

**Minutes of the
North Carolina Charter School Advisory Board
Education Building
301 N. Wilmington Street
Raleigh, NC 27601-2825
August 9, 2016**

Attendance/NCCSAB	Alan Hawkes Joseph Maimone Phyllis Gibbs Sherry Reeves Mike McLaughlin – <i>Absent</i> Cheryl Turner Hilda Parlér	Alex Quigley Eric Sanchez Tammi Sutton Becky Taylor Tony Helton Steven Walker
Attendance/SBE/DPI	<i>Office of Charter Schools</i> Dave Machado, Director Deanna Townsend-Smith, Consultant Lisa Swinson, Consultant Cande Honeycutt, Consultant Shaunda Cooper, Consultant Kebbler Williams, Consultant	<i>SBE</i> Martez Hill <i>Attorney General</i> Laura Crumpler

CALL TO ORDER

The North Carolina Charter School Advisory Board (CSAB) meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by Chairman Alex Quigley, who then led the Pledge of Allegiance and read the Ethics Statement and CSAB Mission Statement.

Ms. Hilda Parlér made a motion to approve the June 2016 CSAB minutes as amended. Mr. Tony Helton seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Cheryl Turner recused herself from the discussion related to the CSAB resolution to the State Board of Education (SBE).

SCHOOL UPDATES

Rocky Mount Preparatory

- Mr. Todd Pipkin, principal, stated that since he was hired the focus had been on improving the school. He explained that improving the staff morale, upgrading the facility and choosing different curricula were some specific improvements.

- Dr. Chaunte Garrett, Chief Academic Officer, explained that the school received its preliminary proficiency data. The administration staff had begun to look at the curriculum and had chosen programs that were aligned with the State standards. Changes, which are reflected in the Academic Plan, were made to the curriculum.
- Mr. Quigley suggested the school rewrite their goals so that they were measurable or SMART (Specific, Measureable, Attainable, Realistic and Time Bound). He further suggested that they choose 3-4 specific goals and focus on those so that the administration could provide specific reports to the board.
- **Mr. Walker made a motion to accept Rocky Mount Preparatory revised strategic plan. Ms. Parlér seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

Northeast Academy of Aerospace and Advance Technologies (NEAAAT)

- Ms. Shaunda Cooper stated that NEAAAT was seeking an amendment to their charter because they no longer had a partnership with New Schools.
- Mr. Andrew Harris, principal, explained that New Schools provided instructional and leadership coaching to the school. However, several staff members were former employees of the school and could continue providing the services once offered by New Schools. The mission and location of the school would not change.
- **Mr. Walker made a motion to accept the amendment request to remove New Schools from the NEAAAT application. Mr. Helton seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

Fast Track Replication

- Dr. Townsend-Smith explained that House Bill 224 provided direction on what the SBE must do to amend its replication policy regarding Fast Track. Changes were made on April 20, 2016 but now date certain needed to be added to the policy. OCS is recommending that the CSAB add a date and approve the report due to Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee (JLEOC). This would be effective for the next application round.
- Mr. Quigley suggested that the applications be submitted by May and approved by July. He added that the CSAB should be able to accept a PDF application rather than require applicants to use the online portal. Dr. Townsend-Smith replied that decision would be made by the CSAB.
- **Mr. Walker made a motion that the Fast Track TCS-U-016 policy be amended by adding another line to the new subsection (e) with the title “Time of Decision” with subsection (1) which states that the SBE will make a decision on whether to grant a charter through fast track replication no later than October 15 of the year proceeding the opening of the school. Ms. Gibbs seconded.** Dr. Townsend-Smith explained that there were currently 2 applicants who were requesting fast track replication. Mr. Quigley requested that these applicants be reviewed early. **The motion carried unanimously.**

- **Mr. Walker made a motion to amend the previous motion to add, “This applies for the 2018-19 applicants and subsequent years.” Mr. Helton seconded. The motion carried unanimously.** Mr. Walker confirmed that the report to JLEOC included the SBE Fast Track policy changes. Dr. Townsend-Smith confirmed.
- Mr. Helton asked if boards could have an advisory board if the school they were replicating were a distance away from each other. Ms. Crumpler replied that the law was clear that the school is governed by the board and it was permissible for them to have an advisory board. It is important that parents and community members have access to the board.
- Mr. Hawkes reminded the CSAB of Triangle Math and Science (Cary) and Triad Math and Science (Greensboro) who have representation from both communities and they rotate the location of the board meetings.

2016 Application Update

- Dr. Deanna Townsend-Smith explained that the application timeline is located on the OCS website. The official release date of the application was June 16, 2016. A training was held on July 14, 2016 and approximately 85 people were in attendance. Currently, there are 38 applicants who are working in the online system. Of the 38 applicants, 2 are replications, 1 is a conversion from private to charter, 2 are partnering with an Education Management Organization (EMO) and 7 are working with the assistance of a third party.

August SBE Update

- During the August SBE meeting, Commonwealth and Twin City Charter Schools requested to be funded based on their fifth month ADM. The SBE discussed and approval is slated for the SBE September meeting.
- The Interscholastic Athletic Policy passed with a compromise that LEAs and charters could allow 6th graders to participate in all sports except football.
- Matthews Charter request to be temporarily located in Union County while their facility is being completed was approved.
- The amendment request for 4 CSUSA schools to amend their EMO agreement was rescinded by their school board. The schools will continue to work with CSUSA but will not be amending their EMO agreement at this time. OCS will continue to work with the board to gather more information.
- Mr. Quigley gave an overview of the charter application recommendations given to the SBE. He explained that during his presentation he used information from the CSAB monthly minutes. The SBE handled the recommendations differently than it had in the past. Mr. Walker stated that none of the school closures that had occurred were approved by this CSAB. He further added that the CSAB had a pattern of inviting schools who needed assistance.

- Mr. Lee Teague, Executive Director of the North Carolina Public Charter Schools Association, voiced concerns that he and the association had with the SBE breaking precedent from how they had approved charter applications in the past. He recommended that the CSAB figure out why the SBE did not use their recommendations and that they find a way for the schools to have another opportunity to be heard.
- **Mr. Walker read excerpts from a Resolution of the NC CSAB. He made a motion that the CSAB adopt the resolution. Mr. Helton seconded.** He explained that people may not understand the experts that are on the CSAB and the resolution recommends that they carefully consider the applications and give the applicants another chance. Mr. Hawkes asked if OCS went against the CSAB's recommendations and if the recommendations from Ms. Taylor had been skewed by her personal opinions. Mr. Machado replied that OCS provided information, not opinions. Ms. Gibbs asked if the SBE gave any explanation of why they suddenly set a new policy. Mr. Quigley stated that they didn't change anything but they made a decision that was different from the past. Ms. Crumpler stated that this was not the first time that the SBE had not honored the recommendations of the advisory board. The record needs to reflect that this was not a change in policy. Mr. Helton explained that SBE is within their legal limits to approve from zero to an infinite number of applications. He suggested that the SBE have a discussion with CSAB regarding the applications not approved. **The motion carried 10-0 with Ms. Turner recusing from this vote/discussion.**

Ready to Open (RTO) Update

- Dr. Kebbler Williams provided an update regarding schools that were completing the RTO process. She explained that the schools were either on track to receiving their COs or had already received it.
- As of August 1, Central Wake had enrolled 24 of its 200 students. Ignite Innovation, Iredell and Kannapolis surpassed their break even numbers but had not reached their projected enrollment.
- OCS was currently reviewing resubmitted items. 3 schools have made substantial progress since the May 27 submission. The other 7 schools were still under review. The EC department reviewed 6 of the 11 and all 6 of them are at least at an emerging level. The EC department will monitor closely with an onsite visit in the spring.
- Mr. Walker stated that the letter that schools receive after they request a delay explains that the charter will be null and void if the CO is not received by July 1. Dr. Williams replied it was privilege for the SBE to delay them a year. Mr. Helton replied he did not agree with "privilege."
- Mr. Walker suggested that if a CO is not received by July 1, that the boards come before the CSAB instead. Mr. Machado replied that there was an issue in the past with a school that continued to be delayed. He agreed that the letter needed to be revised.
- **Mr. Walker made a motion to recommend that the SBE amend its stipulation to state that if a school delays for a year the charter is not null and void and the board is required to**

come before the CSAB to explain why the CO is not available. Ms. Parlér seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

- Mr. Quigley stated that the September meeting could be a conference call and the October meeting would be face-to-face.
- **Mr. Walker made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:16 am. Ms. Parlér seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**