

**Minutes of the
North Carolina Charter School Advisory Board
Education Building
301 N. Wilmington Street
Raleigh, NC 27601-2825
September 8, 2015**

Attendance/NCCSAB	Alan Hawkes Joseph Maimone Phyllis Gibbs Sherry Reeves Mike McLaughlin Hilda Parlèr	Alex Quigley Eric Sanchez 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, Lead Consultant Kebbler Williams, Consultant Cande Honeycutt, Consultant	<i>Attorney General's Office</i> Laura Crumpler <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. Eric Sanchez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Steven Walker made a motion to approve the August meeting minutes. Ms. Reeves seconded. Ms. Hilda Parlèr submitted amendments prior to the meeting and Ms. Sherry Reeves noted additional amendments. **The motion carried unanimously.**

NOMINATION OF VICE-CHAIR

Mr. Quigley indicated that the CSAB By-Laws state that a vice-chair shall be elected annually for a one-year term. **Ms. Reeves made a motion to nominate Mr. Walker.** There were no additional nominations and Mr. Walker accepted. Ms. Becky Taylor seconded. **The motion carried unanimously.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Quigley explained that prior to the meeting the committee chairs created agenda topics that would be discussed throughout the year. In previous years, committee work ceased while the CSAB reviewed applications. He stressed the importance of the committees working throughout the year.

Policy Committee

Mr. Walker stated the Policy Committee would be looking at six issues related to House Bill 334:

- Section 9 (b) of House Bill 334 mandates that the CSAB study and make recommendations on a process for allocating allotments for schools which increase enrollment pursuant to G.S. 115C-218.105. He added there were additional issues that would need to be discussed including allotment issues for schools in their first year, funding equity between charters and traditional public schools, and financial compliance for charter schools.
- Some of the major issues for charters surrounds facilities, funding for adequate facilities, and the need for data regarding facilities. The committee would need to create a policy to require the collection of data on facilities to assist the CSAB in adequately evaluating applications in the context of proposed facilities. Mr. Maimone commented, there had been multiple instances in which the local LEAs had sudden uses for facilities when charters had expressed interest. He further stated that the local funding is not equitable and causes a major financial strain on charter schools; the money should follow the child.
- A policy for weighted lotteries that align with the mission of the school is needed. The committee would discuss issues related to schools seeking to reach economically disadvantaged students.
- The committee will review the statutory duties of the Office of Charter Schools and explore the need for policies to assist them in carrying out those duties.
- By January 15, 2016, the CSAB shall adopt a policy on the submitting of certain proposed rules and other guidance related to charter schools for review by the Advisory Board to provide recommendations to the SBE on covered matters. The committee will write a policy for this mandate.
- The current policy regarding the SBE's inadequacy policy needs to be revised to align with the statute. This will be the first year that schools can be found inadequate for the sixty percent, no growth rule using the new scores. The statute has been amended in the years following SBE Policy TCS-U-10 which requires the mandatory initiation of revocation against a charter deemed inadequate.

Mr. Walker stated the plan of the committee was to work via email leading up to the meeting, so that topics would be discussed one month and voted on during the following month.

Performance Committee

Mr. Maimone indicated that the Performance Committee would be discussing the following six issues:

- The application process and procedures will be reviewed. The committee would like to ensure a map is included in the initial review, external evaluators are present throughout the review process, and interviews are conducted in April instead of May.
- There are currently three policies related to applications. The committee would like to consolidate the current three Twenty-First Century Student (TCS-U) policies: TCS-U-12, TCS-U-13, TCS-U-16.
- There will be a review of the Ready to Open Process to ensure updates are provided to the CSAB throughout the planning year and up to the opening of the school. The timeline, delivery methods and training sessions will be reviewed. Regular updates regarding school facilities and enrollment need to be given to the CSAB six months prior to opening so that there are no surprises down the road.
- Some charters have a \$50,000 bond or reserve that had to be in place for closure procedures. Clarity on this policy is needed before the CSAB could make recommendations to the SBE. Ms. Crumpler added it had been a hurdle in the past to determine what the money would be used for.

- The current Performance Framework had several items that were not based on law. The committee will make recommendations for changes. In response to a question about the purpose of the Performance Framework, Dr. Deanna Townsend-Smith indicated that the Performance Framework was in the SBE strategic plan. Mr. Maimone asked about the appropriateness of the Performance Framework seeing that it is not policy. Ms. Crumpler replied the SBE had adopted it and hence it was applicable. Mr. Martez Hill added that the Office of State Budget and Management directed the SBE to adopt a strategic goal related to charter schools.
- The committee would be defining substantial compliance. This is important looking at renewals and non-renewals. The clearer it is laid out for our schools in the renewal process, the smoother the process will go.

WILLOW OAK MONTESSORI SCHOOL HIGHLIGHT

Mr. Quigley explained the importance of the CSAB hearing from schools that have had a strong opening, kept aligned to their mission, and were being managed well. Following up on Mr. Maimone's recommendation of bringing students to the CSAB meetings, representatives from charter schools would be invited to the monthly meetings to highlight positive things that are happening in charter schools. Representatives from Willow Oak Montessori School presented the following information regarding the success of their school:

- Mr. Pete Rubinas, Head of School, stated all board meetings start with stating the mission and the agreed upon community values that guide the school. The board of directors is engaged and the mission permeates the school's culture. Great people are hired and they are protected from administrative burdens so they can focus on children and follow a proven educational philosophy. The school started small, which allowed them to pay attention to the details, and they received generous support from their stakeholders.
- Mr. Camilo Garcia-Brobston, a 5th grader, shared that it was not just about learning. It is also about life, mindfulness, leadership and students get to learn on their own level. The teaching staff is friendly and they help the students grow academically.
- Ms. Meneca Davis, the director of curriculum/instruction and lead teacher in upper education elaborated on three points: freedom, support, and preparation. These areas have allowed her to walk into the classroom everyday to meet the unique and individual needs of all her students.
- Mr. Rubinas suggested advocating for facilities, funding for charters, lottery flexibility to reach diversity goals, and for those of us who follow a on-linear curriculum when the new accountability model being piloted is discussed.

APPLICATION UPDATES

Dr. Townsend-Smith provided a charter school application update. She explained there had been two face-to face trainings with approximately 100 participants. Participants took the opportunity to ask questions and they expressed gratitude in knowing the cycle had not changed. There were currently 75 active groups working in the system. September 25, 2015 is the deadline for applications to be submitted.

CHARTER SCHOOL PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

Ms. Cande Honeycutt provided an overview of the charter school accountability information for 2014-15. She also provided information regarding the State Board of Education (SBE) Policy regarding Revocation of Charters

for Lack of Academic Performance, Twenty-First Century Systems-10 (TCS-U-010). The policy states that the SBE may terminate, not renew, or seek applicants to assume a charter through a competitive bid process if the school demonstrates no growth in student performance and has annual performance composites below sixty percent in any two years in a three-year period. Specific accountability information presented and discussed was as follows:

- The median charter schools Performance Composite for Grade Level Proficiency (GLP) was 50.8%.
- 69.9% of charter schools exceeded or met growth.
- The median charter school Performance Composite for College and Career Readiness was 30.9%.
- With regards to those schools meeting TCS-U-10 criteria to be defined as inadequately performing, Northeast Carolina Preparatory and Oxford Preparatory were under five years old and therefore would be required to write a strategic plan. Rocky Mount Prep and Phoenix Academy were both in operation greater than five years; therefore, the SBE would be making a decision about whether to revoke or assume their charters, according to the current policy.
- Mr. Walker requested information regarding the grades that the LEAs received. Mr. Quigley requested academic data regarding the schools on the academic watch list: free and reduced lunch information and a comparison for how the schools performed compared to the local school district. In addition, information is needed on the schools' free and reduced lunch reports or data and how it compared to the district.
- Mr. Walker suggested that academic decisions be based on A-F scores.

STRATEGIC CALENDAR AND LONG-TERM PLANNING

Mr. Quigley stated committee meetings would be held one or both days of the CSAB meetings. "New Business" would be taken off the agenda so that there would not be new items added during the meeting. If there are items that need to be added to the agenda, members should reach out to the chair during the week. This would ensure that all members would be prepared to discuss all topics. The agenda that we come to the meeting with will be set. Mr. Quigley asked for items for next month's agenda. No items were suggested. **Mr. Walker made a motion to adjourn at 12:20. Ms. Parlèr seconded.**