

**Minutes of the
North Carolina Charter School Advisory Board
Education Building
301 N. Wilmington Street
Raleigh, NC 27601-2825
August 19, 2015**

Attendance/NCCSAB	Alan Hawkes Joseph Maimone Phyllis Gibbs Sherry Reeves Mike McLaughlin Hilda Parlèr	Alex Quigley Eric Sanchez (absent) Tammi Sutton (absent) Becky Taylor Cheryl Turner (absent) Steven Walker
Attendance/SBE/DPI	<i>Office of Charter Schools</i> Adam Levinson, Interim Director Lisa Swinson, Consultant Deanna Townsend-Smith, Consultant Kebbler Williams, Consultant Kristin Jones, Administrative Assistant	<i>Attorney General's Office</i> Laura Crumpler <i>DPI</i> Philip Price Alexis Schauss <i>SBE</i> 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. The Ethics Statement and CSAB Mission Statement were read.

Mr. Alex Quigley conducted a roll call to determine a quorum for the CSAB members.

Mr. Joseph Maimone made a motion to approve the July meeting minutes. Mr. Steven Walker seconded. **The motion carried unanimously.**

READY TO OPEN REPORT UPDATE

The Charter Schools Advisory Board (CSAB) reviewed and discussed the RTO update report provided by Dr. Kebbler Williams. Dr. Williams informed the Board that Winterville Academy and Charlotte Lab had received their Certificates of Occupancy (CO), and that Queen City STEM had received a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy for furniture only. Mr. Quigley informed the CSAB that they would be receiving a final RTO Report in October which would include actual enrollment numbers.

- In response to a question from Mr. Maimone, Ms. Alexis Schauss provided an explanation of the differences between the mechanism for charter school funding and local school district funding. She explained that the current State Board policy funds charter schools based on the average daily membership (ADM) for the first 20 days of school. School districts are funded on a projected number based on the prior year's numbers, and then there may be adjustments that occur in months two or three depending upon the variance between the actual ADM and the initially funded ADM.

DISCUSSION OF ATTENDANCE POLICY FOR PILOT VIRTUAL CHARTER SCHOOLS

Mr. Quigley explained that the CSAB was asked to make a recommendation regarding the attendance policy for the virtual charter schools. Ms. Schauss summarized the rationale behind the attendance policy for virtual public schools. The State Student Accounting Manual requires that students physically attend school and that the school record students' daily attendance. The virtual school pilots are different in that there is no physical site where students must be present, and there may or may not be specific times when students are expected to be engaged in school activities. The State attendance policy therefore needs to be amended to reflect the different nature of the virtual schools. The proposed new policy for pilot virtual charter schools only removes the requirement to record attendance as all brick and mortar schools do in PowerSchool; the pilot virtual charters must still track student activity, as defined in their charters, and must use PowerSchool for all other required student and school accounting purposes.

- In response to question about funding, Mr. Philip Price explained that the pilot virtual charters are funded at the school districts' average state based allotments excluding local wealth supplemental funding and small county funding. The pilot virtual schools are funded differently for each student, depending on where the student resides. The schools also receive \$790 in local funding per student. Based on each of their charters, the virtual schools have information about course completion. It is going to vary significantly by grade.
- Mr. Levinson stated the virtual schools had provided input on the policy and they would have flexibility to define attendance based on the information in their charters. Students are required to be scheduled by course and there will be some method to ensure that students are actively participating.
- Ms. Laura Crumpler commented that the policy is about funding and had nothing to do with due process procedures. It is the same with local school districts.
- Ms. Schauss noted that each charter had a section in their charter in which they explain how attendance would be taken. Both of the schools have a method of monitoring activity and attendance of their students. NCVPS uses a similar system.

Mr. Hawkes made a motion to recommend that the State Board adopt the virtual charter school attendance policy. Ms. Hilda Parler seconded. The motion carried by a count of 7-1, with Mr. Maimone voting no because he felt the policy was being rushed, and with Mr. Walker noting that he was voting yes "reluctantly."

DISCUSSION OF FUNDING POLICY FOR DROPOUT PREVENTION CHARTER SCHOOLS

Ms. Schauss indicated that there was currently one school, Commonwealth, approved through a legislated pilot to have funding based upon the fifth month average daily membership. The nature of the drop-out prevention programs is that they are bringing in students that are not successful in their traditional schools earlier in the school year. The first month's ADM at the charter therefore, does not reflect most of the students they are

serving. This policy would be added to the allotment policy manual and it would provide for any school that was identified as a drop-out prevention program and approved by the SBE to be funded based on the 5th month ADM.

Steven Walker made a motion to recommend that the State Board adopt the policy subject to various technical corrections (remove the comma after charter schools, change the word “which” to “that” and remove the comma on the second line between “twelve” and “may”). Ms. Reeves seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF POLICY TO FUND CHARTERS UNDER A CONTINUING RESOLUTION

Ms. Schauss stated that the purpose of the policy was to provide charter schools with funding in the event that there is no approved State budget by August 31, 2015. The policy would fund charters based on 2014-15 State average allotment for new charter schools and high growth charter schools. Additionally, allotments would be based on 2014-15 exceptional children (EC) April 1, 2015 headcount and provide 34% of that amount. There would not be any supplemental funding based on students with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) in the initial allotment. This funding in the event of another continuing resolution would be a temporary policy because the budget process is different every year.

Ms. Reeves made a motion to recommend that the State Board adopt the policy to fund charters under a continuing resolution. Mr. Walker seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Quigley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:17 am. Mr. Walker seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.