

**Minutes of the
North Carolina Charter School Advisory Board
Education Building
301 N. Wilmington Street
Raleigh, NC 27601-2825
July 17, 2015**

Attendance/NCCSAB	Alan Hawkes Joseph Maimone Phyllis Gibbs Hilda Parler Sherry Reeves Mike McLaughlin	Alex Quigley Eric Sanchez Tammi Sutton Becky Taylor Cheryl Turner (absent) Steven Walker
Attendance/SBE/DPI	Office of Charter Schools Adam Levinson, Interim Director Lisa Swinson, Consultant Kebbler Williams, Consultant Shannon Sellers, Consultant	SBE Martez Hill

CALL TO ORDER

The North Carolina Charter School Advisory Board (CSAB) meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by the Chair, Mr. Alex Quigley. He read the Ethics Statement and recited the CSAB Mission Statement.

Mrs. Lisa Swinson conducted a roll call to capture CSAB member attendance for the conference call.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Quigley summarized that Cape Fear Preparatory Academy and Pine Springs Preparatory Academy originally partnered with an Educational Management Organization (EMO), Newpoint Education Partners, in their initial application. The State Board of Education required the Board of Directors for each of the proposed schools to appear before the CSAB at its June 16, 2015 meeting to address allegations presented to the department regarding the EMO, Newpoint Education Partners. Before the June 16 meeting occurred, the board of directors for each of the proposed schools decided to sever ties with the EMO. At the June 16 CSAB meeting, the CSAB board chair established a process to allow the proposed applicant groups to revise their applications to assist the CSAB with making an appropriate recommendation to the SBE. The June CSAB meeting minutes outline the concerns regarding the EMO.

- Mr. Walker stated the CSAB was in agreement that both boards could run their respective schools successfully without Newpoint Education Partners. He summarized that the boards successfully explained how they would handle everything without the EMO. Mr. Walker added that Cape Fear Preparatory Academy and Pine Springs Preparatory Academy were originally approved by the CSAB based on the strength of their respective boards. He finished by saying that the boards are solid and ready to move forward.
- **Mr. Walker made a motion to accept the recommendation of the committee to recommend to the SBE that Cape Fear Preparatory Academy move to Ready to Open Status. Mr. Maimone seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**
- **Mr. Walker made a motion to accept the recommendation of the committee to recommend to the SBE that Pine Springs Preparatory Academy move to Ready to Open Status. Mr. Maimone seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

HALIWA-SAPONI ACADEMIC UPDATE

Mr. Quigley indicated at the December 2014 CSAB meeting, Haliwa-Saponi Tribal School was asked to provide academic data to the CSAB at its July 2015 meeting. The CSAB would not make any recommendations regarding the school. The school would be back before the CSAB later in the year for their charter renewal. Mr. Quigley acknowledged the school also submitted an academic update with the materials provided to the CSAB.

- Ms. Hilda Parler declared that page twelve provided the school's academic update and indicated they had "good success". Ms. Parler wanted clarification of the school's definition of "good success". Mr. Quigley indicated the school would provide an explanation during the renewal interview.
- Ms. Shannon Sellers provided a summary of her work with Haliwa-Saponi Tribal School. Beginning in August 2014, she visited the school on a monthly basis. The school had a new administrator who was aware of the school's struggling academics. The unofficial academic results show the school grew between 4-5 percent and they may make growth. Haliwa-Saponi Tribal School was working diligently to become compliant with requirements for services for Exceptional Children.
- Mr. Walker commented that the data had increased but the results still were not good. Mr. Maimone added they needed to show astronomical growth and he was concerned with Haliwa-Saponi Tribal School's results.
- Ms. Sellers added the school planned to make staffing changes based on the testing data.

- Mr. Quigley asked when Haliwa-Saponi Tribal School's charter would expire. Ms. Swinson explained the charter would end June 2016. Mr. Maimone suggested the school be told to have targeted, specific steps to address the academic needs.
- **Discussion only; the CSAB made no motions.**

RTO UPDATE

Mr. Quigley recapped a discussion that occurred during the June 16, 2015 CSAB meeting in which the CSAB expressed that enrollment and facility issues were the ones most likely to be barriers to a successful school opening. To ensure the CSAB was apprised of any enrollment and facility issues, Dr. Kebbler Williams provided a brief enrollment and facility report to the CSAB.

- Ms. Reeves inquired about Stewart Creek Charter High School's low enrollment numbers. Mr. Walker explained Stewart Creek Charter High School was a drop-out prevention school and the school received referrals from the Local Education Agency (LEA); therefore, a valid picture of enrollment could not be determined until several months after school had started. Enrollment ramping up over the course of the school year is part of the Accelerated Learning Solutions (ALS) model.
- Mr. Hawkes added that Commonwealth Charter High School (currently in operation) followed the same model and that the local LEA (Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools) referred students. Commonwealth Charter High School reached and exceeded projected enrollment numbers in 2014-15.
- Mr. McLaughlin indicated he was concerned that VERITAS did not have a facility.
- Mr. Quigley informed the CSAB that he had asked Dr. Williams to provide them with actual enrollment numbers once the 2015 schools opened.
- **Discussion only; the CSAB made no motions.**

Mr. Walker made a motion to approve the June minutes. Ms. Becky Taylor seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Quigley reminded the CSAB of the dates of the upcoming meetings. Each meeting would begin with committee meetings at 9:00 am and the full CSAB meeting would convene at 10:00 am. The following dates were tentatively scheduled for meetings:

- August 2015 – no meeting
- September 8, 2015
- October 12, 2015 - on hold in case there was a need for a CSAB meeting
- November 16-17, 2015
- December 7-8, 2015

Mr. Maimone asked that the mission statement and 6 points of why charter schools exist be added to each agenda to remind everyone that charter schools are not carbon copies. He also suggested student groups join each meeting.

- **Discussion only; the CSAB made no motions.**

Mr. Walker made motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:43 am. Ms. Parler seconded. The meeting adjourned.