

**Minutes of the
North Carolina Charter School Advisory Board
Education Building
301 N. Wilmington Street
Raleigh, NC 27601-2825
October 13, 2016**

Attendance/NCCSAB	Alan Hawkes- <i>Absent</i> Joseph Maimone Phyllis Gibbs- <i>Absent</i> Sherry Reeves Mike McLaughlin Cheryl Turner- <i>via conference call</i> Hilda Parlér	Alex Quigley Eric Sanchez Tammi Sutton – <i>Absent</i> Becky Taylor – <i>Absent</i> Tony Helton Steven Walker
Attendance/SBE/DPI	<i>Office of Charter Schools</i> Dave Machado, Director Deanna Townsend-Smith, Lead Consultant Cande Honeycutt, Consultant Shaunda Cooper, Consultant Kebbler Williams, Consultant	<i>SBE</i> Martez Hill <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 9:07 am by Chairman Alex Quigley who read the Ethics Statement and CSAB Mission Statement. Ms. Sherry Reeves led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Sherry Reeves recused herself from any discussion or voting regarding the renewal process with Arapahoe Charter School. Mr. Alex Quigley recused himself from any discussion or voting with Maureen Joy Charter School.

Mr. Steven Walker made a motion to approve the September 12, 2016 CSAB meeting minutes as amended. Ms. Sherry Reeves seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ACCOUNTABILITY UPDATE

- Dr. Tammy Howard, Director, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) Accountability, provided detailed information to CSAB about two data corrections that were made during the 2015-16 accountability data correction period. These adjustments were made during the quality control window. Charter Schools and their districts have the opportunity to

review accountability data before it is released to the public and submitted to the State Board of Education (SBE), to know what data that will be presented and to have those who are familiar users of the system to check for any error in calculations.

- Dr. Howard addressed one error related to a data business rule with respect to reporting and not calculations. Calculations on school performance grade did not change, the cell-masking rule was changed. The cell-masking rule is intended to make sure accountability reports are presented without disclosing the identity of any students. Dr. Howard explained that for many years, accountability has used “the rule of five;” if a cell had fewer than five students, and asterisk would be placed in that cell. After discussion and much review, for the 2015-2016 year, it was decided to change the number from five to ten students. This was done to further ensure that student privacy was maintained throughout the reporting.
- Dr. Howard explained that during the programming process for the 2015-16 school year reports, the rule of ten was not applied and was mistakenly replaced with the rule of five. When that was caught, the five had to change to ten, which was the intention at the beginning of the reporting. Within the revision process, three school were impacted, with a change in their performance grade; two schools went up, and one went down. Dr. Howard stressed that when a grade goes down, the school is contacted directly to have the change in grade explained to them in detail.
- Mr. Joseph Maimone asked for clarification on the amount of schools that saw their grade go up and some that went down. Dr. Howard explained that what he was referring to had to do with calculations with SAS and what she had just explained was related to the change of five to ten during the programming, which changed the data reporting.
- Dr. John White, Director, SAS, provided a detailed explanation to the CSAB regarding the second correction made during the quality control window.
- Dr. White explained that growth measures are calculated in each subject and grade and the error occurred while calculating those growth measures. Dr. White further explained that in order to get an overall growth composite, all measures have to be combined. In order to do that, all math and reading measures and grade level assessments, grades 3-8 for example, are combined to get an overall math and reading measure. First combined is a model based on consecutive grade given test. Next, other grade given, end of course test measures are combined to get an overall nonconsecutive grade give test measure. The last step is to take the consecutive and nonconsecutive grade give tests and combine them for an overall school accountability growth composite.
- Dr. White explained that the error occurred during the last step, where the math and reading composite was given slightly more weight than it should have been given, which effected every school’s composite if they had given both consecutive and nonconsecutive grade given test to their students. That particular weighting changed overall school accountability growth composite slightly. Schools that fell on boundary points were impacted. With those changes, six schools went up, and six went down.

- Dr. White explained that this type of error, in combination with math and reading and nonconsecutive measure, always make a school look better or worse; based on if overall math and reading looked better than overall nonconsecutive grade given assessment measures. For example, if math and reading looked higher than a nonconsecutive grade given test composite, then the overall measure would be worse, because math and reading was given too much weight. If math and reading was lower, then their overall would look better.
- Dr. White assured CSAB that once this issue became known during the quality control window, NCDPI was notified immediately and new information was sent with the corrections for all the schools in North Carolina. Dr. White further explained in the future, SAS will implement new processes to make sure necessary checks are done before any information is sent to NCDPI.
- Mr. Maimone asked for further clarification on how the math and reading calculations occurred that led to the increase in weight given to the composite and how the schools were affected by the change. Dr. White explained how the calculation were done and how the error occurred. Mr. Maimone expressed his concerns about CSAB being tasked with judging if a school remains open or closed based on growth and proficiency formulas that may not be calculated properly and consistently. Dr. Howard stressed the importance of the “quality window” and how it helps for errors to be found and how accountability has to remain ethical in correcting any errors that are present.
- No action was taken following this presentation.

ANNUAL ETHICS PRESENTATION

- Ms. Katie Cornetto, Attorney, NCDPI, provided CSAB with important information regarding ethical practices for board members.
- Ms. Cornetto explained that the State Board of Education (SBE) has two polices that regulate CSAB’s conduct for board members: (1) Board members are not to use their position on the board for their own personal financial gain or financial gain to family members; (2) CSAB members are bipartisan and are not to have their own legislative positions, or engage in political discussions without going through SBE.
- Ms. Cornetto explained that the consequence of not adhering to the conflicts of interest policy that SBE has passed can result in suspension or removal from the board.
- Mr. Cornetto stressed that the standards of conduct include not soliciting anything of value from those who do business with NCDPI or local boards of education, with minor exceptions.
- Ms. Cornetto informed the CSAB that statute places particular responsibilities on the members and that the advisory board is the only board in the state subject to the state ethics act. Members of the CSAB have an annual responsibility to file a statement of economic interest by April 15 of every year. Failure to do so can result in a fine and potential removal from the board.

- Ms. Cornetto further explained that every two years, an ethics education training must be completed by each board member, either in-person, or online on the commission's website.
- CSAB members were given contact information for the state ethics commission employee who could address any questions board members may have regarding ethics education and how to fill out the necessary forms.
- No action was taken following this presentation.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION UPDATES

Performance Framework

- Ms. Cande Honeycutt, Education Consultant, Office of Charter Schools (OCS), presented to CSAB the annual charter school revised report for the performance framework as requested in the September meeting. Ms. Honeycutt explained that the goals and measures used in the framework were based on accountability data, financial requirements, and statute policy and charter agreement.
- The CSAB communicated the information provided in the report as acceptable and indicated that this is how the Performance Framework data should be presented to the SBE moving forward.
- No action was taken following this presentation.

Thunderbird Preparatory

- Dr. Deanna Townsend-Smith, Lead Education Consultant, OCS, informed CSAB that Thunderbird Preparatory Academy (TPA) minutes were posted on Eboard, as requested at the previous meeting.
- Ms. Reeves expressed concern that TPA held a board meeting without a quorum. Dr. Townsend-Smith confirmed that the TPA board meeting minutes reflected that no action was taken and the meeting had no matters that were voted on during their September meeting.
- Mr. Alex Quigley, Board Chair, confirmed that Thunderbird Prep will be coming to November's CSAB meeting to present any financial updates and questions and concerns could be addressed at that time.
- No action was taken following this presentation.

State Board of Education Updates

- Mr. Dave Machado, Director, OCS provided an update on items being presented at the November's SBE meeting. He outlined that amendment requests are being presented for both Ignite Innovation and KIPP-Charlotte. Pine Springs has requested a revision to the previous SBE stipulations of their one year delay request. The revised annual performance framework report will also be discussed.

APPLICATION UPDATE

Update on application submissions and the interview protocol

- Dr. Townsend-Smith, provided general updates on the charter school application process for 2016 and a detailed explanation of the responsibilities for OCS and CSAB during the application process.
- Dr. Townsend-Smith spoke about the technical issues during the application process, which led to SBE approving an extended deadline. The NCDPI Technology Department confirmed with OCS that the technical issues that arose during the application process were related to the application being used on an outdated APEX platform. The APEX platform is used with various processes within the agency. The North Carolina Identity Management (NCID) made changes to user certificates based on new system updates. The new certificate updates were difficult to integrate into the old APEX platform causing difficulties with applicants accessing the online application system. Dr. Townsend-Smith informed CSAB that the NCDPI Apex platform will be updated by the end of November 2016 which should eradicate such technical issues with the online application system.
- Dr. Townsend-Smith proposed recommendations to streamline the application process. Additionally, she outlined OCS responsibilities of receiving applications and fees, screening applications for missing information, notifying applicants of application receipt, providing training for external evaluators, and providing CSAB with review updates, and notifying CSAB of any special request (accelerations, conversion, and replication).
- Dr. Townsend-Smith further explained that once the applications have been evaluated, the applications will be released to CSAB for review and interviews. Before each interview begins, a general overview will be given of each application. Each committee within CSAB will then have the responsibility for rating pass/fail for each major section of the application. Once CSAB notifies OCS of its decision, OCS will notify applicants of next steps.
- Dr. Townsend-Smith reminded CSAB that the applicants will no longer provide written clarification on items identified by external evaluators as “needing clarification.” Per the CSAB previous recommendation, the applicant groups will appear before the CSAB, for a clarification opportunity, so the CSAB can ask limited questions. External evaluators received training on providing feedback in the application rubric.
- Dr. Townsend-Smith explained the vision for the application review process is to divide the room in half, instead of splitting into two rooms. While committee A is having their discussion; committee B will be able to listen, but not participate in the review process as committees decide on who will move to the next stage in the application process. The full CSAB will then vote on each respective committee recommendations.
- Mr. Maimone suggested that two rooms should be use to expedite the interview process; Dr. Townsend-Smith explained the reason for having the discussions occur in front of both committees is to eliminate any conflicts the applicants may have from one committee not hearing their discussion and to expedite the CSAB interview recommendations. This will also be helpful when applicants move to interview and helps CSAB on their approval/denial decisions.

- Mr. Eric Sanchez questioned if there was any room to facilitate the evaluators or staff to ask questions of the applicants. OCS agreed to have members of the OCS staff who have reviewed each application to be present during the clarification period.
- Dr. Townsend-Smith outlined that there are currently 38 applicants. All applicants have been notified of their successful application submission and receipt of the \$1000 fee. Seventeen of 38 applicants submitted incomplete applications. Fourteen of the 17 applicants responded to the incomplete components of their applications within the five days outlined in statute. The three applicants that did not respond to their incomplete components will be given the opportunity to explain their lack of response once the review process starts.
- Dr. Townsend- Smith informed CSAB of repeat applicants inclusive of applicants resubmitting applications under new names.
- Mr. Walker made four recommendations to provide clarification to the SBE on CSAB application recommendations
 - 1) All Charter Applicants that receive a majority vote if the CSAB are reported with a motion from the state board to approve to vote yes or no;
 - 2) Any Charter that has 75% approval recommendation of the CSAB will be placed on the consent agenda;
 - 3) Any charter school applicant with a preliminary denial from SBE that had a CSAB majority recommendation for approval must return to CSAB for review before final denial vote is given on second reading by the SBE; and
 - 4) The state board must review charter applications with CSAB majority approval within sixty days of the CSAB recommendation to facilitate a rolling approval process.
- Mr. Maimone requested that CSAB vote on the recommendation at November's CSAB meeting.
- **Mr. Maimone made a motion that if SBE denies a charter that was approved by CSAB that it is sent back to CSAB for review and further explanation.**
- Mr. Helton questioned if SBE will be asked to revisit their vote after they received further information from CSAB. Mr. Quigley clarified by stating it will be CSAB decision on whether a recommendation is sent back to SBE.
- Ms. Reeves questioned how Mr. Maimone's motion give CSAB any power over what has been decided by SBE. After further discussion with the board, **Mr. Maimone withdrew his motion.**
- **No further action was taken.**

PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

CSAB Recommendations on which schools to interview in November

- Ms. Shaunda Cooper, Education Consultant, OCS, presented to CSAB, the 32 schools that are currently up for the 2017 renewal cycle. CSAB discussed and made recommendations on which schools will be interviewed in November. Recommendations are based on the ability to provide financial sound audits, schools academic performance for the past three years as compared to the LEA in which it resides, and the school's compliance with state and federal laws.
- Mr. Walker provided one change in the proposed renewal framework to comply with House Bill 242. At end of assuming non-renewal box; continual low performance graded D or F in a growth score of "met expected growth or not met expected growth" should be not only "not met expected growth with immediately preceding three years," because there is continually low performing is a D or F 2 out of 3 years meeting growth or not meeting growth; only if you exceed growth do you bump out of that. As it relates to renewals, it says school will not be renewed solely for its low performing status if it has met growth in the last three years; not met growth in the last three years to be in that status. He clarified that the renewal framework is a guide for the CSAB; schools may not fit in a certain box and the CSAB has discretion with using its adopted renewal framework.

Arapahoe Charter

- **Sherry Reeves recused herself from any discussion or voting regarding Arapahoe Charter School.**
- Based on the renewal framework, the school falls within a seven year renewal qualification. In 2014, the school did not meet growth. In 2015, the school exceeded growth, and in 2016, the school met growth.
- **Mr. Maimone made a motion to recommend Arapahoe for a 10 year renewal pending a financial review. Mr. Tony Helton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

Bridges Academy

- Based on the renewal framework, the school falls within seven year renewal qualification. The school did not meet growth in 2015, but met growth in 2014 and 2016.
- **Mr. Walker made a motion to recommend Bridges Academy for a 10 year renewal pending a financial review. Ms. Hilda Parlèr seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**
- Mr. Quigley commended Bridges Academy on their performance and the continued improvement with their Exceptional Children education program.

Carter G. Woodson

- Based on the renewal framework, the school falls within a three year renewal qualification. The school had a deficit by 30.6% in 2014, 27.6% in 2015 and 24.8% in 2016. The school met growth in 2014-15 and exceeded growth in 2016.
- **Mr. Quigley made a motion to bring the school in for an interview by CSAB. Mr. Walker seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

Casa Esperanza Montessori

- Based on the renewal framework, the school falls within ten year renewal qualification.
- **Mr. Walker made a motion to recommend Casa Esperanza for a ten year renewal pending a financial review. Ms. Reeves seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

Central Park School for Children

- Based on the renewal framework; the school falls within a ten year renewal. Central Park exceeded LEA performance by 31.6% in 2014, 28.3% in 2015 and 22.6% in 2016.
- Mr. Walker questioned the governance warnings the school had recently received. Ms. Honeycutt clarified by explaining that the non-compliance was related to the school failing to submit the required documentation for the performance framework. The school has since submitted documents to OCS, of their issues which rectifies their previous noncompliance.
- **Mr. Walker made a motion to recommend Central Park for a ten year renewal pending a financial review. Ms. Parlè seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

Charlotte Secondary

- Based on the renewal framework; the school falls within a three year renewal qualification. Charlotte Secondary had a deficit of 14.8% in 2016, a deficit of 7.6% in 2015 and a deficit of 1.6% in 2014; Growth was met in 2014, 2016, but not met in 2015.
- **Mr. Walker made a motion to have Charlotte Secondary come in for an interview in front of CSAB. Mr. Helton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

Chatham Charter School

- Based on the renewal framework; the school falls within a ten year renewal qualification. Chatham Charter School has exceeded LEA by growth in 2014-2016.
- **Mr. Walker made a motion recommend Chatham Charter School for a ten year renewal pending a financial review. Ms. Parlè seconded. The motion passed unanimously**

Children's Village

- Based on the renewal framework, the school falls within a three year renewal qualification
- **Mr. Walker made a motion to have Children's Village come in for an interview. Mr. Helton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

CIS Academy

- Based on the renewal framework, the school falls within a seven year renewal qualification. CIS Academy exceeded growth in 2014, 2015 and met growth in 2016.
- **Mr. Walker motioned to recommend CIS Academy for a ten year renewal pending a financial review. Mr. Maimone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**
- Ms. Cooper noted that CIS Academy was on the low performing list. Mr. Quigley later cautioned CSAB from making a final decision on their renewal qualification due to the school being on the state's low performance list and how the state defines low performing schools despite the guidelines of the framework.
- **No further action was taken**

Columbus Charter School

- Based on the renewal framework, the school falls within the ten year renewal qualification. Columbus charter has exceeded LEA by growth in 2014-2016.
- **Mr. Walker made a motion to recommend Columbus Charter for a ten year renewal pending a financial review. Ms. Reeves seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

Community Charter School

- Based on the renewal framework, the school falls within the three year renewal qualification. Community Charter had a deficit of 25.9% in 2014, a deficit of 30.1% in 2015; and a deficit of 34.4% in 2016.
- **Mr. Quigley motioned to have Community Charter School come in for an interview. Mr. Walker seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

Eno River Charter School

- Based on the renewal framework, the school falls within a ten year renewal qualification. Eno River exceeded growth in 2014-2016.

- **Ms. Parlèr made a motion to recommend Eno River Charter School for a 10 year renewal pending a financial review. Ms. Reeves seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

Exploris School

- Based on the renewal framework, the school falls within a 10 year renewal qualification. Exploris exceeded LEA performance in 2014-2016.
- **Ms. Reeves motioned to recommend Exploris School for a 10 year renewal pending a financial review. Ms. Parlèr seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

Francine Delaney

- Based on the renewal framework, the school falls within a 10 renewal qualification. Francine Delaney exceeded growth in 2014-2016.
- **Mr. Sanchez motioned to recommend Francine Delaney for a ten year renewal pending a financial review. Mr. Helton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

Grandfather Academy

- Based on the renewal framework, the school falls within the three year renewal qualification based on academic performance.
- As it relates to any compliance issue, the school is currently working within its year of correction with the Exceptional Children (EC) department to better progress with IEP transitions.
- **Mr. Helton made motion to have Grandfather Academy come in for an interview, to show CSAB their alternative school model. Mr. Maimone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

Gray Stone

- Based on the renewal framework, the school falls within a 10 year renewal qualification. Gray Stone exceeded LEA performance for 2014-2016.
- **Mr. Walker made a motion to recommend Gray Stone for a ten year renewal pending a financial review. Ms. Parlèr seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

Guildford PREP Academy

- Based on the renewal framework, the school falls under the nonrenewal category. Guildford Prep currently has financial compliance issues. The school met growth in 2014-15 and exceeded growth in 2016.

- **Mr. Walker made a motion to bring Guildford PREP Academy in for an interview in front of CSAB. Ms. Parlèr seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

Kestrel Heights

- Based on the renewal framework, the school meets a 10 year renewal qualification. Kestrel Heights exceeded growth in 2015-16.
- Ms. Cooper explained that although there are some EC issues with the school, they are not under any disciplinary actions and they are within their one year corrective timeframe.
- **Mr. Walker made a motion to recommend Kestrel Heights for a 10 year renewal pending a financial review. Ms. Reeves seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

KIPP Charlotte

- Based on the renewal framework, the school falls within a seven year renewal qualification. KIPP Charlotte exceeded growth in 2014-15 and met growth in 2016
- **Ms. Reeves made a motion to bring KIPP Charlotte in for an interview.**
- **After further discussion, Ms. Reeves later withdrew her motion.**
- Ms. Cooper explained that KIPP Charlotte has about 24% of withdrawals each year. Ms. Alexis Schauss, Director, School Business Administration, provided clarity about withdrawal rate of their students each year. Withdrawal is an indicator to show student turnover throughout the entire year. Out of approximately 400 students, 100 are lost each year. There is a strong correlation between student turnovers, academic results and the stability of the school. Ms. Schauss further explained that a school with a high student withdrawal rate is used by finance as an indicator for a stability number with a school, not to be related to any compliance issues with the school.
- **Mr. Sanchez made a motion to recommend KIPP Charlotte for a seven year renewal pending a financial review. Ms. Parlèr seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

The Learning Center

- Based on the renewal framework, the school meets the 10 year renewal qualification.
- Ms. Schauss informed CSAB that The Learning Center has been on financial probationary noncompliance in the past three years. The factors that led to the school's noncompliance were based on the 2013-14 audits, which were related to financial instability issues in fiscal year 2012-13. The Learning Center was placed in cautionary status during the 2012-13 fiscal year, probationary status during fiscal year 2013-2014, they improved during fiscal year 2014-15, and are currently in cautionary status, pending their audit.

- **Ms. Parlèr made a motion to recommend The Learning Center for a 10 year renewal pending a financial review. Ms. Reeves seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

Magellan Charter School

- Based on the renewal framework, the school qualifies for a 10 year renewal. Magellan exceeded performance in 2014-2016.
- **Ms. Reeves made a motion to recommend Magellan Charter School for a 10 year renewal pending a financial review. Ms. Parlèr seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

Maureen Joy Charter School

- **Mr. Quigley recused himself from any discussion and voting involving this school.**
- Based on the renewal framework, the school falls within a 10 year renewal qualification. Maureen Joy met growth in 2014, exceeded growth in 2015, and met growth in 2016.
- **Mr. Sanchez made a motion to recommend Maureen Joy Charter School for a 10 year renewal pending a financial review. Ms. Reeves seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

Mountain Discovery Charter

- Based on the renewal framework, the school meets the 10 year renewal qualification.
- **Ms. Parlèr made a motion to recommend Mountain Discovery Charter for a 10 year renewal pending a financial review. Ms. Reeves seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

Neuse Charter School

- Based on the renewal framework, the school meets the 10 year renewal qualification. Neuse charter exceeded growth in 2014-15 and met growth in 2016.
- Ms. Schauss explained that Neuse Charter is currently on probationary status for financial weaknesses based on the 2015 audit.
- **Mr. Walker made a motion to recommend Neuse Charter School for a 10 year renewal pending a financial review. Ms. Reeves seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

PreEminent Charter School

- **Ms. Parlèr recused herself from any discussion and any voting regarding PreEminent Charter School.**
- Based on the renewal framework, the school meets the three year renewal qualification. PreEminent did not meet growth in 2014, exceeded growth in 2015, and met growth in 2016.

- Ms. Cooper informed CSAB that PreEminent is currently on the low-performing and continuing low-performing list.
- **Mr. Walker made a motion to bring PreEminent in for an interview in front of CSAB. Ms. Reeves seconded the. The motion passed unanimously.**

Quality Education Academy

- Based on the renewal framework, the school meets the seven year renewal qualification. Quality Education met growth in 2014-15 and exceeded growth in 2016.
- **Mr. Maimone made a motion to recommend Quality Education Academy for a seven year renewal pending a financial review. Ms. Parlèr seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

Rocky Mount Prep

- Based on the renewal framework, the school meets the three year renewal qualification, pending financial audit.
- **Mr. Walker made a motion to bring Rocky Mount Prep in for an interview in front of CSAB. Ms. Reeves seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

Sallie B. Howard

- Based on the renewal framework, the school meets the 10 year renewal qualification. Sallie B Howard exceeded growth in 2014-16.
- **Mr. Maimone made a motion to recommend Sallie B. Howard for a 10 year renewal pending a financial review. Ms. Reeves seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

Sterling Montessori

- Based on the renewal framework, the school meets the 10 year renewal qualification. Sterling Montessori exceeded growth in 2014-16.
- **Mr. Walker made a motion to recommend Sterling Montessori for a 10 year renewal pending a financial review. Ms. Parlèr seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

Summit Charter School

- Based on the renewal framework, the school meets the 10 year renewal qualification. Summit Charter exceeded growth in 2014-16.
- **Mr. Maimone made a motion to recommend Summit Charter School for a 10 year renewal pending a financial review. Ms. Parlèr seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

Voyager

- Based on the renewal framework, the school meets the 10 year renewal qualification. Voyager exceeded growth two out of three years, and met growth one year.
- **Mr. Walker made a motion to recommend Voyager for a 10 year renewal pending a financial review. Ms. Reeves seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

Wilmington Prep

- Based on the renewal framework, the school qualifies for a three year renewal. Wilmington Prep is currently in a cautionary status with finance.
- **Mr. Walker made a motion to bring in Wilmington Prep for an interview in front of CSAB. Mr. Maimone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**
- Ms. Reeves took the time to thank Ms. Cooper and Mr. Brian Smith, Education Consultants, OCS, for all of their hard work with compiling their report and for visiting the schools.

POLICY COMMITTEE

Feedback on the Virtual Charter School Pilot Report

- Dr. Townsend-Smith provided updates on the virtual charter school pilot report for CSAB to review and provide feedback. OCS is currently interviewing with board members and administrators at each virtual charter school and surveys were conducted of over 200 parents. OCS is analyzing data received so they can provide a clear breakdown of the school's actual performance throughout the year and the parents view on the school's performance throughout the year. As the report is being generated, CSAB will continued to be updated so that they are able to give their input on what things should be included, or adjusted once the report is released. Dr. Townsend-Smith encouraged feedback from CSAB and stressed how it is crucial in ensuing that a succinct report is presented to SBE.

Policy recommendations for alternative school status

- **Mr. Walker provided two amendments that would need to be changed in order for a Charter School to be recommended to CSAB to determine eligibility for alternative school status:**
- Mr. Walker suggested that subsection. I.D. of GCS-Q-001 should be rewritten to read: **Alternative School** -An Alternative School is one option for an alternative learning program. It serves at-risk students and has an organizational designation based on the DPI assignment of an official school code. An alternative school is different from a regular public school and provides choices of routes to completion of school. Alternative schools may vary from other schools in such areas as teaching methods, hours, curriculum, or sites, and they are intended to meet particular learning needs. A charter school which meets the qualifications of this policy may request alternative school status through the process detailed in GCS-C-038(IV)

- Mr. Walker suggested that subsection II.F. of GCS-Q-001 be rewritten to read: All personnel in programs and schools receiving dropout prevention funds must hold State Board of Education certification appropriate for the teaching or student services position held. Alternative charter schools and alternative education programs that do not receive dropout prevention funds must comply with applicable statutes regulating the percentage of personnel holding State Board of Education certifications. In the event an alternative charter school's application or request for alternative status states that the school will have a percentage of personnel holding State Board of Education certifications that is higher than applicable law, the alternative charter school shall comply with the percentage stated in the charter application or request for alternative status. Personnel in in-school suspension programs may in some instances be non-certified, as determined by program needs on a case-by-case basis. However, in instances where these personnel are not certified, they should minimally have the same training as required for teacher assistants. In-school suspension programs should include both an instructional focus and behavior modification strategies.
- Mr. Walker suggested to add to the end of GCS-C-038: IV. **Procedure for Charter Schools Requesting Alternative Schools' Accountability Models.** A charter school may request an alternative accountability model if that school meets the requirements of GCS-Q-001 and any other applicable policy or law. A nonprofit corporation applying to open as an alternative school shall state in its application that it desires an alternative school accountability model, which option it desires under this policy, and provide any details about the alternative status deemed necessary by the Charter Schools Advisory Board. In the event an already operating charter school desires to use an alternative school accountability model, it may request to do so by submitting a request for an amendment to the schools charter, detailing which option it desires under this policy and providing any details about the alternative status deemed necessary by the Charter Schools Advisory Board. All requests for a charter school to use an alternative accountability model will be presented to the Charter Schools Advisory Board, which will make appropriate recommendations to the State Board of Education.
- Mr. Walker stressed that with these proposed changes, it should not be expected for a large percentage of schools to become alternative and the request would rarely be granted. As long as the school meets the rest of the policy of GCS-Q-001, the CSAB would conduct a review to determine if the request should go to SBE for approval.
- **Mr. Maimone made a motion to approve the policy changes. Ms. Reeves seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

SCHOOL UPDATES

- Hope Leadership Academy is a school that received a renewal last year with stipulations. CSAB received updated information from OCS about Hope Leadership Academy in order to make recommendations about the school's academic performance.
- Ms. Clarissa Fleming, Principal, Hope Leadership Academy, provided a summary of their analysis from last year's academic performance. Items were sent to OCS in regards to the performance

overview and what is being used to meet academic growth. With a strategic plan, consistent goals are imperative in order to meet growth.

- Ms. Fleming highlighted some positive factors of the school. Additionally, Ms. Fleming explained that a new math curriculum has been implemented and has proven effective in the past two years. Ms. Fleming explained that Hope Leadership Academy's Board of Directors approved for her to apply for the priority grant to fund a new reading curriculum that needed to be implemented. The funding from the grant was used for the reading curriculum, an intervention specialist, and a parent and family engagement coach.
- Ms. Fleming further highlighted that attendance has also increased in the past year. The family engagement coach along with curriculum specialist have worked to decrease tardiness from 18-20% to 6%.
- Mr. Quigley questioned Ms. Fleming about the low performance of the fifth graders at Hope Leadership and how there was a 31% drop in math last year compared to the previous grades. Ms. Fleming explained that the history of low performance may be a reflection of the quality of instruction, prior to her start with the school. Ms. Fleming also explained that a certified teacher was not able to be hired until November of 2015.
- Mr. Walker stressed that the stipulations with the school's renewal was that growth would be met each year. This is the first year with the stipulations, and growth has not been met. Mr. Walker expressed his concerns about what CSAB should do at this point since growth has not been met. Mr. Walker questioned Ms. Fleming on what information can be provided about what will be implemented to improve performance so that growth can be met and students can get the education that they deserve.
- Ms. Fleming explained that the board has supported her with trying to hire quality staff. When data from test scores were released, she reached out for someone to come look at her school and analyze what practices needed improvement. Ms. Fleming stressed that she and her staff are trying to do all that they can to help their students. The school's board has provided wide array of learning programs, which has continued to provide academic support.
- Mr. Walt Sherlin, Co-Chair of Hope Leadership Academy's Board of Directors, provided insight on the Board's perspective of the school. Mr. Sherlin explained that the board recognizes that recruiting good teachers at Hope Leadership is challenging. The school has been able to compete with Wake County in regards to salary, but not with retirement. To counter the difference, the board decided to give an 8% starting bonus to new teachers. Mr. Sherlin explained that the board is currently trying to see if 8% is the right amount to give new teachers and if it actually helps in attracting and retaining teachers or should those funds go towards salary and/or retirement.
- Ms. Parlèr had a question about the priority grant that was received and how the \$74,000 was divided up between the three components. Ms. Fleming explained that \$13,000 went to hiring a parent/student engagement coach; \$25,000 went to an intervention specialist who looked at the data

of the students and who looks at each classrooms to see what support could be offered, and \$24,000 went towards a new reading curriculum and professional development.

- Ms. Cher Perry, Curriculum Instruction Director, Hope Leadership, spoke to the current plan for the science curriculum. Ms. Perry explained that administration is currently looking at additional funds from priority funding grant to help implement an interactive science curriculum.
- Mr. Sanchez questioned about the school's thoughts on their overall performance. Mr. Sherlin expressed his concerns about the test results from the school year. From the board's perspective, Mr. Sherlin explained there are a lot of good things going on at Hope Leadership. Hope Leadership creates a warm, caring environment for its students. Mr. Sherlin believes that a change in staff pay will continue to bring in quality teachers. The school is completely committed to trying to improve the academic performance of its students.
- Ms. Parlèr questioned Hope Leadership about their professional development. Ms. Fleming responded by stating that they have contracted with the new teachers program. Ms. Fleming further explained that administration is using information from staff surveys to ascertain what they can do to further assist the teachers with their professional development.
- Dr. Kebbler Williams, Education Consultant, OCS, answered CSAB questions regarding her thoughts on the data disparities between Hope Leadership's current levels and their aspiring levels.
- Dr. Williams explained that the teaching staff needed continuing professional development. Dr. Williams stressed how school leadership should devise a comprehensive professional development plan with the new curriculum that it has selected, and target professional development for staff.
- Dr. Williams explained that culturally, the teachers had command of their classroom. Hope Leadership is a "Leader in Me" school, expressed by the words used by the teachers in the classroom and how students interact with one another. Dr. Williams explained there was a student tour guide at the beginning of the visit, who explained how each of the displays in the school correlates with the "Leader in Me" philosophy and how she exhibits that philosophy in her own life.
- Mr. Walker expressed concerns that the children at Hope are not getting enough value added through the school. Mr. Walker mentioned that he regrets the prior decision that was made to renew the school last year. **Mr. Walker made a motion to recommend to the SBE that Hope Charter Leadership Academy have their charter terminated and that the SBE consider an assumption of the school.**
- Mr. Sanchez voiced his concern that questions were still being left unanswered from Hope Leadership. A concrete plan had not been put in place or executed, and the presentation lacked the depth and detail to give CSAB the confidence it needed to give Hope Charter more time to improve.
- Mr. Quigley suggested that the CSAB provide Hope Leadership one month to put together a plan and ask OCS to put together comprehensive data over the past ten years, to include student and financial records, so CSAB can look at all the components of the school.

- Mr. Helton voiced his concern about voting to terminate the charter because the school would still remain open for the remainder of the school year. Within that timeframe, the school could be given an opportunity to show they are improving academically, knowing that if they do not, they will have to come back in front of CSAB, where action could be taken to terminate the school's charter.
- Ms. Reeves expressed her hesitation on voting on the motion due to half of the CSAB board not being present and would feel more comfortable with having the full board's input before taking action and voting.
- Mr. Walker withdrew his previous motion since it had not been seconded. **Mr. Walker made a substitute motion to require Hope Leadership Academy to come back to CSAB at the November meeting. No later than a week before the CSAB meeting, Hope Leadership will provide to OCS, a detail comprehensive academic plan on how they will increase academic performance this year and for the coming years. That plan will be presented to CSAB, and Hope Leadership will be prepared to answer any questions from CSAB. Mr. Helton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**
- **The meeting adjourned via acclamation at 3:10 pm**