

**Minutes of the
North Carolina Charter School Advisory Board
Education Building
301 N. Wilmington Street
Raleigh, NC 27601-2825
December 11, 2017**

Attendance/NCCSAB	Alan Hawkes Joseph Maimone Phyllis Gibbs Sherry Reeves Cheryl Turner Lindalyn Kakadelis Lynn Kroeger	Alex Quigley Tammi Sutton - <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, Consultant Stephenie Clark, Consultant Craig Tucker, Consultant	<i>SBE</i> <i>Attorney General</i> Tiffany Lucas <i>SBE Attorney</i> Jason Weber

CALL TO ORDER

- The North Carolina Charter School Advisory Board (CSAB) meeting was called to order at 8:34 am by Vice Chairman Steven Walker who read the Ethics Statement and CSAB Mission Statement. Mrs. Lynn Kroeger led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Ms. Cheryl Turner communicated that she would be recusing herself from any discussions and voting regarding the application interview of Movement School East. Mr. Steven Walker communicated on behalf of Mr. Alex Quigley that there is a perceived conflict of interest regarding the discussion of Healthy Start Academy for the 2018 Renewals Update. Mr. Alex Quigley will be recusing himself from any discussion or voting on the matter of the renewal of Healthy Start Academy.
- **Mrs. Sherry Reeves made a motion to approve the November 2017 meeting minutes with recommended changes sent to Dr. Townsend-Smith. Ms. Phyllis Gibbs seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

RENEWAL UPDATES

- Mr. Alex Quigley was not present for the renewal discussions. Ms. Shaunda Cooper, Consultant, Office of Charter Schools, shared a detailed report for the eleven (11) renewing schools with their charter agreement scheduled to expire in June of 2018. She outlined the information that would be presented to CSAB members including LEA location, charter opening year, most recent charter agreement term, any compliance issues, 3 years of Academic Performance Data, 2016-17 Economically Disadvantaged Students Data, and 2016-17 Exceptional Children Data. Ms. Cooper brought the board's attention to the Renewal Framework as a reminder for determining the number of years a school should be recommended for renewal given any applicable data presented.
- Ms. Cooper presented the aforementioned data to CSAB members. Information presented about each school is detailed below:

Brevard Academy (88A)

- Opened in 1998 and the last renewal term was 10 years. The school is located in Transylvania County and serves grades K-8. In 2017, the school met growth and had a Grade Level Proficiency +4.8 percentage points above the LEA. In 2016, the school met growth and had a Grade Level Proficiency +0.9 percentage points above the LEA. In 2015, the school met growth and had a Grade Level Proficiency +9.9 percentage points above the LEA.
- The EDS proficiency was +7.8 percentage points above the LEA and the EC proficiency was +11.5 percentage points above the LEA. The school currently has no compliance issues. They do participate in state retirement. Based on the renewal framework the school would fall under the 10-year renewal recommendation.
- Mr. Walker inquired if a member from FBS would be attending to report on these twelve (11) schools up for renewal. Members of OCS confirmed that members from FBS would be attending to answer any financial questions the CSAB may have on the renewal schools.
- Ms. Turner asked a question regarding the \$50,000 bond requirement for charter schools participating in the state retirement. Specifically, how is this information used and how do we ensure schools have met the requirement. Ms. Cooper replied that the schools are surveyed as to their participation in the state retirement process and if the CSAB were to recommend non-renewal or assumption, the school would be instructed to have those funds ready for the intended purposes.

- **Mr. Walker made a motion that the CSAB recommend to the State Board that Brevard Academy receive a 10-year renewal. Mr. Joe Maimone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

East Wake Academy (92G)

- Opened in 1998 and the last renewal term was 10 years. The school is located in Wake County and serves grades K-12. In 2017, the school exceeded growth and had a Grade Level Proficiency +10.7 percentage points above the LEA. In 2016, the school met growth and had a Grade Level Proficiency +6.2 percentage points above the LEA. In 2015, the school exceeded growth and had a Grade Level Proficiency +7.2 percentage points above the LEA.
- The EDS proficiency was +26 percentage points above the LEA and the EC proficiency was +7.4 percentage points above the LEA. The school currently has no compliance issues. They do participate in state retirement. Based on the framework this school would fall under the 10-year renewal recommendation.
- **Mr. Walker made a motion that the CSAB recommend to the State Board that East Wake Academy receive a 10-year renewal. Ms. Reeves seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

Endeavor Charter (92S)

- Opened in 2008 and the last renewal term was 10 years. The school is located in Wake County and serves grades K-8. In 2017, the school exceeded growth and had a Grade Level Proficiency +25.4 percentage points above the LEA. In 2016, the school met growth and had a Grade Level Proficiency +23.4 percentage points above the LEA. In 2015, the school exceeded growth and had a Grade Level Proficiency +25.5 percentage points above the LEA.
- The EDS proficiency was +35.5 percentage points above the LEA and the EC proficiency was +36.3 percentage points above the LEA. The school currently has no compliance issues. They do participate in state retirement. Based on the framework this school would fall under the 10-year renewal recommendation.
- **Mr. Walker made a motion that the CSAB recommend to the State Board that Endeavor Charter receive a 10-year renewal. Ms. Kakadelis seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

Franklin Academy (92F)

- Opened in 1998 and the last renewal term was 10 years. The school is located in Wake County and serves grades K-12. In 2017, the school exceeded growth and had a Grade Level Proficiency +11.4 percentage points above the LEA. In 2016, the school did not meet growth and had a Grade Level Proficiency +9.5 percentage points above the LEA. In 2015, the school exceeded growth and had a Grade Level Proficiency +12.8 percentage points above the LEA.
- The EDS proficiency was +34.2 percentage points above the LEA and the EC proficiency was +7.5 percentage points above the LEA. The school currently has no compliance issues. They do not participate in state retirement. Based on the framework this school would fall under the 10-year renewal recommendation.
- **Mr. Walker made a motion that the CSAB recommend to the State Board that Franklin Academy receive a 10-year renewal. Mr. Maimone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

Healthy Start Academy (32B)

- Opened in 1997 and the last renewal term was 3 years. The school is located in Durham and serves grades K-8. In 2017, the school met growth and had a Grade Level Proficiency -17.8 percentage points below the LEA. In 2016, the school met growth and had a Grade Level Proficiency -16.2 percentage points below the LEA. In 2015, the school met growth and had a Grade Level Proficiency -15.7 percentage points below the LEA.
- The EDS proficiency was -4.6 percentage points below the LEA and the EC proficiency was -12.1 percentage points below the LEA. The school currently has no major compliance issues with the divisions of NCDPI. The only compliance issue is that they are a continually low-performing school, so there is an academic compliance issue. The school does participate in state retirement.
- Mrs. Sherry Reeves asked where they fall on the renewal framework. Ms. Cooper replied that they would fall on either the 3-year or assuming/non-renewal recommendation based on the framework. Mr. Maimone asked a clarifying question on the growth around Healthy Start Academy. Specifically, the school met growth each year. He asked a clarifying question on the framework as to where they fall. Due to the statement in the framework, “Or met growth of the 2 years of the 3 preceding years” they would fall in the category of a recommendation for 3 years.

- Mr. Walker stated as a general rule, a school would only receive one 3-year renewal, then asked if there are any further questions for Ms. Cooper.
- **Mr. Walker made a motion that the CSAB recommend to the State Board that Healthy Start Academy receive a 3-year renewal. Ms. Turner seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

Lake Norman Charter (60D)

- Opened in 1998 and the last renewal term was 10 years. The school is located in Charlotte-Mecklenburg and serves grades K-12.
- In 2017, the school exceeded growth and had a Grade Level Proficiency +23.3 percentage points above the LEA. In 2016, the school exceeded growth and had a Grade Level Proficiency +21.5 percentage points above the LEA. In 2015, the school exceeded growth and had a Grade Level Proficiency +23.6 percentage points above the LEA.
- The EDS proficiency was +30.6 percentage points above the LEA and the EC proficiency was +20.5 percentage points above the LEA. The school currently has no compliance issues. They do participate in state retirement. Based on the framework this school would fall under the 10-year renewal recommendation.
- Ms. Sherry Reeves asked a clarifying question about the grades offered at Lake Norman Charter as the information presented states 5-12, but it was stated that they are currently K-12. Ms. Cheryl Turner responded that they are K-2 and do not have 3-4, but originally started as a 5-12 school.
- **Mr. Walker made a motion that the CSAB recommend to the State Board that Lake Norman Charter receive a 10-year renewal. Ms. Reeves seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

Lincoln Charter School (55A)

- Opened in 1998 and the last renewal term was 10 years. The school is located in Lincoln County and serves grades K-12.
- In 2017, the school did not meet growth and had a Grade Level Proficiency +14.7 percentage points above the LEA. In 2016, the school did not meet growth and had a Grade Level Proficiency +14.1 percentage points above the LEA. In 2015, the school met growth and had a Grade Level Proficiency +16.4 percentage points above the LEA.

- The EDS proficiency was +13.9 percentage points above the LEA and the EC proficiency was +28.2 percentage points above the LEA. The school currently has no compliance issues. They do not participate in state retirement. Based on the framework this school would fall under the 10-year renewal recommendation.
- **Mr. Walker made a motion that the CSAB recommend to the State Board that Lincoln Charter receive a 10-year renewal. Ms. Reeves seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

River Mill Academy (01B)

- Opened in 1998 and the last renewal term was 10 years. The school is located in Alamance-Burlington and serves grades K-12.
- In 2017, the school did not meet growth and had a Grade Level Proficiency +12.9 percentage points above the LEA. In 2016, the school exceeded growth and had a Grade Level Proficiency +16.8 percentage points above the LEA. In 2015, the school met growth and had a Grade Level Proficiency +18.7 percentage points above the LEA.
- The EDS proficiency was +19.5 percentage points above the LEA and the EC proficiency was +17.2 percentage points above the LEA. The school currently has no compliance issues. They do participate in state retirement. Based on the framework this school would fall under the 10-year renewal recommendation.
- Mrs. Sherry Reeves asked about financials from 2014 for River Mill Academy. She denoted that there is a huge expenditure over revenue and asked whether this was related to facility costs. Ms. Schauss responded that they did not have that information specifically for this school, but that could be the reasoning behind it. We do find that schools in their first few years of operation have larger expenditures as a result of facility and startup costs.
- **Mr. Walker made a motion that the CSAB recommend to the State Board that River Mill Academy receive a 10-year renewal. Ms. Turner seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

Success Institute Charter (49D)

- Opened in 2000 and the last renewal term was 3 years. The school is located in Iredell-Statesville and serves grades K-8.

- In 2017, the school met growth and had a Grade Level Proficiency -28.9 percentage points below the LEA. In 2016, the school exceeded growth and had a Grade Level Proficiency -21.1 percentage points below the LEA. In 2015, the school met growth and had a Grade Level Proficiency -26.7 percentage points below the LEA.
- The EDS proficiency was -9.5 percentage points below the LEA and the EC proficiency was -2.3 percentage points below the LEA. The current compliance issue includes the school being identified as a continually low-performing charter school. Additionally, enrollment has been an issue for years as they have struggled to maintain consistent enrollment. Success does participate in state retirement.
- Ms. Cheryl Turner asked where they fall in the renewal framework. Ms. Cooper responded that they would fall under either the 3-year or assume/non-renewal portion of the framework.
- Mr. Walker asked one question to the representatives from FBS regarding Success Institute. Success has had declining enrollment in 2016, CSADM failure to report, and low enrollment in 2017, do you see anything that raises red flags with Success Institute?
- Ms. Alexis Schauss, Director, NCDPI School Business responded that Success was on a watch list for FBS. The truncated data presented is done annually for each school, but we specifically report on these schools to you for the purpose of renewals. At the bottom of each one pager it will show any financial compliance issues for the last 3 or 4 years. Our concern and reason for putting them on the watch list was the funded ADM as it was often very low or declining and getting close to the legislative minimum. We had them on Cautionary status for that. It wasn't any higher than cautionary because they appear to have their financials in line with that number. Mrs. Schauss made a comment regarding funds to support school nutrition fund. The funds were as high as \$56,000 and they now have it more in control near the mid \$20,000s. The school seems to be managing funds in accordance with revenues.
- **Mr. Steven Walker made a motion that the CSAB recommend to the State Board that Success Institute receive a 3-year renewal. Mr. Joe Maimone seconded.** Mr. Alan Hawkes commented on the enrollment problems and sought clarification regarding where the school stands on enrollment. Mr. Walker responded that the enrollment declined but has gone back up and he would be more concerned if the financials did not show strong fund balances.
- Ms. Cheryl Turner asked whether the CSAB had to give stipulations when giving a recommendation for a 3-year renewal. Mr. Steven Walker responded that the CSAB did not have to, but he would be open to stipulations, possibly around enrollment, but they have a fund balance.

- Ms. Turner asked about the minimum number in statute requirement for enrollment. Ms. Reeves responded that the minimum requirement was 80 and that the biggest issue for this school is the current facility. Ms. Reeves responded to Mr. Hawkes' point about possible stipulations for both Healthy Start Academy and Success Institute. Ms. Turner asked whether they should include stipulations around performance.
- Mr. Hawkes expressed concerns with schools that have enrollment under 100 students. Unless there are very special circumstances he wanted to be on the record that the CSAB needs to think about a minimum size beyond what we currently have for charter schools. Ms. Reeves responded that Success may take the feedback provided last month and consider decreasing the grade levels they offer.
- **The motion passed with 7 to 1 with Mr. Hawkes dissenting.** Mr. Alan Hawkes commented that he would feel more comfortable if there were some caveat with Success Institute for this 3-year renewal. Mr. Steven Walker responded that the caveat is that they will need to come up out of that continually low-performing designation. The school has a healthy fund balance, their only big issue is academics.

Triad Math and Science Academy (41F)

- Opened in 2008 and the last renewal term was 10 years. The school is located in Guilford County and serves grades K-12.
- In 2017, the school met growth and had a Grade Level Proficiency +12.5 percentage points above the LEA. In 2016, the school met growth and had a Grade Level Proficiency +7.4 percentage points above the LEA. In 2015, the school exceeded growth and had a Grade Level Proficiency +10.8 percentage points above the LEA.
- The EDS proficiency was +22.7 percentage points above the LEA and the EC proficiency was +14.7 percentage points above the LEA. The school does not have any current compliance issues. They do not participate in the state retirement system. Based on the framework this school would fall under the 10-year renewal recommendation.
- Ms. Alexis Schauss, Director, NCDPI School Business reported on one issue dating back to 2015 regarding Triad Math and Science Academy and student accounting discrepancies. The school was claiming students that were enrolled with Guilford County. FBS did take back funds from the school and conducted a follow up visit to the school. The school was placed on Probationary Status as a result. Action was taken appropriately and there are no current student accounting issues with that school.

- **Mr. Walker made a motion that the CSAB recommend to the State Board that Triad Math and Science Academy receive a 10-year renewal. Ms. Reeves seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

Woods Charter School (19B)

- Opened in 1998 and the last renewal term was 10 years. The school is located in Chatham County and serves grades K-12.
- In 2017, the school met growth and had a Grade Level Proficiency +30.5 percentage points above the LEA. In 2016, the school met growth and had a Grade Level Proficiency +31.6 percentage points above the LEA. In 2015, the school met growth and had a Grade Level Proficiency +32.3 percentage points above the LEA.
- The EDS proficiency was +36.9 percentage points above the LEA and the EC proficiency was +51.5 percentage points above the LEA. The school does not have any current compliance issues. They do not participate in the state retirement system. Based on the framework this school would fall under the 10-year renewal recommendation.
- Ms. Cheryl Turner noted that they had a higher percentage of EC students compared to the State and LEA. Mr. Steven Walker mentioned he would add this school to his list of example schools who are serving these students. This school serves as an example that you can serve these students, if you have that population and are not getting results then you just are not doing it right.
- **Mr. Walker made a motion that the CSAB recommend to the State Board that Woods Charter receive a 10-year renewal. Mr. Maimone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**
- Ms. Cheryl Turner highlighted that many of the renewal schools were performing exceptionally well and that was amazing. Ms. Kakadelis asked two questions: since we do not have the EDS percentages here, is there any way we can get those? Number two, can we get any of these schools in here to present on what they are doing to get such great performance results?
- Mr. Walker asked if any other CSAB members had further questions on other schools and if FBS would like to present any additional information.
- No further action was taken following this conversation.

APPLICATION UPDATES/INTERVIEWS

- Mr. Quigley joined the meeting. Dr. Townsend-Smith led the discussion by providing a recap of the application process and reminded the CSAB about the applicants appearing for clarification and interview at the December CSAB meeting. Additionally, she provided information on the clarification and interview processes and stated the interviews for the January meeting would be pending the results of the December meeting.
- The CSAB would conduct 6 interviews and would make recommend which applicants would receive a Ready to Open recommendation to the State Board of Education (SBE). Each of the applicants appearing at this meeting applied with a special request (Acceleration, Conversion and/or Replication).
- As a reminder, the clarification is a 30-minute opportunity where our office provides for you an overview, applicants introduce themselves, you discuss your applications in committees, you question the applicants if needed, the committee votes and recommends to the full board for a vote whether the school will move forward to interview.
- Dr. Townsend-Smith noted that asterisks indicate that a school is a repeat applicant. One note is that Bishop George W. Brooks was applying this year as an all-male academy. Policy committee had the heavier side of the work this round. She requested that the Policy committee vote to determine completeness for Carolina Experimental School as they responded to the request to supply incomplete information on November 28, 2017. The due date for incomplete submissions was October 4, 2017.
- Mr. Walker wanted to know what was incomplete. Dr. Townsend-Smith commented that they did not submit a resume or required document for one of the board members.
- Dr. Townsend-Smith went over the January calendar for reviews. Additionally, she raised awareness that many of these applications that are coming up in January have a consultation with Goodall Consulting. Currently, Goodall Consulting has two schools in the ready to open process.
- Ms. Reeves made a comment that with the schools requesting acceleration, the board may approve the group to move forward to the Ready to Open process but needed to also look at considering the approval of the acceleration.
- Ms. Turner asked whether Cardinal Charter – Chatham was still moving forward with acceleration, as she read in the paper that they did not get the intended building. Dr. Townsend-Smith clarified that they did come before the board with the need for an approval for acceleration to go forward with permits, etc. She did receive news that the school will not be able to open in 2018 as intended. Also,

Mr. Machado did confirm and comment on the fact that the school needed the fast track application and CSAB decision to meet a deadline for acquiring a sought-out facility.

- Mr. Maimone wanted to know whether all the schools interviewed today were seeking to open in 2018. Dr. Townsend-Smith responded that there are some that will open in 2019. Ms. Reeves sought to clarify that the board had currently only made two recommendations. Dr. Townsend-Smith clarified that they approved Cardinal Charter Academy for fast track and the board did not approve STARMOUNT Charter Academy.

Achievement Charter Academy

- Mr. Quigley led the interview and reviewed each section of the application. He expressed confusion since he researched the school and discovered that it is currently a private school in Fuquay-Varina with 23 students and a daycare with 60 students, which operates under the Learn Time, Inc. A board member explained that Mr. Goodall contacted Mr. Machado about the possibility of being considered as a conversion. The board member explained that the board decided to move forward with a traditional application. Mr. Quigley explained that he did not feel the school qualified for the acceleration process and expressed his concern about the lack of data related to enrollment. He also expressed a concern about opening K-8 in the first year.
- Ms. Kakadelis stated that she was struggling with the acceleration model. Mr. Walker said he too was struggling with both the acceleration request and the application as a whole. He stated that the application seemed rushed. Ms. Kroeger expressed her concern about issues with and items missing from the budget, especially in light of the aggressive year-to-year growth. Ms. Turner expressed her concern about the lack of training for the school administrator until after the school starts. Mr. Quigley expressed his desire to see the applicant reapply next year with more specific survey data and supporting data related to the quality school model.
- **Mr. Walker made a motion to not move the school forward. Ms. Turner seconded.** Mr. Hawkes expressed his concern about the desire to start K-8 in the first year. Mr. Quigley echoed his concerns about the grade levels and suggested that the school start K-2 and 6th grade. Mr. Maimone encouraged the school to make the recommended changes and reapply with more supporting data. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Movement School East

- Mr. Maimone led the interview and reviewed each section of the application. Mr. Maimone wanted to know why the school is applying now and if it is too soon considering the recently opened movement school. A board member explained that the school is pursuing a second charter because of the success they've experienced in the past year.

- **Ms. Reeves made a motion to recommend the school to the SBE for Ready to Open. Ms. Kakadelis seconded.** Mr. Hawkes is troubled by the lack of a track record, but finds some comfort in the funds available to the school. Mr. Maimone felt that the school was strategic in partnering with Sugar Creek Charter School. Ms. Kakadelis stated that she is familiar with the area and there is a tremendous need in the area. **The motion passed unanimously with Ms. Turner recusing.**

Hobgood Academy Charter School

- Mr. Quigley led the interview and reviewed each section of the application. Ms. Kakadelis stated the debt of the private school should not be the responsibility of the public charter school. Ms. Reeves stated the evidences are lacking. Mr. Maimone outlined that rural areas are lacking and charter schools are needed.
- Ms. Turner stated that the issue is not the conversion from private to public - the problem is the lack of understanding of what it requires to be a public school. Ms. Kakadelis stated the performance of the surrounding counties and what the school would need to do for the population it will recruit was not included in the application.
- Ms. Turner also expressed concerns with the school starting as a K - 12 school initially. Ms. Reeves provided additional perspective on the school accepting the graduation cohorts from a prior school. Ms. Kakadelis stated that the school should have started with a K - 3. Ms. Reeves proposed the school continuing to run the high school as a private and start small as a public charter.
- Mr. Maimone was troubled by school choice in the area and what was left if the private school closes. Ms. Reeves stated the CSAB is empathetic to the students and there was a great need. Mr. Quigley stated that the data points needed were critical and not provided. Additionally, the board may need to cut the high school to allow the elementary to start. Mr. Walker stated a new application is needed. Ms. Turner and other members of the board expressed their concerns about the current debt of the school.
- **Mr. Hawkes stated that this application is not ready for approval yet and recommends that the CSAB not move it forward. Ms. Reeves seconded.** Mr. Maimone stated that there is no cap on charters and the applicant can apply in the following year as long as the applicant fixes the issues. Mr. Walker stated he would vote to move forward with a stipulation about the deficit. **The motion passed 6 – 3 with Ms. Gibbs, Mr. Maimone and Ms. Kakadelis dissenting.**

Mountain Island Day School

- Mr. Quigley led the interview and reviewed each section of the application. After discussion, Mr. Walker thought the group knows what they are doing. **He made a motion to recommend SBE accelerated opening in 2018. Mr. Maimone seconded.**

- Ms. Turner stated there needs to be a stipulation as the Math 1 piece will be an excluder. She was not comfortable recommending approval of another charter with that piece. **Mr. Walker withdrew his motion.**
- **Ms. Turner made a subsequent motion that Math cannot be an excluder for admission. Mr. Maimone seconded. Amendment to the motion passed unanimously.** Ms. Reeves asked if the CSAB should be concerned about the name. Mr. Quigley outlined he would support the motion. The school is currently Title one and encourages the school to consider a weighted lottery. Ms. Reeves wanted additional clarity on the debt. Mr. Quigley stated that the school must figure out the financials and he does not see the same glaring financial issues from the prior school. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Apprentice Academy HS of NC

- Mr. Walker led the interview and reviewed each section of the application. **After discussion, Mr. Walker made a motion to recommend the school to the SBE for Ready to Open and acceleration.** Ms. Gibbs seconded. Mr. Hawkes stated that this sounds like the real deal after the disappointment of Entrepreneur. Ms. Gibbs stated they have a lot of good partners. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Steele Creek Preparatory Academy

- Mr. Walker led the interview and reviewed each section of the application. **After discussion, Mr. Walker made a motion to recommend that the school be recommended to the State Board of Education to begin Ready to Open. Ms. Kakadelis seconded.** Mr. Hawkes stated he would be supportive of the application. Mr. Maimone stated it speaks volumes that CSUSA is willing to scale back. Ms. Reeves stated she expects great things from this board and knows there will be challenges. Ms. Turner stated that this financial model is sustainable and at least CSUSA is committed to the school. **The motion passed unanimously.**

ADJOURNMENT

- **Mr. Walker made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:45 pm. Ms. Reeves seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

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Attendance/SBE/DPI	<i>Office of Charter Schools</i> Dave Machado, Director Deanna Townsend-Smith, Assistant Director Shaunda Cooper, Consultant Stephenie Clark, Consultant Craig Tucker, Consultant	<i>SBE</i> <i>Attorney General</i> Tiffany Lucas <i>SBE Attorney</i> Jason Weber

CALL TO ORDER

- The North Carolina Charter School Advisory Board (CSAB) meeting was called to order at 8:05 am by Vice Chair Walker who read the Ethics Statement and CSAB Mission Statement. Ms. Phyllis Gibbs led the Pledge of Allegiance.

SCHOOL UPDATES

NC Virtual Academy

- Dr. Townsend-Smith reminded the CSAB that the presentation from NC Virtual Academy is similar to the presentation the board received from NC Connections Academy last month in that the school will provide an update of their performance as they have a continually low-performing designation.
- Mr. Joel Medley, Head of School, shared a presentation related to the NC Virtual Academy, including performance data and areas for improvement. Mr. Medley shared that the school is in the third year of operation and is excited about how the school has been received by parents. Mr. Medley shared that for 300 available slots, the school received 2,500 applications. The school currently has a waitlist of over 900 students.

- Mr. Medley stated that the school has an economically disadvantaged population of 65%. Mr. Medley stated that the state average is 49% and that NC Connections Academy has a 44% economically disadvantaged population. Mr. Medley shared that the school has a 14.5% special education population. Mr. Medley also shared that 55% of the families receive a computer from the school.
- Mr. Medley stated a majority of the students come from traditional public schools and the school still serves a lot of students from homeschools, but not as many as was anticipated at the beginning of the pilot. In terms of distribution across the state, Mr. Medley shared that around one quarter of students come from rural areas. Mr. Medley shared that the school has served students in 97 counties, with the remaining counties being Bertie, Hyde and Tyrrell.
- Related to parent satisfaction, Mr. Medley shared that the school takes several pulse checks throughout the year and that the school has either grown or stayed the same from years one to two. Mr. Medley shared that 82% of respondents were satisfied with the virtual educational experience and 88% are satisfied with NC Virtual Academy.
- Mr. Medley stated that the school has a “D” school performance grade for the second year in a row, which included an “F” in math and a “C” in reading. Mr. Medley shared that the school made progress in their growth score from years one to two. Mr. Medley provided a comparison between NC Virtual Academy and the LEA (Durham). Mr. Medley shared that NCVA exceeded the LEA in year one, but experienced a dip in year two due primarily to a decrease in math performance. Mr. Medley stated that the school’s ACT scores outperformed the state average and 82% of the districts in the state.
- Mr. Medley discussed some of the school’s efforts to identify and correct issues. Mr. Medley shared that school discovered that students joining the school after the first day are more academically at-risk than those that started day one. Mr. Medley cited a study from the University of Arkansas that discusses a one year reversion that can occur when students leave a brick and mortar school to join a virtual educational model.
- As part of the presentation, Mr. Medley shared that the school has corrected a curriculum alignment issue for 5th grade math, developed a new 8th grade science course that is more closely aligned to state standards, implemented a prescriptive math program (Math U See) and created a math foundations course for incoming 9th graders.
- Mr. Medley outlined the school’s efforts to increase student engagement, specifically the school’s development of a Family Academic Support Team (FAST), which works to build back on track plans for students who may be showing signs of disengagement. Mr. Medley stated that the FAST team has contributed to a decrease in withdrawals from years one to two. Mr. Medley discussed how adding additional staff and the utilization of a coaching model contributes to more student support.

- Mr. Medley shared that the school has switched the school's benchmark and diagnostic tool from USA Test Prep to STAR360. Mr. Medley also stated that the school is not satisfied with they are and are working to improve the performance and perception of the school.
- Mr. Walker stated that the school's model involves a learning curve since the model is new to the state, but that he wanted to see an improvement in the school's performance grade on the next report card.
- Ms. Reeves asked if the school had a way to track student engagement and how long a student spends online. Mr. Medley stated that the school has a tool (RDM Tracker) to track how long a student spends in a lesson and that the school has access to a significant amount of data related to student engagement. Ms. Reeves asked if the school had noted a correlation between the time a student spends on task and their scores. Mr. Medley explained that the school has noted a correlation between the time a student spends engaging with their teachers in the live sessions and their achievement. Ms. Reeves asked if parents are clear on the expectations for the amount of time students need to spend on-task. Mr. Medley explained that the school strives to make parents aware of the expectations, including engaging the FAST team and providing counselors to reach out to families.
- Ms. Reeves inquired about how the school administers the required state tests in testing centers across the state. Ms. Reeves asked if the school was K-12. Mr. Medley that they are K-12 and they have their first graduating class. Ms. Reeves asked about the number of seniors to which Mr. Medley responded that the school has 40 seniors. Related to testing, Mr. Medley stated that the school is required to have at least one testing center in each of the state's educational regions. Mr. Medley shared that the school provided 15 sites last year and will be providing 20 this year, with the average family driving 15 miles to a test site last year. Ms. Reeves asked about the students who didn't test. Mr. Medley explained that some students didn't show up to take the test and that four students withdrew from the school during the testing window. Ms. Reeves asked if the students enrolled somewhere else and Mr. Medley stated that they did, but that the students were still on their roster and it counted against them. Mr. Medley explained that the school works to accommodate students where they are to administer the required state tests, including working with students who have limited access due to transportation challenges and medical issues.
- Ms. Turner asked if the model's implementation in NC is similar to what's been seen in other states. Mr. Medley explained that some of the issues observed thus far are similar to what has been seen in other states.
- Ms. Turner asked about the distribution of students across the state. Mr. Medley explained that the school has students across the state with higher concentrations in certain counties, including Mecklenburg, Wake, Johnston, Harnett, Cumberland, Onslow and Buncombe.

- Ms. Reeves asked about the current student population. Mr. Medley shared that the school is capped at 2160 and the school's 20th day number was 2077.
- Mr. Walker asked if the school has seen any issues with the lack of broadband infrastructure in rural NC. Mr. Medley stated that the school has not run into a lot of issues with the lack of broadband infrastructure, but that many of the families that receive the computer also need the internet stipend.
- Ms. Kroeger inquired about the distribution of students across grade levels. Mr. Medley stated that the school has students across all grade levels with a higher concentration in elementary school.
- Ms. Kroeger asked about how NC Virtual Academy compares to virtual charters in other states and what the school sees as a future trend based on what other virtual charters are doing. Mr. Medley stated that the prescriptive math program is unique to NC Virtual Academy and that the school is emphasizing small groups and increased time with teachers. Mr. Medley explained that state assessments are not a good measure for comparing virtual schools from state-to-state.
- Ms. Kroeger asked if the school has a way to ensure student engagement and to make sure students aren't simply signing in and walking away. Mr. Medley explained that the school compares the time reported online and the amount of work done to see if there is a misalignment.
- Mr. Maimone asked about the distribution of students across the 97 counties, specifically if it was concentrated in urban areas. Mr. Medley explained that the school has a family engagement coordinator who is working to engage families across the state.
- Ms. Kakadelis expressed her excitement about the trend and interest in the model. Ms. Kakadelis requested to see data on many students are in each county and how the school compares to the state since the school is statewide. Ms. Kakadelis also encouraged the school to improve their math scores. Ms. Kakadelis asked about the school's OCS program. Mr. Medley explained that the school offers an OCS program in partnership with NCVPS.
- Ms. Gibbs expressed her excitement about the school model.

Kestrel Heights

- Dr. Mark Tracy, Executive Director, two board members, the board's attorney and staff members from the school were in attendance. Dr. Tracy thanked the CSAB and the Office of Charter Schools for giving the school an opportunity to present. Dr. Tracy stated that the audit didn't find any institutional flaws, but that it doesn't mean there weren't areas for improvement, development and growth. Dr. Tracy thanked the CSAB for allowing Kestrel Heights to remain open and that he believes the school is a quality school.

- Dr. Tracy shared information about the school, including the fact that the school is K-8 with 563 students. Dr. Tracy stated that the school embodies the vision of charter schools by having a diverse student population.
- Dr. Tracy shared that the board has had significant turnover and has been reduced from 11 to 6 total board members. Since 2014-15 only one board member has been remained on the board. Dr. Tracy stated that the board members have diverse perspectives and that there is an intentional plan to recruit board members.
- Dr. Tracy shared that the school has focused on Academics, Culture, and Enrichment (ACE).
- Dr. Tracy shared that Leaders Building Leaders conducted the audit and that it took over 6 months to complete the process.
- Dr. Tracy shared a summary of findings, including that the audit found no direct evidence of institutional flaws. Dr. Tracy shared some of the issues discovered as part of the summary of findings in the areas of federal and state laws, state board policy, bylaws findings, charter application and agreement and internal controls and operational policies. Dr. Tracy also shared the specific ways in which the school is currently addressing the issues that were discovered in the summary of findings.
- Related to a change in the school's participation in the federal school lunch program, Ms. Reeves inquired about the school's decision to no longer participate. Dr. Tracy explained that participation in the program was fiscally not in the best interest of the school and that the previous method of providing meals was more efficient.
- Dr. Tracy shared information on what the school has learned through this experience, including the critical nature of having a checks and balances system throughout the organization. Dr. Tracy reiterated that keeping the school open was a sound decision and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to prove that the school provides a quality education.
- Mr. Maimone informed Dr. Tracy that the school's website still lists an older report card and that the most recent report card should be live on the school's website since they are now available. Dr. Tracy stated that the school uses a third-party vendor and that the school has submitted a request to make the change but are waiting on the vendor to update the website.
- Mr. Maimone inquired about where the school is currently with teacher licensure and their plan to get it to the required 50% mark. Dr. Tracy explained that the school is well above the 50% requirement and that out of the 44 teachers who would need to be licensed in the areas they teach, 36

are currently licensed. Mr. Maimone asked how many of those are recent within the past year. Dr. Tracy stated that the school never had any issue with meeting the 50% requirement, instead the school was only monitoring to see if teachers were certified versus certified in the areas they teach. Dr. Tracy explained that the school now has clarity on the necessity for licensure in a content area. Mr. Maimone asked if anyone was providing training to teachers on how to monitor the online licensure model to ensure they're staying current with their license since this responsibility has shifted to the teachers. Dr. Tracy explained that the school's human resources department has been communicating with teachers about their responsibility to monitor the online system.

- Mr. Maimone asked Dr. Tracy to explain the 2018-19 application and recruitment plan. Dr. Tracy explained that the school is actively working to recruit students and overcome the negative press about the school. Dr. Tracy shared that this experience has given the school an opportunity to re-evaluate their desired total size, which the school sees as possibly in the 700-750 range.
- Mr. Maimone asked about some of the marketing efforts the school has undertaken to recruit students. Dr. Tracy explained that the school hired some PR firms to assist with social media and online marketing, but the school wants to emphasize the word-of-mouth recruiting from parents. Dr. Tracy has met with community leaders to learn about what they want to see in a K-8 school.
- Ms. Reeves asked about the K-8 population last year. Dr. Tracy stated that it was about 750. Ms. Reeves asked if that meant the school lost about 200 students and Dr. Tracy indicated yes. Ms. Reeves asked about the loss of personnel. Dr. Tracy explained that the school was able to pull down teachers from the high school, thus limiting the loss of personnel, but there was some turnover. Ms. Reeves asked about the number of kindergarteners. Dr. Tracy stated that the school has 48 kindergartners and that they had to reduce the number of classes from three to two for that grade.
- Mr. Hawkes asked about the school's efforts to reach out to the affected students who received a diploma in error and rectify the situation and if the previous board had changed. Dr. Tracy explained that only one board remains from 2014-15, so the majority of the board is new. Dr. Tracy also explained that the school is striving to reach out to the affected students and is turning in regular reports about their efforts to the Office of Charter Schools as required. Dr. Tracy indicated that he would be happy to come back and deliver a more detailed report on their efforts to reach students and resolve the situation.
- Mr. Kroeger asked about whether the school projects a positive cash flow budget as the school moves forward in working their way up to desired total student enrollment. Dr. Tracy explained that the school's primary expense is a second building that is currently not being used. Ms. Kroeger asked about the school's fund balance and if the school anticipated a loss. Dr. Tracy stated that it is just under a million dollars. Dr. Tracy also explained that the school is working with the landlords to find a long-term solution to the facility issue. Dr. Tracy stated that the school has rented out the

unused facility to a church and community organizations, but that it doesn't cover the full rental amount.

- Mr. Maimone asked about the strategies the school is employing to anticipate potential issues with the cash flow in light of the facility costs and a decline in student enrollment. Dr. Tracy explained that the school is working with the landlords to find a long-term solution, but, considering the current fund balance, the school feels comfortable with where they are for the next year.
- Mr. Quigley inquired about the timeline related to when the school can add a high school. Dr. Townsend-Smith explained that it would be possible at the end of the charter term, which is three years. Mr. Quigley asked if the landlord absorbing the loss of the three-year period was part of the current negotiations. The board attorney explained that these kinds of detailed conversations are occurring in closed session. Mr. Quigley stated that it sounds like the school is doing everything they can to mitigate the challenges with the facility. Ms. Reeves stated that the school may not decide to go back to a high school. Dr. Tracy stated that it was an option on the table.
- Dr. Tracy once again thanked the CSAB for giving the school the opportunity to prove that it provides a quality education. Mr. Quigley wished the school the best moving forward and hopes both charter schools and traditional public schools can learn from this experience.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION UPDATES

- Dr. Townsend-Smith provided information related to grade enrollment and expansion requests. Dr. Townsend-Smith referred to a document on eboard that contained the grade enrollment and expansion requests but provided the stipulation that the request from a lab school was not under the purview of the CSAB. Dr. Townsend-Smith stated that nine schools had submitted grade enrollment and expansion requests beyond what is allowed by statute.
- Dr. Townsend-Smith provided the following information on the schools that have submitted grade enrollment and expansion requests but do not qualify for the request:
 - Grandfather Academy requested additional students; however, they do not qualify for the request because they did not meet 90% of their projected enrollment.
 - Kestrel Heights requested a material increase in their ADM but they don't qualify because they did not meet 90% of the projected enrollment.
 - The Institute for the Development of Young Leaders requested a material increase in their enrollment but they do not qualify because they are identified as low-performing and updates to statute prohibit such action under those circumstances.

- Douglass Academy requested a material increase in their enrollment but they do not qualify because they are identified as low-performing and updates to statute prohibit such action under those circumstances.
- Dr. Townsend-Smith provided the following information on the schools that have submitted grade enrollment and expansion requests and qualify for the request:
 - Uwharrie Charter submitted a request to add K-4 grade levels.
 - Bethany Community School submitted a request to add a grade level and they're proposing to do so in such a way that would exceed the allowed 25%.
 - Lake Lure Classical Academy submitted a request for a material increase in student enrollment.
 - Union Day School submitted a request for a material increase in student enrollment.
 - Triangle Math and Science Academy submitted a request for a material increase in student enrollment.
- **Mr. Walker made a motion to recommend to the State Board of Education that they approve Uwharrie Charter Academy, Bethany Community School, Lake Lure Classical Academy, Union Day School and Triangle Math and Science Academy's enrollment request. Ms. Reeves seconded the motion.** Mr. Hawkes sought clarification on the motion to ensure that the schools mentioned in the motion are not being approved for requests for which they are not qualified. Mr. Walker confirmed that the schools outlined in the motion are those that meet the statutory requirements for the request. **The motion carried unanimously.**
- **Mr. Walker made a motion to recommend to the State Board of Education that Grandfather Academy, Kestrel Heights, Institute for the Development of Young Minds and Douglass Academy have their enrollment and expansion request denied for failure to meet the statutory requirements. Ms. Reeves seconded the motion.** Ms. Kakadelis stated that she needed to recuse herself from the vote. **Mr. Walker withdrew his motion.**
- **Mr. Walker made a motion to recommend to the State Board of Education that Grandfather Academy, Kestrel Heights and the Institute for the Development of Young Minds be denied their enrollment request based on a failure to meet the statutory requirements. Ms. Reeves seconded the motion.** Mr. Hawkes sought clarification on the motion. Mr. Walker explained that there would be a second motion for Douglass Academy to allow for the recusal. **The motion passed unanimously.**

- **Mr. Walker made a motion to recommend to the State Board of Education that Douglass Academy’s request for enrollment and expansion be denied for failure to meet the statutory requirements. Ms. Reeves seconded the motion.** Mr. Hawkes sought clarification on the motion, specifically the nature of the motion. Mr. Walker explained that the school was requesting a grade enrollment greater than 25% and they don’t meet the statutory requirement because they are designated as a low performing school. **The motion passed unanimously with Ms. Kakadelis recusing.**
- Mr. Machado shared an update on Heritage Collegiate Academy’s appeal, which was denied by a State Board of Education executive committee. Mr. Machado shared that the school had indicated their intent to appeal the decision to the Office of Administrative Hearings. Mr. Machado showed the CSAB members the evidence that was put together on this case and thanked Dr. Townsend-Smith for her hard work. Limited discussion occurred on this topic.
- Mr. Machado shared that the CSAB’s motion to the State Board of Education for AAC to partner with Aristotle Preparatory Academy was tabled by the State Board of Education for more information.
- Mr. Machado shared that the Office of Charter Schools has received several requests for one year delays from schools that are currently in the RTO process. Mr. Machado stated that Bonnie Cone Classical Academy and West Lake Prep and Paideia Academy have requested a one year delay and OCS is waiting for additional information to process those requests. Mr. Machado shared that Montcross Charter Academy and Cardinal Charter Academy at Knightdale have verbally indicated their intent to relinquish their charter.
- Mr. Machado shared that the Office of Charter Schools is currently conducting renewal site visits. Mr. Machado shared an email that he received as a follow up from a renewal site visit which expressed appreciation for the way the visit was conducted by the consultants from the Office of Charter Schools.
- Mr. Machado shared that the Office of Charter Schools is currently conducting school visits and observations for the Charter School Teacher of the Year.
- Mr. Machado shared that the Office of Charter Schools has conducted several board trainings for schools. Mr. Machado also shared that the Office of Charter Schools collaborated with NCCAT and the Friday Institute to host a workshop at NCCAT in Cullowhee in November focused on digital teaching and learning.

- Mr. Machado shared that the Office of Charter Schools will be two consultants down at the end of this year. Mr. Machado thanked Mr. Tucker for his hard work and efforts in elevating the level of professional development coming from the Office of Charter Schools.
- Mr. Maimone expressed his concern about the difficulties in securing funding for charter school facilities and the increased competition that may occur in light of a recent provision that will allow for the construction of new traditional public school facilities across the state.
- **No further action was taken following this discussion.**

SCHOOL UPDATES

- The CSAB received updates from schools currently designated as continually low-performing. Each respective school's board of directors and administrators provided information on their academic strategic plans. The CSAB gave each school specific follow up as a result of each presentation.

The Children's Village Academy

- Ms. Jessica Jones, Principal, provided information on the school's status. Ms. Jones stated that the school is not satisfied with their current academic performance and is working to improve their status.
- Ms. Jones shared the strategies the school is currently employing to address their academic performance. Ms. Jones shared that the school has implemented a more interactive classroom model in an effort to make the learning experience more meaningful for students. Ms. Jones also shared that the school is currently using data-driven instruction and a variety of assessment strategies and benchmarks to better track and improve student learning.
- Ms. Kakadelis asked the school to provide data on the performance of students who have been at the school for a while versus those that came more recently. The CSAB recommended that the school continue to work its strategic plan to improve its academic performance as the school has appeared before the group multiple times for its academic performance.

Haliwa-Saponi Tribal School

- Mr. Michael Richardson, Board Chair, and Mr. Warren Bell, Principal, provided information on the school's academic status.

- Mr. Bell provided information on the strategies currently being utilized to improve the school's performance, including developing a partnership with the local community college, being more intentional about assessments and offering more training for teachers.
- Mr. Quigley commended Mr. Bell on the plan he presented and encouraged him to implement it. The CSAB recommended that the school continue to work its strategic plan to improve its academic performance as the school has appeared before the group multiple times for its academic performance.

PreEminent Charter School

- Ms. Paulette Jones Levin, President and Board Chair, provided an overview of the school's growth. Melanie Butler-Williams, Principal, provided information on the school academic status.
- Mr. Walker expressed his excitement to see the school's growth as the CSAB has examined the school's academic status recently as part of the renewal process.
- Mr. Quigley stated that the school had a solid plan and encouraged the school to continue implementing it. Ms. Kakadelis asked the school to provide data on its student mobility rates. The CSAB recommended that the school continue to work its strategic plan to improve its academic performance as the school has appeared before the group multiple times for its academic performance.

Wilmington Preparatory Academy

- Mr. Kevin Johnson, Principal, presented the school's plan for academic improvement and growth.
- Mr. Quigley encouraged the school to keep working their plan. The CSAB recommended that the school continue to work its strategic plan to improve its academic performance as the school has appeared before the group multiple times for its academic performance.

Z.E.C.A School of the Arts

- Ms. Stacey Howard, Executive Director, presented on the school's efforts to implement internal controls to address issues with their finances and shared information about the school's new facility. Ms. Howard also shared information on how the school is trying to improve their academic performance.
- Mr. Walker expressed his concern about the school's recent issues related to finances and academics.

- Mr. Maimone stated that the only window of opportunity for the school based on current statute is that the school exceeds growth this year and the CSAB gives the school another window to exceed growth two out of the three years. Mr. Walker hopes the school exceeds growth and does not have an “F” school performance grade.
- The CSAB recommended that the school continue to work its strategic plan to improve its academic performance as the school has appeared before the group multiple times for its academic performance.

United Community School

- Ms. Erika Hedgepeth, Executive Director, presented information on the school’s efforts to improve their achievement and growth.
- Mr. Walker encouraged the school to improve their performance. Ms. Kakadelis encouraged the school to look at the performance of the students who have been in the school for two to three years. The CSAB recommended that the school continue to work its strategic plan to improve its academic performance.

Capitol Encore Academy

- Jeremy Fiebig, Board Chair, introduced the board and staff members in attendance. Angela Romanowski, founding Superintendent, provided some history of the school and information on the school’s current facilities. Ms. Romanowski discussed some of the challenges the school has faced since opening and how the school is working to overcome those challenges.
- Angela Hill, Principal, shared information on how the school has worked to improve the staffing and academic strategies used by the school. Ms. Hill also shared some of the successes of the school, including making growth and giving students exposure to a growing, arts-focused area in downtown Fayetteville.
- Since the school is starting the renewal process, the CSAB looks forward to hearing from the school again next year. The CSAB recommended that the school continue to work its strategic plan to improve its academic performance.

APPLICATION UPDATES/REVIEWS

Bishop George W. Brooks Male Academy

- OCS provided a brief overview of the proposed application including the proposed enrollment for the first five (5) years, proposed county, and if the application had an LEA impact statement and/or due diligence.
- Mr. Walker led the discussion and members of the Policy Committee asked specific questions on items needing clarification. Mr. Walker stated that the mission statement is more geared toward the board and not so much of a school mission. A board member stated that the board could reframe the mission statement to reflect that the mission statement is for the school and not the board. Mr. Walker stated that there is a need for a school in the area. Ms. Kroeger wanted clarification on whether the school would be able to recruit the proposed number of students considering it would be a single gender school.
- Ms. Kroeger stated that she did not feel the education plan was specific enough. Ms. Turner wanted clarification on the strategies that would be used in a single gender school. Mr. Walker wanted more clarification on how the school would be different than the LEA.
- Mr. Walker sought clarification on how many board members are shared between the proposed school and Next Generation Academy. A board member explained that he has rolled off the board for Next Generation Academy. He also explained that there would be one board member that would serve on both boards and three board members would be employees of Next Generation Academy. Mr. Walker felt that the board was strong and professionally diverse. Mr. Walker expressed his interest in the school's plan to hire retired teachers at a reduced rate. Ms. Kroeger expressed her concern related to the budgeted amount for teachers.
- Mr. Quigley wanted more clarification on the staffing plan. A board member stated that the school would employ targeted recruitment to attract male teachers since they are underrepresented. A board member also explained that there is a lot of retired educators in the proposed area and that he believes there is a pipeline of retired teachers. He also explained that there is a cost savings for the school.
- Ms. Turner wanted clarification on the proposed transportation plan. A board explained that the proposed school will eventually be located on the same campus as Next Generation Academy and will share facilities and buses. Mr. Walker sought clarification on the facility plan, specifically if the school would occupy a space that was occupied by an existing school and how this might impact student recruitment. A board explained that they are currently hosting open houses.

- Mr. Quigley asked what the total enrollment would be once the two campuses combined, which would be K-8 at 900 students per school (1800 total). Ms. Turner noted that the budget is really tight for the five years, but that her questions were more geared toward interview.
- **Mr. Walker made a committee motion to allow an interview for Bishop George W. Brooks Male Academy. Ms. Turner seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**
- **Mr. Walker made a motion to the full CSAB to allow an interview for Bishop George W. Brooks Male Academy. Ms. Gibbs seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

MINA's Place

- OCS provided a brief overview of the proposed application including the proposed enrollment for the first five (5) years, proposed county, and if the application had an LEA impact statement and/or due diligence.
- Mr. Maimone led the discussion and members of the Performance Committee asked specific questions on items needing clarification. Mr. Maimone stated that he believed that there was an error in the application related to the percentage of students that would be pulled from the proposed county (Lee). Mr. Maimone also wanted the school to confirm that they can meet the proposed enrollment. A board member explained that the organization currently runs an afterschool program and has attempted to reach out to parents that were familiar with the program. A board member explained that survey data was uploaded as an appendix to the application. A board member explained that he believed around 350 surveys were sent out and around 60% of those receiving the survey responded.
- Mr. Maimone felt the mission statement was vague and wanted to know what the hook was for parents and students.
- Ms. Reeves and Ms. Kakadelis wanted more information on the emphasis on technology in early grades. Ms. Reeves felt that there was a lot of strategies mentioned in the education plan and wanted to know how all of them will mesh together to attract families. A board member explained that the education plan was focused on ensuring students are college ready with a focus on technology integration and smaller class sizes.
- Mr. Maimone felt that the board does not have an educator's perspective. A board member explained that the board incorporated educator perspectives when developing the application and have recently added a retired principal and an instructor at the local community college to the board.

- Ms. Kakadelis and Mr. Maimone expressed concern about the teacher salaries. Ms. Reeves expressed concern about the location of the school considering the proposed location is in downtown Sanford and the contingency plan lists a more rural setting. A board member explained that when the school submitted the application, a downtown location was still possible, but since then the board has moved their focus to a different location. A board member explained that the location will determine the school's marketing efforts. Ms. Kakadelis wanted clarification on the school lunch plan. Ms. Reeves expressed her concern about the longer school day and the ability to recruit teachers at the proposed salary.
- Mr. Maimone expressed his concern about the underfunded nature of some of the budget line items (teacher salaries, technology), especially in light of the large projected surplus. Ms. Kakadelis wanted more information on the name of the school. A board member explained that the school's name is More Is Now Achievable (MINA).
- Ms. Reeves wanted clarification on the emphasis on technology and how this might impact ELL students.
- Mr. Maimone wanted to know what the school's breakeven point is. A board member explained that the breakeven point is 275, which Ms. Reeves noted was different than what was listed in the application. Ms. Reeves expressed her concern about some of the sections in the application.
- **Ms. Reeves made a committee motion to allow an interview for MINA's Place. Ms. Kakadelis seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**
- **Mr. Maimone made a motion to the full CSAB to allow an interview for MINA's Place. Mr. Walker seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

Carolina Experimental School

- OCS provided a brief overview of the proposed application including the proposed enrollment for the first five (5) years, proposed county, and if the application had an LEA impact statement and/or due diligence.
- Mr. Walker led the discussion for the Policy Committee. Mr. Walker stated that the application was deemed incomplete and the applicant failed to provide the incomplete information by the required due date (10/4/17). A portion of the missing information was provided on 11/28/17. Mr. Walker provided information related to the statutory requirements for submitting information on time.
- A board member explained that he believes the missing resume doesn't impact the understanding of the application. A board member explained that the application is very unconventional and that it

deserves an "unconventional review." A board member explained that he believes the application and model extend beyond the rubric that was used to evaluate the application. A board member explained the differences between the US and China educational models and how the school is unconventional. A board member explained that many of the fail ratings were the result of a misunderstanding of the proposed model.

- Mr. Walker asked the committee to determine if the incomplete application deserved consideration in light of the procedural issue of not submitting a complete application. Mr. Hawkes asked how many resumes were missing from the application. Mr. Walker explained that there was one resume missing and that the missing resume was that of the lead applicant.
- Ms. Kroeger was concerned that accepting it as complete would set the precedent that other incomplete applications would have to be considered in the future. Ms. Turner stated that it would be best to stay in alignment with the established procedures. Mr. Hawkes felt that not allowing them to move forward because of one resume would look bad on the CSAB. Mr. Walker felt that the statute is clear when it comes to complete and incomplete applications.
- **Mr. Walker made a committee motion to deem the application incomplete in accordance to SBE policy CHTR-012, subsection B. Ms. Kroeger seconded. The motion passed 3-1, with Mr. Hawkes dissenting and Mr. Quigley abstaining.**
- **Mr. Walker made a motion to the full CSAB to deem the application incomplete pursuant to SBE policy CHTR-012, subsection B.** Ms. Gibbs asked if it would be possible for the applicant to submit the missing information today. Mr. Walker explained that the missing information was provided after the statutorily defined grace period for submitting missing information had passed. **Ms. Turner seconded.** Mr. Quigley expressed his interest in the application and model. Mr. Walker stated that he felt the application had improved over last year's application. A board member reiterated that the missing item was inconsequential as he doesn't believe it affects the understanding of the application. Mr. Quigley explained that the CSAB has to apply the policies and procedures with consistency. Mr. Walker explained that multiple schools have been deemed incomplete and then reapply and end up getting a charter. Mr. Hawkes encouraged the school to reapply and not give up. **The motion passed 8-1, with Mr. Hawkes dissenting.**

Ridgeview Charter School

- OCS provided a brief overview of the proposed application including the proposed enrollment for the first five (5) years, proposed county, and if the application had an LEA impact statement and/or due diligence.

- Mr. Quigley led the discussion and members of the Performance Committee asked specific questions on items needing clarification. Mr. Quigley stated that he didn't have a lot of clarification items, but did have some questions that could be addressed in an interview. Ms. Reeves also stated that most of her questions could be addressed in an interview. Ms. Reeves asked about the minimum number of board meetings per year. Dr. Townsend-Smith stated that the minimum number of board meetings is eight per year. Ms. Gibbs stated that her takeaway was that males and females would be separated in the middle school and that she thought it was a good idea.
- Ms. Reeves wanted clarification on the breakeven number, especially in light of the aggressive enrollment plan.
- Mr. Maimone wanted clarification on the issues that led to the school not being approved by the State Board of Education last year. A board member stated that there were concerns about the education plan and that, in preparation for this year's application, she reached out to a successful charter school operator for advice. A board member explained that new board members have been added and that the school has worked hard to become more involved in the Gaston County community.
- Ms. Reeves asked about the school's facility plan. A board member explained that the original proposed space wouldn't work well for the school and that community leaders are helping the school find new spaces and is confident that the school will find a suitable facility.
- Mr. Quigley asked if the board had identified a potential principal. A board member explained that a current board member may serve as principal of the school.
- **Mr. Maimone made a committee motion to allow an interview for Ridgeview Charter School. Ms. Reeves seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**
- **Mr. Maimone made a motion to the full CSAB to allow an interview for Ridgeview Charter School. Mr. Walker seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

CE Academy

- OCS provided a brief overview of the proposed application including the proposed enrollment for the first five (5) years, proposed county, and if the application had an LEA impact statement and/or due diligence.
- Mr. Walker led the discussion and members of the Policy Committee asked specific questions on items needing clarification.

- The board chair for the proposed school introduced herself and provided a history of her experience with Chinese education. 2 other board members were present for this opportunity.
- Ms. Kroeger pointed out that the mission was vague and could be more specific. Ms. Turner wanted clarity on the exchange student component outlined in the application. The board chair responded that the school plans to cooperate with Chinese schools. Ms. Turner outlined the difficulties that will happen with the school's funding with proposing to use exchange students. The board chair outlined that the exchange students would not count toward funded ADM. The school plans to have approximately 10-12 exchange students. The school plans to charge tuition to the exchange students.
- Mr. Walker provided points about the application differences from previous rounds. Additionally, he wanted clarity on the specific Chinese dialect. Mr. Quigley and other members wanted to know the specific marketing effort the school would use. Additionally, the CSAB raised questions about the enrollment numbers proposed with this model being too aggressive.
- Mr. Walker wanted to have more clarity on the academic goals related to the EOG/EOC proposed in the application. Ms. Turner wanted to know if the Chinese immersion philosophy and its impact on testing. Mr. Quigley had questions about teaching the Core Knowledge curriculum in Chinese. The Vice Chair explained the academic goals and stated it was calculated using a step-by-step process. The goal is to be a school of excellence. 90% of the students will be proficient within 3 years including EC students.
- Mr. Walker wanted to know how the school would maintain the 50% licensure requirement outlined in statute with its proposed model. Ms. Kroeger wanted to know the specific professional development plan for the unlicensed teachers.
- Mr. Walker wanted to know how the school would operationalize the facility plan outlined in the application given the proposed location, specifically does the facility plan align to the budget. The board chair reported that the board confirmed a facility as late as last week that has 45 acres and 250,000 sq. feet. The building is being partially used by UNC for training. The school plans to rent part of the facility and the monthly cost would be 30,000 - 40,000 thousand and the owner would like to cooperate with the proposed applicant. The owner of the building has communicated that he would work with the applicant on its facility costs.
- Ms. Turner stated that a lot of things were missing in the budget and Ms. Kroger agreed with those sentiments. Specifically, the budget does not seem to be realistic. Mr. Walker agreed with the remarks of the committee members.

- The committee wanted to know the specific changes made from last year's submission. The Vice Chair reported that the board structure changed to maximize expertise. Additionally, the school received guidance from other charter schools in the area.
- Mr. Walker and other committee members communicated that the application needs to have some additional work. The applicant should use the feedback provided to make the needed changes.
- **Ms. Turner made a committee motion to not move forward to interview. Ms. Kroeger seconded. The committee motion passed unanimously.**
- **Mr. Walker made a full CSAB motion not to move the applicant forward. Ms. Turner seconded. The motion passed unanimously.** The applicant is encouraged to reapply and use the feedback provided in the rubric to make needed adjustments.

Clara Science Academy

- OCS provided a brief overview of the proposed application including the proposed enrollment for the first five (5) years, proposed county, and if the application had an LEA impact statement and/or due diligence.
- Mr. Quigley led the discussion and members of the Policy Committee asked specific questions on items needing clarification.
- Mr. Quigley and Mr. Walker had questions about the lack of specificity with the goals outlined in the proposed application. Mr. Walker outlined the reasons he did not pass the financial component of the application. Specifically, the facility plan was lacking and the operations plan consisted of some glaring concerns. Additional deficiencies were outlined with the health benefits and the retirement plan proposed in the application. Ms. Kroeger questioned if the budget was realistic given the proposal to teach 3 languages with only having one teacher planned in the budget. Additionally, the breakeven is questionable as proposed.
- Mr. Quigley stated that the applicant may be better off contracting its financial services than hiring a half time person given the difficulties the school will experience in its first year. The CSAB committee wanted to know if the proposed facility will be a lease or a purchase. The board chair outlined the school is looking at modular units and other potential leases and agreed with that the costs in the area were astronomical. The school is planning to locate in the Southwest area of Charlotte (Steele Creek). The board chair stated the lease was approximately \$64,000 per year and that does not include the land to locate the modular units. Another board member stated the board has real estate agents on the board that would help with obtaining a facility.

- Mr. Quigley made a committee motion to move the applicant forward to interview. The motion was not seconded. Mr. Walker stated he would not vote to move the applicant forward but would not be disappointed if they moved forward.
- Ms. Kroeger stated there are a lot of questions around the budget. A board member expressed appreciation for being able to present to the board and that they have sought the advice of consultants. While there are a lot of holes in the application they are working to get better.
- **Mr. Walker ultimately made a committee motion to move the applicant forward to interview. Ms. Turner seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**
- **Mr. Walker made a full CSAB motion to move the applicant forward to interview. Ms. Turner seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

Kaleidoscope Charter High School

- OCS provided a brief overview of the proposed application including the proposed enrollment for the first five (5) years, proposed county, and if the application had an LEA impact statement and/or due diligence.
- Mr. Walker led the discussion and members of the Policy Committee asked specific questions on items needing clarification.
- The board chair made introductions of the members present for this opportunity. Mr. Hawkes expressed his pleasure with the applicant group. He expressed his disappointment that the application did not move forward in the last application round. He thinks the application is outstanding and should be recommended to the SBE. Mr. Walker outlined it was the third time applying and should be a better application given the feedback provided.
- **Ms. Turner made a committee motion to forward the applicant forward to interview. Ms. Kroeger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**
- **Mr. Walker made a full CSAB motion to forward the applicant forward to interview. Ms. Gibbs seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

JANUARY 8 – 9 PLANNING DISCUSSION

- In preparation for the January meeting, Dr. Townsend-Smith explained that the CSAB would have five interviews and eight potential clarifications opportunities. The CSAB discussed the possible time frames for conducting the interviews and clarification opportunities over the two-day meeting.
- Dr. Townsend-Smith discussed stipulations related to the ten-dollar stipend available for board members. After hearing the requirements for receiving the stipend, CSAB expressed a desire to waive their ten-dollar stipend.

ADJOURNMENT

- **Mr. Walker made a motion to adjourn the December 12, 2017 CSAB meeting at 4:00 pm. The meeting adjourned via acclamation.**