

**Minutes of the
North Carolina Charter School Advisory Board
Archdale Building
512 N Salisbury Street
Raleigh, NC 27604
September 5, 2017**

Attendance/NCCSAB	Alan Hawkes Joseph Maimone - <i>via WebEx audio</i> Phyllis Gibbs Sherry Reeves Cheryl Turner Lindalyn Kakedelis Lynn Kroeger	Alex Quigley Tammi Sutton Tony Helton - <i>absent</i> Steven Walker Kevin Wilkinson
Attendance/SBE/DPI	<i>Office of Charter Schools</i> Dave Machado, Director Deanna Townsend-Smith, Assistant Director Shaunda Cooper, Education Consultant Stephenie Clark, Education Consultant Craig Tucker, Education Consultant	<i>SBE</i> <i>Attorney General</i> Laura Crumpler <i>SBE Attorney</i> Katie Cornetto

CALL TO ORDER

- The North Carolina Charter School Advisory Board (CSAB) meeting was called to order at 9:05 am by Chairman Alex Quigley who read the Ethics Statement and CSAB Mission Statement. Mr. Quigley led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- **Mr. Steven Walker made a motion to approve the August 2017 CSAB meeting minutes. Ms. Lynn Kroeger seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

MEETING UPDATES/POLICY OVERVIEW

- Dr. Townsend-Smith, Assistant Director, Office of Charter Schools (OCS), led the discussion by providing an overview of CHTR-016 Fast Track Replication of High Quality Charter Schools. Currently, only one proposed applicant group fits this category, Cardinal Charter School. They are seeking approval of another K-12 campus in Chatham County.
- She reminded the board of the State Board of Education (SBE) policies and General Statutes that govern the application process. Dr. Townsend-Smith specifically reviewed, CHTR-13 Policy

regarding the Planning year for charter schools. While the policy was adjusted by this board in the last fiscal year, the main qualifier is that applicants must have a facility secured.

- Additionally, Dr. Townsend-Smith referenced G.S.115-218.2 which allows applicants an opportunity to correct applications. Within five business days of receipt from the Office of Charter Schools the proposed applicant must submit any missing information.
- The CSAB was reminded that all application recommendations needed to be submitted to the SBE by its May meeting to allow the SBE to act by its June meeting. Additionally, anything that needed to be sent back to the CSAB for further consideration would be sent back at the SBE June meeting with final recommendations being made by the statutory August 15th date.
- Dr. Townsend-Smith informed the board of the “special requests” within the application process (replication, acceleration and fast track). These applicant groups would receive a priority review and any applicant not meeting the requirement would be folded into the regular 2017 application round.
- Also, Dr. Townsend-Smith discussed the major parts of the application process. CSAB committees will be divided into two groups; Policy and Performance. She reminded the board that it committed to rating each major section of the application and while comments from committee members are appreciated, only a pass/fail rating is required from all CSAB members.
- Preliminary review of applicants working in the system indicates there may be 1 Fast Track application and a few acceleration requests from repeat applicants. The CSAB will need to begin its review of Fast Track Applicant proposals at its October meeting because statute changed. The Specific change per HB 800 outlines that final decisions for Fast Track applicants must be completed within 120 days from the submission date. The applications for this 2017 round are due September 22, 2017.
- **No further action was taken following this discussion/presentation.**

STATE EMPLOYEES’ CREDIT UNION (SECU) SCHOLARSHIP RECIPEINT PRESENTATION

- Mr. Craig Tucker, Consultant, Office of Charter Schools, introduced Recipients of the SECU scholarship for the 2016-2017 school year. Following his introduction, the SECU Scholarship recipients provided a brief presentation to the CSAB members.
- Ms. Alyssa Hopson, recipient from Gaston College Preparatory currently attends UNC-Chapel Hill. She communicated that Gaston Preparatory supported her educational goals whereas the

traditional public school system did not. The scholarship has helped her realize her dream of college. Ms. Turner asked how the charter school experience differed from the public school. Ms. Hopson replied that the Gaston College Preparatory provided increased flexibility/opportunities for hands on learning.

- Ms. Juhitha Chinthapatla, Raleigh Charter High School SECU scholarship recipient, communicated that the charter school provided her with a competitive advantage. She was pleased with the active role that service played for the school community. Ms. Chinthapatla discussed that Raleigh Charter fostered altruism and fostered giving back. Raleigh Charter was not just about the grades, but a more in-depth learning environment. She was challenged to apply theories learned in class to real life issues. Ms. Chinthapatla is currently attending UNC-Chapel Hill.
- Mr. Joshua Wynn, Bear Grass Charter School, was unable to attend the CSAB meeting due to conflicts with his class schedule. He also attends UNC-Chapel Hill.

SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS

Envisions Science Academy

- Dr. Charles Fuller, principal, Mrs. Monica Cutno, Board Chair and Ms. Portia Scott, Co-founder of Envision Science Academy of Wake Forrest, NC presented information to the board and discussed winning the STEAMy School of the Year award.
- Ms. Cutno provided a general overview of the school prior to divulging specifics about the award. Specifically, Envisions' board raised an 11.7 million dollar bond to construct its new facility. She outlined that the board was proud of its diverse staff and student population diversity.
- The school was presented STEM School of the year after a nomination by Junior Achievement. The STEAMy award is a regional award within the Research Triangle Area. Envision is the 2016-17 award winner for the STEAMy award. They are making strides to qualify to become a NC model STEM school. Ms. Cutno reported that Envisions opened in 2014 and has done much in a short time. They partner with model schools such as Raleigh Charter STEM high school and others with the STEM designation.

Cardinal Charter School

- Dr. Becky Draper, Mr. Allen Taylor along with other representatives of Cardinal Charter Academy presented to the board reasons for its expansion request. Cardinal Charter School is presently a K-8 school located in Wake County, Cary, NC off of Harrison Blvd.
- The expansion site would lie on the border of Wake and Chatham Counties and become part of an inter-local agreement between both municipalities. The request for a K-12 designation makes the growth financially viable.
- The board had much discussion of what was actually being asked for them to decide. Additionally, questions were raised about precedent and if there were historical reference to allow such request under replication.
- Ms. Crumpler with the Attorney General's office outlined some historical context and why this should be considered replication. Mr. Walker questioned the need to file the request for expansion given the school's original charter application. Ms. Turner communicated she did not think it wise to go down the road of expansion with this request, but instead the group should submit a Fast Track application due to the nature of the request and the timelines faced by Cardinal Charter.
- **Mr. Maimone made a motion to approve Cardinal Charter's request for expansion with Mr. Hawks seconding the motion. The vote passed 5 to 4 to approve the expansion. Ms. Turner, Mr. Quigley, Ms. Sutton, and Ms. Reeves dissented.**
- Further discussion was held following the vote outlining the pros and cons of sending this expansion request to the SBE. **Following the discussion Mr. Walker moved to reconsider the vote approving the expansion request. Ms. Gibbs seconded. The motion passed 9 to 2 not reconsider. Mr. Maimone and Mr. Hawks dissented.**
- The CSAB outlined the statute regarding LEA designations, and new application policies were the reasons for its decision. Cardinal Charter ultimately rescinded their request to expand and communicated they would submit a Fast Track application. The CSAB agreed with this plan and communicated that the SBE would approve the request by using the Fast Track Replication policy outlined in statute and SBE policy. Additionally, the CSAB thought approval of this request could be achieved by the November 2017 date as requested to help Cardinal prevent any significant deposits and development expenses being lost.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION UPDATES

- The CSAB received updates on past and pending State Board of Education (SBE) items along with updates on SBE policies. Mr. Dave Machado, Director, Office of Charter Schools (OCS) led the discussion.
- Mr. Machado outlined past travel to schools in the prior month and the training opportunities OCS had conducted since the last meeting.
- Following the presentation, special recognition was given to Ms. Laura Crumpler and Ms. Katie Cornetto as their last day with their respective agencies will be September 15, 2017.
- **No further action was taken following this discussion/presentation.**

POLICY COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

- The Policy Committee discussion was led by Mr. Steven Walker who presented to the full CSAB needed changes to CHTR – 000 (Enrollment Increases in Charter Schools Policy) and CHTR-016 (Fast Track Replication of High Quality Charter Schools). He communicated that the changes required were resulting from HB 800.
- **Mr. Walker made a motion to recommend to the SBE approval of the changes to CHTR-000 and ChTR-016 to comply with HB 800. Ms. Turner seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**
- Mr. Walker also presented information on the 2017-18 Charter Schools Transportation Pilot Program. Several board members asked clarifying questions following the discussion such as would the grant cover the cost of driver salaries and purchasing buses. Mr. Machado communicated that these expenses were not currently covered under the grant's scope. Mr. Quigley outlined that maybe OCS could work with the agency Legislative Liaison to include these expenses in the allowable expenses.
- **Ms. Turner ultimately made a motion to recommend approval of the Transportation Grant Process and Application. Mr. Walker seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

OCTOBER 9TH AND 10TH CSAB PLANNING

- At the direction of Chair Quigley, Dr. Townsend-Smith began outlined the proposed schedule for the October CSAB meeting. For the month of October, the CSAB will have a one day meeting, October 9, 2017. While the agenda may change prior to the meeting, the plan is to discuss, school performance, low performing schools, Fast Track applications and Renewals. The

November meeting will be a two day meeting since we will begin reviewing more applications. The November meeting is scheduled for the 6th and 7th.

- **No further action was taken following this discussion/presentation.**

RENEWAL UPDATES

- The CSAB received updates on renewal school for 2018 and 2019. Ms. Shaunda Cooper, Consultant, Office of Charter Schools led the discussion.
- Ms. Cooper discussed the 11 schools up for renewal for 2018. NCDPI/OCS will evaluate information on the respective schools regarding their Financial, Governance, Operational and Academic performance. There will be 37 renewals for 2019. OCS will be looking into policy and speaking with school administration regarding the virtual schools. There are two in North Carolina.
- Ms. Cooper outlined each school that would be eligible for renewal in 2018 and 2019 along with communicating the specific requirement that schools must request renewal. She also provided that all schools had submitted their request to renew by the requested due date and time except for Heritage Collegiate Charter School.
- Mr. Hawks outlined that the school had stipulations and the CSAB should act to revoke the charter immediately. Mr. Quigley communicated that the CSAB would see the school in October once Accountability results were more official and wanted information on other late submissions from the school. Ms. Cooper responded that OCS received information that the school had not submitted information for a required response to the Exceptional Children's' Division. Mr. Kevin Allen provided specific about what was required and when the report was due to the agency. The report was due in June and Heritage Collegiate had not yet submitted the information. Ms. Turner responded that it would be better to act in October once the Accountability results were revealed and then the CSAB would have all needed information to inform its decision regarding Heritage Collegiate.
- **No further action was taken following this discussion/presentation.**

PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

- The Performance Committee discussion was led by Mr. Joe Maimone who introduced Ms. Stephenie Clark to provide an overview of the State Board of Education policy review. The Performance Committee would lead with this work to ultimately determine policies that pertain

to charter schools and those that do not pertain. He outlined he will work with OCS to fully determine the review and any next steps later in the week.

- Ms. Clark outlined how the original document was constructed and discussed the developed crosswalk of the 93 page document which broke the policies down into categories. Specifically, the document outlines from a general perspective which policies pertain to Charter schools and those that do not pertain or may only apply in certain situations.
- **This item will return to the agenda at the October meeting. No further action was taken following this discussion/presentation.**

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

- **Mr. Walker made a motion to adjourn the September 5th meeting. Ms. Sutton seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:20 pm.**