coming from for literacy and math. Dr. Jablonski said it comes from grades, EOG Scores, and any other indicators (vendors) schools are using.

- Mr. Quigley asked what if you don't use PowerSchool for grades. Dr. Jablonski said if it's not in PowerSchool then we can't access the data. She stated she believes final grades must be in PowerSchool.
- Mr. Dave Machado said that's one reason why we asked Dr. Jablonski to come out here today. We should discuss what we should recommend or mandate for charter schools. That's the bigger discussion – how should charter schools use PowerSchool? What, if anything, should we mandate? Mr. Machado stated the more data is in there, the more Dr. Jablonski can support the schools.
- Mr. Quigley says he's not sure charter schools use PowerSchool for grades at all.
- Dr. Jablonski and Mr. Machado said final grades and attendance must be in PowerSchool.
- Mr. Quigley said out of school suspensions must also be in PowerSchool. Mr. Quigley asked what should discipline data be. Dr. Jablonski said we are asking for an office discipline referral. She explained that if a kid goes to the office, they lose about 45 minutes of instructional time. A school will have to choose what exactly that means.
- Mr. Quigley said if he were a school he would have a hard time putting discipline data in PowerSchool because what constitutes a referral can be very different across schools. Dr. Jablonski replied that only administrators can see the office referrals in ECATS. Teachers will see red, green, yellow for triggers but not what the office referrals were specifically.
- Mr. Maimone said it becomes a concern in our litigious society. He thinks it's a slippery road that we have all this discipline data in one source.
- Dr. Jablonski said that it's up to a school what they put in as far as discipline. She said we're not asking for a mandate to put this data in PowerSchool. So a charter school can put what they want and it will be in PowerSchool, which is where the data is coming from.
- Mr. Quigley asked about research – how will this data be shared with someone that wants access to aggregate data? Dr. Jablonski stated we wouldn't be sharing any information. Mr. Quigley asked if everything is pulled from CCAS to ECATS. Mr. Bill Hussey confirmed that yes, everything will be pulled from CCAS to ECATS around June 16th. He stated they are testing that right now and making sure we have ways to clean the data to make sure the data is correct. He said it will most likely come on around July 9th and this coincides with when PowerSchool shuts down every year.

- Mr. Hussey said that we will not be pulling aggregate data for policy or research. Mr. Hussey continued to say that they're driven by federal law on accountability and that this is to help LEAs have data they've never had before. He stated an attorney can come and get the information now through the courts. Mr. Hussey continued that primarily, this is as protected or more protected than any data that is out there now.
- Ms. Kakadelis asked about costs. Dr. Jablonski said anything discussed today is the base use of PowerSchool, which is free. She said users won't have to upgrade PowerSchool. Mr. Hussey confirmed that everything in the base product is free which frees up some money they are currently spending on systems.
- Ms. Kakadelis asked about Pre-K through 2nd grade - what academic data are you putting in since there are no EOGs? Dr. Jablonski said if schools want to use third party data we can pull in, grades and there are assessments you could put in there through an assessment book. Dr. Jablonski stated that the two major factors will be attendance and discipline.
- Ms. Kakadelis asked if there is a parent portal. Dr. Jablonski replied yes. Ms. Kakadelis asked if a parent could see the discipline data. Dr. Jablonski replied no, a parent could request that data from the school. Ms. Kakadelis wondered if parents know this or are they receiving communication about this. Dr. Jablonski stated most schools send home information that day. Ms. Kakadelis shared a story about a first grader drawing a picture of a person shooting a gun. She stated it wasn't until the parent asked to see it, and it took them three weeks to see it. She wants us to be careful about what we put in there regarding discipline and making sure parents have access to discipline data. Dr. Jablonski agreed and said there's no narrative (it's only a list of incidents and consequences), it's just data that we use to determine how much academic time is lost.
- Dr. Jablonski said we've seen in school suspensions rise as out of school suspensions have dropped. Mr. Quigley stated that in school suspensions and out of school suspensions are drastically different. Dr. Jablonski said that the only data that is weighted is the out of school suspension, otherwise it's just a tick mark for office referral.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION UPDATES

RTO (Ready to Open) Enrollment Update

- Dr. Kebbler Williams introduced herself as the primary liaison within the Office of Charter Schools for all charter schools in the Planning Year and going through the Ready of Open Process. Come this August, Dr. Williams will have been directly involved in the opening of 71 charter schools.

- Dr. Williams passed out 2 handouts (April Enrollment Summary and Facility Update) and directed the board to the April Enrollment Summary first:
 - Seven schools currently have enough applications to fill their seats. Six schools are below the 75% enrollment threshold that we expect by June 1st.
 - The next enrollment report is due May 25th along with part 2 of the RTO Progress Report. Starting with the May Enrollment Report, OCS will no longer be asking for the number of applications each school has received, but for the actual number of students each school has enrolled.

- Mr. Maimone asked whether Apprentice Academy High School of NC was one of the dropout prevention schools and that is the reason its application count is so low. Mr. Walker responded that it was not a dropout prevention school, but rather a vocational education school.

- Ms. Reeves asked why the note beside Mountain Island Day Community Charter School says, “Will redraw partial lottery on May 10th.” Dr. Williams explained that they gave enrollment priority to students who should not have received it (33 students total) when they did their original lottery on March 8th. There was some discrepancy in who was considered an actual board member. Any student placed on the waitlist at the March 8th lottery and the 33 students who erroneously received enrollment preference will be included in a lottery redraw on Thursday. Students who won a seat in the March 8th lottery will not be affected by the May 10th redraw. Eric Snider commented that it was not a new process, but more of a continuation of the March 8th lottery.

- Mr. Walker asked what Dr. Williams was asking from the CSAB. Dr. Williams replied that she was asking for a preliminary recommendation of the 14 schools scheduled to open in 2018 to proceed through the Ready to Open Process towards actually opening in the fall.

- Mr. Quigley asked Dr. Williams if she had any concerns about any of the schools. She responded that there were some schools with red flags because of the number of applications they have received so far, but there are always some schools that present that kind of red flag at this time of the year.

- To further respond to Mr. Walker’s question, Mr. Machado said he was looking for a preliminary recommendation on the schools scheduled to open so OCS can bring it to the State Board for discussion in June and action in July.

- **Mr. Walker moved that the CSAB preliminarily recommend these schools to the State Board of Education (SBE) to continue with the Ready to Open Process. Ms. Reeves seconded.**

- Mr. Maimone recommended that schools who have not reached at least 50% of projected enrollment by June 1st should provide a copy of a revised budget to OCS reflecting a closer estimate of student enrollment. Dr. Williams offered a point of clarification by stating that OCS currently requires all of the schools to have enrolled at least 75% of their projected enrollment by June 1. She added that these schools are also required to submit a break-even budget in their Ready to Open Progress Report on May 25th. Dr. Williams asked in light of this information,

how would you like to proceed? Mr. Maimone said as long as we are carefully watching enrollment numbers for those who are below 50% of their projections, this should be fine.

- Ms. Reeves asked if the schools have facilities. Dr. Williams asked the advisory board members to look at her second handout, which was a facility update. She commented that two schools currently have Certificates of Occupancy: Apprentice Academy High School of NC and Next Generation Academy. All of the others have identified sites and are working through the necessary processes to get an Educational Certificate of Occupancy.
- Dr. Williams pointed out that the Office received notification this weekend that Monroe Charter Academy will be asking for a one-year delay.
- Mr. Machado added that The Paideia Academy has notified OCS that they will be relinquishing their charter, but the Office has not yet received the formal request to do so.
- Ms. Reeves asked if Discovery Charter School has received their permits. Dr. Williams responded that Discovery won its latest hearing, but the homeowners have 2 months to file an appeal if they choose to do so.
- Ms. Kakedelis asked why The Paideia Academy is relinquishing its charter. Mr. Machado said the board chair resigned, and no one else on the board had the capacity to continue with opening the school.
- **There being no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.**

Performance Framework Update

- Mr. Machado explained that alternative charter schools have been approved for an alternative accountability model. Mr. Machado continued that we are requesting that on the PF there be an additional section where we can put in results of their accountability model.
- He stated that section D17 is where we can put in results of their alternative accountability model.
- **Mr. Walker moved to add that section to the Performance Framework for alternative accountability schools. Mr. Maimone seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Thomas Academy – Alternative Charter School Consideration

- Mr. Machado stated that Thomas Academy has requested to become an alternative charter school. He stated that they came before the CSAB previously because they were low-performing and CSAB had recommended becoming an alternative charter school.

- **Mr. Walker moved that Thomas Academy be given alternative charter school accountability status. Ms. Reeves seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**
- Ms. Reeves asked if that now makes three alternative schools? Mr. Machado replied yes.

State Board of Education Updates

- Mr. Machado stated that 2018 charter school application recommendations were approved per your recommendations. He continued that the 2018 proposed changes to charter school application, timeline, process, and charter agreement was approved.
- Mr. Machado explained that Lakeside Preparatory's amendment to change its mission was approved. Lakeside was formerly Thunderbird Prep and they are actually seeking another name change as part of rebranding to help its enrollment.
- Mr. Machado stated that Franklin Academy's amendment request to change its mission statement and learning outcomes was approved. He continued that items 3 & 4 were moved to action on first read because they were pretty clear cut.
- Mr. Machado stated that SBE discussed Raleigh Oak's application for enrollment increase and they will vote on that in the next meeting.

Office of Charter School Updates

- Mr. Machado introduced Ashley Baquero and Dr. Danielle Allen to the OCS team.
- Mr. Machado stated several renewal visits were conducted and there are only six schools remaining.
- Mr. Machado explained that risk assessment visits were conducted by Dr. Williams to Aristotle Prep, KIPP Durham, and Charlotte Choice.
- Mr. Machado stated the CSP grant was successfully submitted; fifteen schools applied and they plan on awarding three grants.
- Mr. Machado explained the New leadership Institute is June 12th and 13th.
- Mr. Machado stated that in regards to the transportation grant almost all of the first semester reimbursements have been made. He stated 47 schools applied and 41 qualified, 1.2 million in total disbursements.
- Mr. Machado stated that anyone that hasn't been to HR to fill out I-9 forms, please do that today. Mr. Machado recognized that some reimbursements have been late and we're staying on top of that.

- Mr. Machado explained that Danielle is working on the Virtual Charter School report. He stated the timeline is as follows: September report to CSAB, October take it to SBE with your recommendation, November take to the General Assembly. We are asking that both schools do a live class demonstration.
- Mr. Machado reminded CSAB that the July meeting is in conjunction with the NC Association of Public Charter Schools in Sunset Beach on Monday July 16th. The meeting should be from about 9am to 1pm. He stated there is information in your notebooks about how to book hotel.
- Eric Snider clarified that the legal team has been working to make sure any backlog reimbursements are cleared up.
- Mr. Maimone asked to clarify that for the July meeting CSAB can submit for room and travel. Mr. Machado replied yes.

TOY Announcement

- Teacher of the Year for charter schools is Courtney Samuelson, Capital Encore Academy in Fayetteville.

SECU Scholarship Update

- Mr. Machado stated that three students received awards. He continued that there were thirteen schools that applied and that OCS was disappointed that so few schools applied. He stated that any recommendations on how to engage the community would be appreciated.
- Dr. Deanna Townsend-Smith told the Board that the scholarship recipients and Courtney Samuelson would present at a later meeting.

At 10:15 CSAB took a fifteen minute break.

POLICY COMMITTEE

- Mr. Steven Walker led updates on the following policies:

SHLT-003

- Mr. Walker stated this is a school based mental health initiative.
- He stated that the legislature put this on hold and a group formed by the Superintendent to look at this. The group is meeting and Mr. Walker thinks they should have some good recommendations.
- Mr. Walker recommends not discussing because it is going to change.
- Ms. Kakadelis stated CSAB needs to make sure charter schools are on any list for additional funding such as resource officers or safety.

LICN-001, LICN-002, and LICN-007

- Dr. Townsend-Smith stated that OCS is recommending holding off because we are waiting for final recommendations because a committee has been charged with overhauling licensure policy.
- Mr. Maimone asked if we have anyone in OCS is involved in that and Dr. Townsend-Smith replied we have not been attending those meetings but Mr. Machado has discussed starting to attend those meetings. Mr. Machado stated that they would like have them present to CSAB. Mr. Maimone said we want to make sure we have flexibility with licensure especially give labor market. Ms. Kakadelis said Restart schools would want to keep that flexibility as well. Mr. Steven Walker said we will move on and not make any recommendations at this time.

ATND-000

- Mr. Walker said this is an attendance policy that governs compulsory attendance. He stated the policy is reflective of statute. No discussion.

TRAN-000

- Mr. Walker stated this deals with transportation requirements in an IEP. Mr. Walker said this would apply to charter schools as part of the IEP. Mr. Maimone asked why this is a State Board policy if it's federal law. Ms. Kakadelis asked if the charter school does not provide transportation does it apply. Several people replied, yes. No discussion.

TRAN-006

- Mr. Walker explained this deals with school bus passenger policy and is training within the first five days of school.
- Mr. Walker asked if this currently applies to charter schools. Dr. Townsend-Smith replied this currently doesn't apply to charter schools because the policy specifically says "LEA". Mr. Maimone noted it states "should" document training, not "must". No discussion.

Governance training

- Mr. Walker says the few things we need to work out is discussion about governance training conducted by OCS. Mr. Walker said we talked about it tying into renewal visit or something digital.
- Mr. Machado doesn't want to mandate another requirement for school boards but does think it would be a good idea to provide governance training. He stated it would last about an hour and we have found that a lot of schools are struggling with understanding their bylaws. Mr. Machado would like to see us move toward providing that training. He continued that we aren't talking about dragging boards to Raleigh, we would do in conjunction with renewal or virtually. He stated that OCS would like to be the authoritative source for this training. Mr. Walker thinks it's a

good idea especially with board turnover. Mr. Machado stated we want to make it as effective and efficient as possible. Ms. Kakadelis said it would be a great resource to have it web-based that boards could access at any time.

Renewal policy

- Mr. Walker explained there were two technical changes in the renewal policy. He directed the board to pg. 7 and stated we clarified that composite means grade level proficiency. He also stated that we changed the wording from “framework” to “general renewal guideline” so that people didn’t think you had to exactly fall into one of the boxes.
- Mr. Walker said he was confused with seven year and five year because they look the same. Mr. Walker said they are exactly the same. He stated seven year was to exceed two out of three but to get the five year it was met or exceed two of the three. So to get the seven, you needed to exceed two years if you weren’t comparable all three. But to get the five year, you needed to meet or exceed.
- Mr. Maimone would rather the focus be on proficiency, not growth. Mr. Walker says what about we have two schools that met or exceeded growth two out of three years, they qualify for five and seven and there is no distinction. Mr. Walker doesn’t understand why we have to change seven from what it was and the way it is now would qualify them for the ten year under the statute.
- Mr. Quigley said the five is a pretty achievable threshold even for a low performing school. Dr. Townsend-Smith said we will need some very clear pieces so we know what to take forward. She stated we need to get the language very clear.
- Mr. Walker proposed doing seven as two out of three years comparability or two out of three years met or exceeded growth. Mr. Quigley wondered if we should just not touch the seven year. Mr. Walker proposed making seven year comparable two out of three years and met or exceeded growth two out of three years. Mr. Walker stated then we make the five year comparable two out of three years or met or exceeded growth two out of three years. Mr. Walker stated seven would go back to previous way it was under guidelines/framework. Mr. Quigley and Mr. Walker thinks that the “met” has to come out of the seven year language.
- Ms. Kroeger wanted to know how this came about. Mr. Walker said we were giving some five year charters even though there wasn’t anything there so we decided we wanted some guidelines. Mr. Kroeger asked what was the difference between the five and seven year recipients. Mr. Walker stated five years were meeting but not exceeding growth and they were operationally and financially sound.
- **Mr. Walker moved that for seven-year renewal the guidelines read:**
 - No significance compliance issues last two years
 - Financially sound audits last two years

- Academic outcomes have been comparable to the LEA for the last 2 out of 3 years OR has exceeded growth 2 out of 3 years
- **Mr. Walker continued that for the five-year renewal the guidelines read:**
 - No significance compliance issues last two years
 - Financially sound audits last two years
 - Academic outcomes have been comparable to the LEA for the last 2 out of 3 years OR has met or exceeded growth 2 out of 3 years
 - And not currently designated as continually low-performing
- **Mr. Maimone seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
- Mr. Walker reminded the board that these are guidelines. Dr. Townsend-Smith said you have language that CSAB could make an alternative recommendation not included in the general guidelines.
- **Mr. Walker moved that SBE adopt renewal policy as amended by CSAB. Ms. Kakadelis seconded. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.**
- **Mr. Quigley moved that we amend agenda to move into previously scheduled 2:15pm Performance Committee business. Mr. Maimone seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE UPDATES

- Mr. Maimone led the performance committee review of SBE policies.

TEST-002

- Mr. Maimone explained TEST-002 is on page 18 on the document – defining the role of the test coordinator. He stated we all have testing accountability coordinators that we're required to have. The word charter is not in there, but we have to do it.
- **Ms. Reeves said we don't want charters included in this specific policy.**
- Ms. Kakadelis asked if we need to give reasons for our recommendations. Dr. Townsend-Smith said that Mr. Machado and Mr. Quigley need to be able to clearly articulate CSAB's recommendation. Ms. Kakadelis foresees the SBE making charters part of this policy so we need to outline our reasons.
- Mr. Maimone stated our recommendation should be that our staff's are lean and we have to be able to delegate and wear many hats. Ms. Reeves said charters use counselors for test coordinators. She prefers to be referred to as student support person because she has many roles. Ms. Kakadelis wonders if we are opening a pandora's box with this discussion.

- Dr. Townsend-Smith reminded the Board that we decided to go through these policies to give recommendations to SBE because several discussions happened at the SBE about what policies apply to charter schools and which policies do not apply to charter schools. Dr. Townsend-Smith stated we were charged with determining what policies apply to charter schools and which policies do not apply to charter schools. She explained we then took the further step that we bring it to CSAB to get a final recommendation based on our body of evidence. CSAB gets their recommendation in a really good place, have your reasons, and then staff in OCS can work on the recommendations prior to going to the SBE.
- **Ms. Kakadelis wants us to have really good reasons prior to going to SBE. She further states that the default should be this doesn't apply to charter schools.**

TEST-003

- Mr. Maimone thinks charters should be allowed to administer alternative tests. In regards to the policy there isn't much to change here because it applies to charter schools.
- Ms. Kakadelis asked how many charter schools use an alternative test because the EOG does not give them the information they need. Mr. Maimone said there are a lot of schools, traditional and charter, that use alternative assessments.
- **CSAB recommendation is leave as is.**

GRAD-004

- Mr. Maimone explained these are minimum requirements for graduation and most schools probably go beyond these.
- Ms. Kakadelis asked if there is a minimum grade point average. Mr. Walker said it is zero because you could use credit recovery and not get a grade point average.
- **CSAB recommendation is leave as is.**

KNEC-002

- Mr. Maimone stated he wants CSAB to be very careful with this one because right now we have some flexibility with K-2 assessments. Mr. Maimone doesn't want it mandated to do only certain types of assessments, only M class for example.
- Ms. Reeves stated this doesn't include charters, although we all do this.
- Mr. Maimone states the SBE might want to know why we shouldn't be included.
- Mr. Quigley stated we definitely need to bring it up because if we don't we risk them making the decisions for us.

- Ms. Reeves stated that for this policy, our argument would be that we do participate in these assessments but we have the flexibility to use alternative assessments instead of state provided.
- Mr. Maimone wonders if we know the full policy outlines in the longer version.
- Mr. Maimone doesn't want charters specifically mentioned but we need to have a good reason. Mr. Maimone asked if sensitivity to staffing requirements could be a good reason. Dr. Townsend-Smith said that should apply and the pieces of statute that deal with flexibility and innovation. Ms. Kakadelis agreed and stated that we can't be innovative if we have no flexibility. Dr. Townsend-Smith continued that when you make a recommendation to SBE on an application, it fully outlines the assessments a school will make at each grade level. Mr. Maimone added that we are being assessed on accountability – if we don't do the job, we get shut down.

KNEC-016

- Ms. Reeves stated this also deals with K-2 assessments. Ms. Kakadelis is concerned with the kindergarten entry assessment because it is very time intensive. She thinks charters should have the flexibility not to use it. She also has concerns about the way they are collecting data because you can take videos and recordings and it's all online.
- **CSAB recommendation is to leave as is, maintain flexibility.**

EXCP-000

- Ms. Reeves and Ms. Kakadelis wondered why we are considering this because it is just a manual and it's all federal. Dr. Townsend-Smith explained this is something the SBE wants people to know as a requirement.
- **CSAB recommendation is to leave as is.**

KNEC-004

- Mr. Maimone explained this is about local alternative reading portfolios. He stated this is all about flexibility and not including charter schools.
- Mr. Quigley wondered if we can still do portfolios. Dr. Townsend-Smith and Mr. Maimone responded yes.
- **CSAB recommendation is to leave as is, maintain flexibility.**

Management and Support Organizations

- Mr. Walker said these looked great. Mr. Walker would like to reformat the definitions of CMO and EMO so they match stylistically. He believes rules could handle that.
- Mr. Walker had a concern with the word "operate." Mr. Walker wondered if a CMO or EMO could operate a school or could only a nonprofit board operate a school? Mr. Snider thinks the Rules Committee could consider that question on May 24th.

- **Mr. Walker moves that we recommend this policy to the SBE. Ms. Reeves seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Fast Track Replication Policy

- Mr. Walker stated this looked good. Mr. Maimone said that previous corrections have been made.
- Mr. Maimone asked how many fast track applications have met facility difficulties. Dr. Townsend-Smith stated that we've only had one application – Cardinal West – and they have met some difficulty. Mr. Maimone said this is a reminder to the legislature that facilities are becoming a greater burden especially in this busy construction market.
- **Mr. Walker moved that we recommend this policy to the SBE. Ms. Reeves seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Additional discussion

- Ms. Kakadelis relayed a story from a parent about NC Pre-K: “As a past NC-PreK parent, I can tell you their flat out discouragement for school choice. They push your district school. Both of my children received a packet towards the end of pre-K with the info of their zoned school, the enrollment forms and school physical form. When I specified that I didn't need it because my child was already enrolled to start at a charter school it was not only discouraged but bashed. They of course pushed the obvious transportation and lunch concern. However after telling the director that I was confident in my decision, I received a call from a woman at the main office. Again the goal was to discourage me from sending my child but also from recommending it to other families in our class particularly Latinos. I was told the goal of charters was to segregate schools. My sons good buddy at the time was grouped as an "ESL" student because his parents first language was Spanish. He however only spoke English. His parents were made to believe that there was no place in a charter school for and I quote, ‘a child like that’.”
- Ms. Kakadelis asked if there were any other thoughts. Mr. Quigley said Head Start in Durham has been helpful but takes a lot of relationship building. Ms. Kakadelis asked if the CSAB should recommend that NC Pre-K give information to parents about opportunity scholarships and charter school options in the area. Mr. Walker thinks that sounds reasonable.
- Mr. Kevin Wilkinson suggested seeing Erica Berry, the Superintendent's senior policy advisor. She's in Lindsey Wakeley's old office and Mr. Wilkinson said he would give her a heads up.
- Mr. Machado said that he could reach out to NC Pre-K.

RESOLUTION

- At 11:35am Chairman Quigley read a resolution honoring Dr. Deanna Townsend-Smith. The Resolution is copied and incorporated into the minutes below. **Ms. Reeves made a motion. Mr. Maimone seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

SCHOOL PRESENTATION – EAST WAKE ACADEMY

- Stephen Gay, Ed.S. and Dr. Lisa Hervey, NBCT gave a presentation on East Wake Academy's performance.
- Mr. Gay explained that the majority of their students come from Wake County but they have students from five counties. East Wake Academy students come from all different socio-economic statuses. Currently they have over 1,000 students on their waiting list.
- Mr. Gay stated that out of 82 classroom teachers, 80 are certified in NC and East Wake currently has a total of 109 employees.
- Mr. Gay explained that they have a 92% college acceptance rate and over \$3 million of aid granted.
- Dr. Hervey explained that she works with teachers and that the school uses their data to drive instruction. Students receive personalized tutorials through core support based on data. She explained that she created a voluntary cohort of teachers that trained and then redelivered what they learned around blended learning. She stated they've seen a huge increase of technology use among classes.
- Dr. Hervey continued to explain that she offers monthly Voice & Choice PD options. The staff gets to vote on what they learn about that month. Dr. Hervey also uses virtual options and micro-credentials/badging to help support the teaching staff.
- Dr. Hervey explained that East Wake will support teachers in the new core rollout as well, including retreats.
- Mr. Gay explained that East Wake is a big supporter of MTSS. East Wake looks back at data to determine how they need to improve. He explained that East Wake looks at problems using the data and determines how to fix any issues. He stated that we must provide students the opportunity to excel and that's what we're working towards.
- Mr. Gay said that mental health awareness is an area East Wake needs to improve. East Wake is working in small groups to determine how to provide resources to students.

- Ms. Reeves asked if personalized support includes all students or just students that need intervention? Dr. Hervey stated all students take part, but not all students are receiving intervention.
- Ms. Reeves asked how personalized support was scheduled. Mr. Gay and Dr. Hervey explained that teachers arranged the schedule to make sure there was a smart block time period. Mr. Gay explained they used iReady for screening up to 8th grade, but they are also using Kansas City Literacy Program.
- Mr. Maimone asked if they keep extracurriculars and clubs away from that block. Mr. Gay said yes, most clubs meet afterschool. There is intervention four days a week and advisory one day a week on Friday. Mr. Maimone asked about keeping kids engaged the entire time. Mr. Gay said they are encountering that as a problem in high school.
- Mr. Gay and Dr. Hervey stated that May 18th East Wake will celebrate their 20th anniversary with a party for families and supporters.

CLOSED SESSION

- **At 1:30pm Mr. Walker moved to go into confidential closed session with counsel. Mr. Maimone seconded that request. Motion carried unanimously.**
- **At 1:48pm Mr. Maimone moved to go back into open session. Mr. Walker seconded that motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

RTCA AMENDMENT REQUEST

- Mr. Machado explained RTCA's amendment request to transfer charter to another nonprofit entity. He gave the following details:
 - Healthy Start Education, Inc. holds charters for both Healthy Start Academy and Research Triangle Charter Academy.
 - RTCA, Inc. is a newly incorporated (2/22/18) NC nonprofit.
 - RTCA, Inc. wants to assume the charter for Research Triangle Charter Academy. Healthy Start Education, Inc. would retain charter for Healthy Start Academy.
 - The board of directors of Healthy Start Academy and Research Triangle Charter Academy believe that having separate non-profit corporations hold the charters for Healthy Start Academy and Research Triangle Charter Academy will result in

administrative efficiencies, and will ensure that the governance, accounting, and operations of each of these schools remain distinct.

- The management and operations of Research Triangle Charter Academy will continue in the same manner once this transfer is approved.
- The board of directors of RTCA, Inc. is comprised of members of the current board that manages both schools. RTCA, Inc. has initially appointed three board members and will appoint additional board members prior to assumption of the charter. Elizabeth Morey will continue to chair the boards of both entities.
- All contracts related to Research Triangle Charter Academy will be assigned from Healthy Start Education, Inc. to RTCA, Inc. This includes Research Triangle Charter Academy's management contract with National Heritage Academies, Inc. which has managed the school since 1999.
- Mr. Machado explained we've received all the required documentation and recommend approval and will take it to SBE for their June meeting. He stated they'd like for it to be an action on first read.
- Mr. Walker notes for the record that Chairman Quigley has recused himself from this discussion and left the room.
- Mr. Maimone asked about the reasoning. Mr. Machado stated they feel it would be more efficient if they have two distinct boards.
- Liz Morey is the board chair and stated this is also part of the renewal for Healthy Start Academy. She stated they would like to split into two separate entities, governing each school separately. She stated that because we have one school using a management company, and another that isn't, it means she has to find board members willing to meet 16 times per year and that's very hard to do because each school is so different. She stated that eventually down the road each school would have their own governing board. She stated she has agreed to stay on for RTCA because they are currently going through their renewal process.
- Ms. Reeves asked which one came first. Ms. Morey stated that Healthy Start came first. She further explained that it was okay at first, but now that there is a requirement to meet eight times per year per school. She stated that previously they did board meetings every other month for each school, so they met 12 times per year.

- **Ms. Kakadelis moves to recommend to the SBE that this amendment be approved. Ms. Reeves seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Quigley abstained from the voting.**

CALENDAR UPDATES

- Dr. Townsend-Smith explained there will be two major items at the June 11th meeting – school decisions as discussed and final recommendations on RTO schools.
- Dr. Townsend-Smith said we could also have another school presentation and it should only last until 2pm. Mr. Walker is hesitant to have a school present when we don't know how many issues we're discussing. Mr. Quigley stated we shouldn't even ask a school at that time of year because there is too much going on. CSAB agreed it's too busy of a time of year to have another school present.
- Dr. Townsend-Smith wonders if June is a good time but we may have to have the information summarized so you see all the prior recommendations of the policies you reviewed and the information Mr. Quigley will use to present to the SBE.
- Dr. Townsend-Smith stated schools would appear for RTO via webinar.

ADJOURNMENT

- **Mr. Walker made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:00pm. Ms. Reeves seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned via acclamation.**

NORTH CAROLINA CHARTER SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD

Resolution Honoring

Deanna Townsend-Smith

For Outstanding Service to the Office of Charter Schools and Charter School Advisory Board

March 2013 – April 2018

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Charter School Advisory Board takes pride in the extraordinary qualities and dedication of the citizens who have served public education through service to the Office of Charter Schools and the Charter School Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Deanna Townsend-Smith has reflected these qualities in an exceptional manner during her service to the Office of Charter Schools and Charter School Advisory Board as Consultant and Assistant Executive Director; and

WHEREAS, Deanna Townsend-Smith's commitment to North Carolina's Constitutional promise that "the people have a right to the privilege of education and it is the duty of the State to guard and maintain that right," is evidenced through her work to make quality public school options available to the children of North Carolina;

WHEREAS, the Charter School Advisory Board is grateful for her dedication to ensuring all Members are supported and prepared for the complex issues before them;

WHEREAS, the Office of Charter Schools and Charter School Advisory Board recognize Deanna Townsend Smith's friendly demeanor and good nature reflecting her genuine heart and consideration for those around her;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT:

RESOLVED, that the Charter School Advisory Board expresses its highest praise and heartfelt appreciation to Dr. Deanna Townsend-Smith for her tireless and unselfish service and dedication; and

RESOLVED, that the Board wishes Godspeed to Deanna Townsend-Smith as she continues her dedicated service to children, families, and educators of North Carolina through her new role;

RESOLVED, that the Board directs the Secretary of the Charter School Advisory Board to enter a copy of this resolution into the official minutes of the Charter School Advisory Board, and that an appropriately signed copy be presented to Deanna Townsend-Smith, who served with dedication and grace.

Alex Quigley, Chairman
Charter Schools Advisory Board
May 7, 2018

