

**Minutes of the  
North Carolina Charter Schools Advisory Board Meeting  
November 12, 2019  
NC Department of Public Instruction  
State Board Room 755 – 9:00AM**

Attendance/NCCSAB	Joel Ford Bruce Friend - <i>absent</i> Joseph Maimone Sherry Reeves Cheryl Turner Lynn Kroeger	Alex Quigley Jeannette Butterworth Steven Walker Heather Vuncannon – <i>absent</i> Lindalyn Kakadelis Rita Haire
Attendance/SBE/DPI	<i>Office of Charter Schools</i>  Dave Machado, Director Ashley Baquero, Consultant Shaunda Cooper, Consultant Claire Porter, Consultant Kebbler Williams, Consultant Jay Whalen, Consultant Joseph Letterio Maimone, Consultant	<i>Attorney General</i> Stephanie Lloyd  <i>SBE Attorney</i> Eric Snider

**CALL TO ORDER**

- The North Carolina Charter School Advisory Board (CSAB) meeting was called to order at 9:00am by Vice Chair Steven Walker who read the Ethics Statement and CSAB Mission Statement. Mr. Walker led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Motion: To approve the October 2019 meeting minutes.**

**Motion: Sherry Reeves**

**Second: Lindalyn Kakadelis**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**

**Failed**

**Motion: To approve the November 2019 CSAB meeting agenda.**

**Motion: Sherry Reeves**

**Second: Jeannette Butterworth**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**

**Failed**

## **OLD MAIN STREAM APPLICANT RECONSIDERATION**

- Mr. Walker stated that this application was before us and went through the full interview process. The applicant was recommended for approval on an accelerated basis on a 4-3 vote. The State Board of Education (SBE) considered the recommendation at its November meeting and has asked the CSAB to reconsider the recommendation based on the SBE policy that governs applicant approvals.
- Mr. Dave Machado, Office of Charter Schools (OCS) Director, stated the SBE had concerns regarding the curriculum, the current state of Robeson County schools, and the 4-3 vote from the CSAB.
- Mr. Walker and Ms. Cheryl Turner stated they both went back to the application and reviewed the RED pedagogy and have concerns about whether it matches what was explained during the applicant's previous interview before the CSAB.
- Ms. Rosemary Lowry-Townsend, Board Chair, stated she would like Ms. Brenda Deese to speak. Ms. Deese stated the curriculum recognizes the barriers of the students and addresses the needs and barriers of the community. She stated this is place-based learning. She stated the RED pedagogy is about identity.
- Ms. Lindalyn Kakadelis stated she believes the strengths of the application include the partnership with Pembroke and the cultural relevance of the curriculum. Ms. Kakadelis stated she has concerns with the mission statement's narrowness. Ms. Kakadelis stated she had trouble finding alignment between RED pedagogy and place-based curriculum. She spoke about the research she conducted on RED pedagogy and concerns with the philosophy behind the curriculum.
- Ms. Deese stated November is Indigenous Month. She spoke about her work and experience in indigenous communities across the state. She stated indigenous children have many strengths, but historically this state and this country have not met the needs of those children.
- Ms. Turner stated that she understands and supports cultural relevant teaching, but what she saw in RED pedagogy was the suggestion that other people are bad. She stated she wouldn't support teaching that to any child. Ms. Deese stated they would not teach that and responded by speaking about the diversity of the indigenous community and the inclusiveness of the community.
- Ms. Kakadelis asked how Harvey Godwin feels about this school. Ms. Deese stated he knows of the work of the school.

**Motion: The CSAB moves that Old Main STREAM is not moved forward for approval.**

- Ms. Rita Haire stated the board is strong, but she shares concerns about the RED pedagogy and it seemed to be activist related. She worries if the pedagogy does not come off well to the CSAB, it likely will not come across well with the general public.
- Mr. Alex Quigley stated that the application does not meet the high threshold for accelerated applicants.

**Motion: Sherry Reeves**

**Second: Lindalyn Kakadelis**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**

**Failed**

### **2019 CHARTER APPLICATION SEASON INTRODUCTION**

- Dr. Kebbler Williams, OCS Consultant, discussed the charter school application process and the clarification process that will take place today.
- Dr. Williams stated the clarification process is a thirty-minute interview. She explained the suggested timeframes for the thirty minutes.
- She continued that eight schools will appear today and were notified on October 14, 2019. She explained each committee's assignments. She explained which applicants are repeat applicants and which applicants have special requests.

### **CLARIFICATION INTERVIEWS**

#### **RISE Academy**

- Dr. Williams introduced the applicant. She stated the school is proposing to locate in Wake County. She explained the proposed enrollment and grade levels. She stated at capacity the school would serve grades K-8 with 378 students. She stated there was an LEA impact statement submitted. She stated the applicant received a full interview last year and the applicant has partnered with Torchlight Academy Schools, LLC ("Torchlight").
- Ms. Renata Pryor introduced herself as the Board Chair. Ms. Pryor introduced accompanying board members. Ms. Pryor stated the board has produced a contingency plan based on recent information regarding Essie Mae Kiser Foxx and Three Rivers Academy. She stated the board will continue its due diligence and believe the allegations against Torchlight have not been adjudicated. She continued that the board is prepared to move forward without Torchlight.

- Ms. Kakadelis expressed concern about the clarity of the mission statement. Ms. Pryor stated that the mission statement is a little vague. Ms. Kakadelis and Ms. Sherry Reeves stated that if STEAM is a main component of the school’s curriculum, it should be part of the mission statement. Ms. Pryor stated that she understands and the board would like the opportunity to clarify that more.
- Ms. Jeannette Butterworth stated she would like to see more detail in the school’s goals. Ms. Reeves asked for more information about the “infusion” aspect of the program. Ms. Pryor spoke about the curriculum.
- Ms. Kakadelis asked for more clarity on the scope and sequence in the application. Ms. Reeves expressed concern with the educational plan. She stated there was a list of potential resources in the application, but not a specific curriculum plan. She stated the math curriculum makes no sense at all.
- Ms. Reeves stated that the application is asking teachers to put in more than nine hours a day, but the salaries are not competitive for Wake County.
- Ms. Haire stated she thinks she understands the STEAM curriculum the applicant is proposing, but teachers will need to be very adept with that curriculum. Ms. Pryor stated that the teachers would receive development. Ms. Pryor stated that STEAM will be infused in professional development throughout the year. Ms. Haire asked if there will be specific STEAM professional development program. Ms. Pryor stated that the board plans to partner with another organization in New York.
- Ms. Reeves asked for clarity on the facility. Ms. Pryor stated the board will be responsible for finding the facility.
- Ms. Reeves and Ms. Kakadelis stated Wake County submitted an LEA impact statement that poses some concern. Ms. Reeves stated the budget should be specific to the county, and the budget is the same as submitted for all Torchlight applications.

**Motion: Committee motion to not forward applicant to full CSAB vote.**

**Motion: Sherry Reeves**

**Second: Lindalyn Kakadelis**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

**Motion: Full CSAB motion to not forward applicant to full interview.**

**Motion: Lindalyn Kakadelis**

**Second: Alex Quigley**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**

**Failed**

Telra Institute

- Dr. Williams introduced the applicant. She stated the school is proposing to locate in Mecklenburg County. She explained the proposed enrollment and grade levels. She stated at capacity the school would serve grades K-5 with 318 students. She stated an LEA impact statement was submitted. She stated this is not a repeat applicant and there are no special requests.
- Mr. Bhatt introduced himself as the Board Chair and spoke about the school's mission of serving gifted learners. Other board members introduced themselves via the phone conference line. Several board members introduced themselves as college professors.
- Mr. Quigley stated he believes this application is innovative and the kind of innovation we should see in more charter applications.
- Mr. Walker stated the application was strong, but the transportation plan was not sufficient. He also had questions about the school's targeting of gifted populations and serving all students. Mr. Walker asked about the year 0 loan budget line item. Mr. Bhatt stated that would be for expenses that take place during year 0. He stated that the board has since spoken with charter school developers and don't believe they will need that line item.
- Ms. Turner stated she is going to be really interested in how the school will plan to meet the needs of the non-gifted students that may enroll.
- Mr. Quigley asked if there is any intention to be a middle or high school. Mr. Bhatt stated the most glaring need is for elementary students. He stated there are more opportunities in middle or high school. He stated that the board would still be open to expansion down the road if things go well.

**Motion: Committee motion to forward applicant to full CSAB vote.**

**Motion: Cheryl Turner**

**Second: Steven Walker**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**

**Failed**

**Motion: Full CSAB motion to forward applicant to full interview.**

**Motion: Steven Walker**

**Second: Cheryl Turner**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**

**Failed**

Lighthouse Charter School of the Arts

- Dr. Williams introduced the applicant. She stated the school is proposing to locate in Greene County. She explained the proposed enrollment and grade levels. She stated at capacity the school would serve grades K-8 with 396 students. She stated an LEA impact statement has been submitted. She stated this is a repeat applicant that has partnered with Torchlight.
- Mr. Kevan Sheppard introduced himself as Board Chair. He stated last year's application did not have a specific curriculum focus, but this new application has an arts focus. He stated the board wanted to do something different for the disadvantaged population in the county which the school is targeting for enrollment.
- Ms. Kakadelis asked if there are any other board members present. Mr. Sheppard stated no.
- Ms. Reeves stated she was confused by the county of focus in the application and the fact that only one board member resides in Greene County. She stated Greene County has a declining student population. Mr. Sheppard stated he lives in Lenoir County, but spoke about his many connections to Greene County. Ms. Reeves stated the survey data didn't pull mainly from Greene County. Mr. Sheppard stated they made an effort to pull from other larger counties based on the CSAB feedback and LEA impact statement submitted last year.
- Mr. Quigley asked if this application has any connection to any other "Lighthouse" schools that have arts-based programs. Mr. Sheppard stated no. He stated the name came about because the school will be a light to students that are currently in the dark. He stated that Greene County is not doing well with its students and Lighthouse could do no worse.
- Ms. Kakadelis asked for more information about the curriculum. Mr. Sheppard stated the board has collaborated with Ms. Kimberly Lucas who has given the board guidance on the arts curriculum. Ms. Kakadelis asked why the daily schedule will be the same for all grade levels. Mr. Sheppard stated that the board come back to the table if things don't work. He stated the administrator that is hired will have input into the schedules.
- Ms. Butterworth asked for more information about the board. Mr. Sheppard stated that the board does not have experience running schools, but experience in finance and health. Ms. Butterworth asked if the board has plans to build that capacity. Mr. Sheppard stated yes.
- Ms. Kakadelis asked about the facility. Mr. Sheppard stated the proposed location is owned by his father. He stated he is letting Don McQueen handle that aspect to prevent conflict of interest issues.

- Ms. Kakadelis asked why the school does not have a weighted lottery. Mr. Sheppard stated the school has several partnerships within the community.
- Ms. Haire stated she has some concern that the arts-based program was something that came about to be different, but not out of a specific passion of the board.
- Ms. Kakadelis asked about the 50k grant from Torchlight. Mr. Sheppard stated that is a grant to show the management company’s commitment to the school.
- Ms. Kakadelis asked for clarification about the financial information submitted because it was not clear if the financial statements are from the management company or a specific school because the document said “New Generation School.”
- Ms. Reeves asked if Torchlight Academy School is managed by Torchlight. Mr. Don McQueen stated yes. Ms. Reeves asked about the assets of the Torchlight management company. She stated she is wondering how the management company is able to give 50k grants to the applicants that have submitted applications with Torchlight. Mr. McQueen stated the management company is in a healthy position to provide those funds.
- Ms. Kakadelis asked about the documentation that stated “Northeast Raleigh Charter Academy.” Mr. McQueen explained how that name was for a previous application and the name was changed to doing business as Torchlight Academy Schools.
- Ms. Kakadelis asked about transportation funding. Mr. Sheppard stated he believes there is about 15k allotted for that. Ms. Kakadelis stated that appears to be for the buses. Mr. Adam Weisel introduced himself as a writer of the application and spoke to the questions posed about the budget.

**Motion: Committee motion to not forward applicant to full CSAB vote.**

**Motion: Jeannette Butterworth**

**Second: Sherry Reeves**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

**Motion: Full CSAB motion to not forward applicant to full interview.**

**Motion: Lindalyn Kakadelis**

**Second: Jeannette Butterworth**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

The Soaring Eagle Academy

- Dr. Williams introduced the applicant. She stated the school is proposing to locate in Pitt County. She explained the proposed enrollment and grade levels. She stated at capacity the school would serve grades K-8 with 340 students. She stated there was no LEA impact statement submitted and this is not a repeat applicant.
- Dr. Melissa Grimes introduced herself as Board Chair. She introduced the accompanying board members.
- Dr. Grimes stated the board has gone through the rubric feedback. She stated she believes the board has addressed the feedback in its response. She stated the board is willing to adjust as needed. She stated the board is qualified and connected to the community.
- Mr. Walker asked for clarity on the education plan. He stated there seems to be a mixture of several plans in the application. Dr. Grimes stated there will be direct instruction but in today's education world you must do several different techniques to reach all students. Ms. Turner asked if she was referring to a program, or simply instruction directly to students. Dr. Grimes stated not a program.
- Mr. Walker asked why the school chose not to use a weighted lottery. Dr. Grimes stated the school plans to accept every student that applies and wants to be open to all students.
- Ms. Turner expressed concerns about a lack of clarity in the application. Dr. Grimes stated the board didn't want to be held back from being flexible. She stated innovation comes from combining approaches. Dr. Grimes stated it is a STEAM school. Ms. Lynn Kroeger stated that is nowhere in the mission. Dr. Grimes stated the mission is to empower students.
- Mr. Quigley believes this application is not ready for a full interview. Ms. Kroeger stated the application was overall too vague.

**Motion: Committee motion to not forward applicant to full CSAB vote.**

**Motion: Cheryl Turner**

**Second: Lynn Kroeger**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**

**Failed**

**Motion: Full CSAB motion to not forward applicant to full interview.**

**Motion: Cheryl Turner**

**Second: Lynn Kroeger**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**

**Failed**



## BEAM Academy

- Dr. Williams introduced the applicant. She stated the school is proposing to locate in Bladen County. She explained the proposed enrollment and grade levels. She stated at capacity the school would serve grades K-8 with 396 students. She stated an LEA impact statement was not submitted and this is not a repeat application. She stated the board has partnered with Torchlight.
- Mr. Tyrone Tucker introduced himself as Board Chair. Mr. Tucker spoke about his professional experience. He spoke about the agricultural component of the charter school application. He spoke about fellow board member experience. An accompanying board member introduced herself and spoke about her experience in education.
- Ms. Reeves asked for information about the agricultural curriculum. Mr. Tucker was not able to speak about the curriculum. Ms. Kakadelis asked what “agricultural mastery” would look like because that is in the mission statement. Mr. Tucker stated that mastery would really be in every subject, but agricultural would be a focus. Ms. Kakadelis asked how it would be measured because it’s not in the application’s goals. Ms. Kakadelis stated she believes this is a great idea for this area of the state. Ms. Kakadelis stated that if this is part of the school’s mission, it needs to be reflected in the goals of the school.
- Ms. Kakadelis asked what the LEA’s composite scores are currently. The CSAB was referred to Appendix O.
- Mr. Tucker spoke about community feedback and stated that about 80 survey responses were received.
- Ms. Reeves expressed concerns about the educational plan. She stated that the schedule in the application has three hours allotted as “hands-on” and asked for clarity about that component. Mr. Tucker stated those things could be tweaked and things are not ironed out completely. The accompanying board member spoke more about the educational plan. She spoke about project-based learning and stated that the afternoon curriculum would be very structured. She stated the board has plans to visit a farm that uses the agricultural standards.
- Ms. Kakadelis stated she likes the concept, but the application needs more work. Ms. Reeves praised the applicants for wanting to serve the rural community and hopes that the board can take the comments and come back with a stronger application.

**Motion: Committee motion to not forward applicant to full CSAB vote.**

**Motion: Lindalyn Kakadelis**

**Second: Rita Haire**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**

**Failed**

**Motion: Full CSAB motion to not forward applicant to full interview.**

**Motion: Lindalyn Kakadelis**

**Second: Sherry Reeves**

**Vote: Joel Ford, Cheryl Turner, Lynn Kroeger, Alex Quigley, Lindalyn Kakadelis, Sherry Reeves, Jeannette Butterworth, Rita Haire**

**Opposed: Steven Walker**

**Passed**

**Failed**

Clara Science Academy

- Dr. Williams introduced the applicant. She stated the school is proposing to locate in Mecklenburg County. She explained the proposed enrollment and grade levels. She stated at capacity the school would serve grades K-6 with 650 students. She stated an LEA impact statement has been submitted. She stated this applicant is a repeat application that received a full interview last year. She stated the applicant received assistance from Acadia NorthStar and Adrian Sundiata and Company.
- Ms. Muhammad introduced herself as Board Chair and fellow board members introduced themselves.
- Mr. Walker asked if the school plans to build or rent. Ms. Muhammad stated they hope to build but plan to rent at the beginning.
- Mr. Walker asked what would be weighted in the weighted lottery. Ms. Muhammad stated the school plans to serve a low socio-economic population. She stated they have not set a percentage goal at this point. She stated the board is working with Lotterease to develop the lottery plan.
- Mr. Walker stated the facility expenses are high. He stated he would want to know what has improved from the previous application. Ms. Muhammad stated that the board has been expanded.
- Ms. Kroeger stated she has concerns about the budget, which was an issue last year as well. Ms. Muhammad stated they have partnered with Acadia NorthStar to develop the budget and they would be available at a full interview.
- Ms. Turner stated she would need more information about need.

**Motion: Committee motion to forward applicant to full CSAB vote.**

**Motion: Joel Ford**  
**Second: Lynn Kroeger**  
**Vote: Unanimous**  
 **Passed**                       **Failed**

**Motion: Full CSAB motion to forward applicant to full interview.**  
**Motion: Steven Walker**  
**Second: Sherry Reeves**  
**Vote: Unanimous**  
 **Passed**                       **Failed**

**AMENDMENTS**

Rocky Mount Preparatory

- Ms. Ashley Baquero, OCS Consultant, introduced this amendment request. The school is seeking to amend its mission by creating a succinct mission statement, an aspect of the charter application that did not exist when the school applied in 1996.

**Motion: Recommend SBE approval of this amendment.**  
**Motion: Steven Walker**  
**Second: Lindalyn Kakadelis**  
**Vote: Unanimous**  
 **Passed**                       **Failed**

Team CFA: Community Public Charter

- Ms. Baquero stated the school seeks to implement a weighted lottery to increase the likelihood of enrolling at least a 35% economically disadvantaged population.

**Motion: Recommend SBE approval of this amendment.**  
**Motion: Steven Walker**  
**Second: Lindalyn Kakadelis**  
**Vote: Unanimous**  
 **Passed**                       **Failed**

Bonnie Cone Classical Academy

- Ms. Baquero stated the school seeks to implement a weighted lottery to increase the likelihood of enrolling at least a 40% economically disadvantaged population.

**Motion: Recommend SBE approval of this amendment.**  
**Motion: Steven Walker**

**Second: Sherry Reeves**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

Robert J. Brown Leadership Academy

- Ms. Baquero introduced this amendment request. The school, scheduled to open in 2020 in Guilford County, seeks to relinquish its charter due to funding issues.
- The CSAB discussed the amendment and the stated reasons in the board's letter of request.

**Motion: Recommend SBE approval of this amendment.**

**Motion: Lindalyn Kakadelis**

**Second: Lynn Kroeger**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

Movement School East

- Ms. Baquero introduced this amendment request. The school, scheduled to open in 2020 in Mecklenburg County, seeks to decrease its enrollment and modify the educational plan.
- Ms. Baquero explained the proposed enrollment for years 2-5 of the charter as the school is currently in a delayed year (year 1 of the charter). She explained the proposed changes to the educational plan.

**Motion: Recommend SBE approval of this amendment.**

**Motion: Steven Walker**

**Second: Sherry Reeves**

**Recuse: Cheryl Turner**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

- Mr. Machado introduced this month's special recognition – Lincoln Charter School Athletics.
- Mr. Jonathan Bryant, Chief Administrator for Lincoln Charter, introduced himself and spoke about the history of the school. He spoke about the school's academics, staff, and community service.

- Mr. Daniel Schmitz, Athletic Director, spoke about the athletic program and the program’s connection with Cherokee High School. He stated that the principal at Cherokee High School spoke about her students not feeling welcomed in certain spaces. He spoke about how Lincoln Charter and Cherokee High School connected to be able to break down barriers and see how seemingly different students are connected.
- Ms. Lauren Hughes, Varsity Volleyball Coach and Teacher, spoke about connecting cultures through volleyball. She stated the volleyball team visited with the Cherokee community for a full weekend. Lincoln Charter students spoke about their experience visiting with the Cherokee students. They spoke about expanding travel as athletes to build empathy and respect among the student population.

**Motion: Adjourn for lunch and then enter closed session. 12:26PM.**

**Motion: Alex Quigley**

**Second: Sherry Reeves**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**

**Failed**

**CLARIFICATION INTERVIEWS CONT.**

Power Elite Male Academy

- Dr. Williams introduced the applicant. She stated the school is proposing to locate in Mecklenburg County. She explained the proposed enrollment and grade levels. She stated at capacity the school would serve grades K-8 with 396 students. She stated an LEA impact statement has been submitted. She stated the applicant is a repeat applicant that received a full interview last year and is partnered with Torchlight.
- Ms. Rachelle Gray introduced herself as Board Chair. She stated the application has been revised based on last year’s feedback. She stated the board hopes to slow the school to prison pipeline. She stated the management company provides capital that the state does not provide and the board understands Torchlight can be replaced if needed.
- Ms. Kakadelis asked for clarification on the survey data. Ms. Gray stated they did ask for a male response. Ms. Reeves stated only 59% of responses had school aged children but it didn’t indicate male or female students.
- Ms. Reeves asked for clarification about the afterschool program. Ms. Gray stated the afterschool program would be a co-ed program.

- Ms. Kakadelis asked if the board has visited other all male schools and expressed concerns about the projected enrollment. Ms. Gray stated yes and spoke about some of those single gender schools.
- Mr. Quigley asked about the biggest difference from last year’s application. Ms. Gray stated the mission and program.
- Ms. Gray spoke about the goals of the school and active based learning. Mr. Quigley asked for clarification on the curriculum. Ms. Gray stated the school would use strategies from Success Academy but using the NC Standard Course of Study. Ms. Reeves asked what curriculum would be used. Ms. Gray stated the school would use NC Standard Course of Study. Ms. Reeves and Ms. Kakadelis stated that those are standards, not curriculum.
- Ms. Reeves asked what Ms. Gray saw when she visited Torchlight Academy in Wake County. Ms. Gray stated she saw respect, confidence, leaders, and teachers reaching students where they are.

**Motion: Committee motion to forward applicant to full CSAB vote.**

**Motion: Lindalyn Kakadelis**

**Second: Sherry Reeves**

- Ms. Haire asked for more information about what applicants can submit prior to a full interview. Board members stated that applicants cannot change the application, but sometimes submit responses to evaluator comments. Mr. Quigley stated at the end of the day we are judging the application.
- Ms. Butterworth asked for more information about the board.
- Mr. Ford stated he wants to see more information because he is not interested in seeing another charter school in Mecklenburg if that school is not going to be successful. He stated we do not have time to play or experiment with this population. He stated he hopes to hear more at the full interview to make him feel more comfortable.

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

**Motion: Full CSAB motion to forward applicant to full interview.**

**Motion: Sherry Reeves**

**Second: Lindalyn Kakadelis**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

Huntersville Charter High School

- Dr. Williams introduced the applicant. She stated the school is proposing to locate in Mecklenburg County. She explained the proposed enrollment and grade levels. She stated at capacity the school would serve grades 9-12 with 405 students. She stated an LEA impact statement has been submitted. She stated the applicant is a repeat applicant.
- Mr. Walker stated this application was deemed incomplete last year.
- Ms. Jennifer Nichols introduced herself as Board Chair and explained the mission of the school which is a trade-based high school proposal. She stated land is already secured for a facility.
- Mr. Walker stated he likes the idea of a trade school. He stated he would like more information about how course of study will be aligned with the trade curriculum. He also stated the transportation plan needs more detail.
- Ms. Turner asked for more information about Aspire. Ms. Nichols stated Aspire is a foundation that was created to open schools that reach special populations. Ms. Turner asked how many people are on that board. Ms. Nichols stated five, but they plan to add more board members and eventually want to have separate boards for the schools.
- Ms. Kroeger asked for confirmation that students will receive a standard diploma as well as the trade skills. Ms. Nichols stated yes.
- Mr. Ford asked if there is any connection to Huntersville. Ms. Nichols stated it is not a municipal school, but Huntersville is supportive of the school. She stated Huntersville has wanted a trade school, but it hasn't happened.

**Motion: Committee motion to forward applicant to full CSAB vote.**

**Motion: Cheryl Turner**

**Second: Joel Ford**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

**Motion: Full CSAB motion to forward applicant to full interview.**

**Motion: Steven Walker**

**Second: Cheryl Turner**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

## **2018-19 ACADEMIC DATA REVIEW**

- Ms. Baquero presented the 2018-19 Charter School Academic Data Review. She stated there are currently 196 operating schools. The academic data reviewed during this presentation are for the 178 schools with tested data during the 2018 school year.
- She explained changes to the achievement levels and mathematics assessments that took place during the 2018 school year. She explained how school performance grades are computed.
- Ms. Baquero explained trends in charter school performance grades and academic growth. She discussed low-performing school performance data.

## **CHARLOTTE CHOICE**

- Mr. Jason Duffey introduced himself as Board Vice Chair. He spoke about the school's current enrollment and demographics. Ms. Turner asked where the new school will be located. Mr. Duffey stated that the new building is about one mile away from the current location. He spoke about enrollment trends over the last six years.
- Mr. Walker asked about the school's fund balance. Mr. Duffey spoke about an error that occurred in adding enrollments that were not confirmed. He stated the school is running a 108k deficit. Mr. Walker asked how much is in the bank. Mr. Duffey stated he is not sure.
- Mr. Duffey explained turbulence that occurred at the school and on the board from August 2017 to January 2019. He spoke about the changes that have occurred this year including breaking ground on a new facility, increasing enrollment, and board and administration changes.
- Mr. Maimone asked how the school can afford a new facility. Mr. Duffey stated with the help of American Charter Development.
- Mr. Gregory Davis, principal, spoke about his background and the chaos he encountered when he first started at the school.
- Mr. Davis spoke about the improvements he is making as the new principal. He stated teachers needed professional development in classroom management. He spoke about the changes he has made since becoming principal. He spoke about recent benchmark data from iReady.



- Mr. Walker stated he would like to see the school back in February with financial data. Ms. Reeves asked if the audit has been submitted. Mr. Guffey stated he is not sure but will find out.
- Mr. Machado stated that he reached out to Financial Business Services which has confirmed the audit has not been submitted.
- Ms. Kakadelis asked what the school is doing to improve the reading data displayed in the presentation. Mr. Davis spoke about remediation and interventions taking place.

### **NC CYBER ACADEMY MONTHLY UPDATE**

- Mr. Nathan Currie addressed the board and introduced the staff members accompanying him at today's meeting.
- Mr. Copeland, the new Elementary Principal, addressed the board and spoke about learning coaches and teacher support.
- Ms. Reeves asked about board meeting notifications and why so many are special called board meetings. Mr. Currie stated the board is still in conversations and mediation with Pearson, so these situations have required attorney-client privileges.
- Mr. Quigley asked how field trips take place virtually. Mr. Copeland stated that families meet somewhere like the recent trip to the zoo.
- Ms. Kakadelis asked for more information about some of the travel expenses. Ms. Phifer explained some of her expenses were combined from multiple meetings. The CSAB advised the NC Cyber Academy staff and board members to consider virtual meetings if they wanted to cut down on meeting attendance costs.
- Mr. Quigley asked what the testing expenses refer to. Mr. Currie stated that staff travel across the state to administer and proctor testing such as the recent pre-ACT test. CSAB members asked for more information about testing facilities used. The CSAB advised the NC Cyber Academy staff to reach out to local community colleges for possible testing facility partnerships.
- Ms. Kakadelis asked about the withdrawals that have taken place. Mr. Currie stated he believes that is similar to previous years. Ms. Reeves asked about enrollment windows. Ms. Robinson, Director of Operations, spoke about enrollment.
- Ms. Kakadelis asked if the teacher turnover rate is similar to previous years. Mr. Currie stated yes and it is below the state average. The HR Director spoke about staff turnover that has taken place this year.

- Ms. Kakadelis asked for November benchmark data to be shared with the CSAB in December. Mr. Currie stated they will do that.

**ADJOURNMENT**

- **Mr. Quigley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:44pm. Meeting adjourned via acclamation.**

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NC Department of Public Instruction  
State Board Room 755 – 9:00AM**

Attendance/NCCSAB	Joel Ford – <i>via phone</i> Bruce Friend – <i>absent</i> Joseph Maimone Sherry Reeves Cheryl Turner Lynn Kroeger	Alex Quigley Jeannette Butterworth Steven Walker Heather Vuncannon <i>absent</i> Lindalyn Kakadelis - <i>absent</i> Rita Haire
Attendance/SBE/DPI	<i>Office of Charter Schools</i>  Dave Machado, Director Ashley Baquero, Consultant Jay Whalen, Consultant Joseph Letterio Maimone, Consultant Claire Porter, Consultant	<i>Attorney General</i> Stephanie Lloyd Tiffany Lucas  <i>SBE Attorney</i> Eric Snider

**CALL TO ORDER**

- The North Carolina Charter School Advisory Board (CSAB) meeting was called to order at 9:00am by Chairman Alex Quigley who read the Ethics Statement and CSAB Mission Statement. Mr. Quigley led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Mr. Quigley stated he would be recused from discussion on the PAVE SE Raleigh charter school renewal item and from all Durham renewal schools.

## **MR. KARL POND, NC DPI ENTERPRISE DATA MANAGER**

- Mr. Karl Pond, NC DPI Enterprise Data Manager, addressed the CSAB regarding the calculation of economically disadvantaged (EDS) populations.
- Mr. Pond stated the first thing the CSAB needs to know is that the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), or free or reduced lunch, is no longer the definition of EDS. He stated he believes he understands the dilemma the charter schools are facing in terms of calculating EDS populations and the press's misinformation.
- Mr. Pond stated that in terms of federal reporting, or state reporting, EDS is a subcategory and for that we need individual level data. He continued, that if you do not have NSLP or you are a Community Eligibility Program (CEP), you won't have that data. He stated that even if you have a system for collecting the information, he cannot validate that data. He stated that none of the individual data gets sent to the feds, but if they come to audit, he would need to be able to show individual data.
- Mr. Pond stated that the feds do a very good job of checking the department's numbers. He stated that he needs to be able to substantiate the numbers. He stated he is unable to substantiate individual data from schools. He stated the feds are aware of the issue and the department has put in a grant for a longitudinal data study to figure out how to calculate the economically disadvantaged populations. He has asked the federal government to allow him to be at the table for this issue even if the department does not receive the grant. He provided the CSAB with information about how the EDS numbers are currently calculated.
- Ms. Turner asked if the school is doing NSLP, if those numbers are being used. Mr. Pond stated yes.
- Mr. Maimone asked how CEP qualified districts are audited for information on EDS. Mr. Pond stated that the process for EDS and the NSLP is the same. He continued that a CEP school, every student gets lunch, so they don't do applications. Mr. Pond stated he uses data from Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Mr. Maimone and Ms. Turner stated that if a family doesn't apply for services through DHHS, they don't count even if they are technically EDS.
- Mr. Quigley asked if there is any way forward in terms of creating some type of verification form regardless of CEP status. Mr. Pond stated he has thought of something like that, but he wants to speak to some other people. Mr. Pond stated that issues come up with how the numbers are verified from school to school.

- Mr. Quigley stated that if a form is used consistently from school to school it may work. He stated district schools should need to use the same form.
- Mr. Quigley stated that he has had a major increase in Hispanic and immigrant populations at his school and he is quite certain they are not applying for benefits but would qualify as EDS. Mr. Pond stated the definition was never good to begin with for those sorts of reasons. Mr. Quigley stated it is tricky because so many things are driven by that number.
- Mr. Pond stated that is why they have certain methods of calculating those numbers such as the 1.6 multiplier. He stated everyone knows this is an issue. Mr. Quigley stated that charter schools are under more scrutiny, as individual schools, and so it's an important issue. Mr. Quigley spoke about processes that other states are using to calculate EDS populations.
- Mr. Pond stated every state is struggling with the same thing. Mr. Quigley asked what his recommendation would be. Mr. Pond stated that he has concerns about the data no matter where it derives because some people that would qualify don't report.
- Mr. Walker wondered if social security numbers could be used by the federal government. He stated it gets frustrating when charter schools keep hearing that they are not serving EDS populations when in fact they are. Mr. Pond stated social security number use is a very sensitive topic. He stated it raises a lot of issues. Mr. Pond stated the department is doing the best they can and using the highest numbers possible to get schools the resources they need.
- Ms. Turner stated that would mean the accountability data around EDS subgroup is not valid. Mr. Pond stated well it is valid based on the data available. Ms. Reeves stated it is valid, but not completely accurate. Mr. Pond stated he doesn't believe it will ever be perfect, but they are aware of the issue.
- Mr. Quigley stated there is an incentive for schools to collect forms, even if the school does CEP.
- Mr. Walker asked why the data is collected. Mr. Pond stated Title I, equity, and grants tie in with the EDS data.
- Mr. Maimone asked if there has been a situation in the state where a district qualified for CEP but then numbers dropped and the district no longer qualified for CEP. Mr. Pond stated he has not looked into that; Lynn Harvey would have to answer that question.
- Ms. Haire asked if CEP eligibility correlates with Title I eligibility. Mr. Pond stated he doesn't know that. Mr. Quigley stated a charter school probably wouldn't pursue CEP if the school is not Title I. Ms. Haire asked if the eligibility is based on the same criteria. Mr.

Quigley stated yes. Mr. Turner stated the issue with CEP is that they only use DHHS numbers, which can be much lower than when you do applications. Ms. Turner stated her school does applications, and not CEP, because the numbers based on applications makes a huge difference and the school funds the difference.

- Mr. Pond stated he has some ideas but wants to speak to people in the department and would like to come back to speak to the topic. Mr. Quigley stated the CSAB appreciates his work on this and hope that charter schools are at the table when it comes to discussions on the issue.

### **RULES MAKING PROCESS UPDATE**

- Mr. Eric Snider, SBE Attorney, presented an update on the rules making process that has been taking place at the department. He explained the required rules making process that is currently happening in the agency.
- Mr. Snider reviewed the current SBE policies regarding charter schools that have been submitted to the rules making process. He stated there are no substantive changes to these policies, or interim rules, as they become rules in the administrative code. He stated if they were to make substantive changes, the agency would also need to make fiscal notes and start from scratch. He stated these rules have already been published once and the agency will respond to all the public comments that have been provided. He stated there will be an additional public comment period.

### **LOW ENROLLMENT DISCUSSION**

- Mr. Quigley stated he suggests we make a recommendation to the SBE that we continue to use the 20-day average daily membership (ADM) number to determine if a school meets the minimum 80 enrollment number.
- Mr. Quigley stated that last year the CSAB closed a school before the end of the year because of low enrollment, but also major financial issues. He would like the CSAB to discuss a recommendation to the SBE.
- Mr. Snider stated there is certainly an expectation in statute and Charter Agreement, that unless there is an exception stated in the charter application, there is a minimum enrollment expectation of 80 students. He stated there are a number of important factors linked to the minimum 80 enrollment figure. He stated there are a number of noncompliance statuses that the CSAB could put on a school based on low enrollment. He stated that for some schools low enrollment may be fiscally sound, but for others it may be a viability issue.

- Mr. Maimone asked for confirmation we are talking about the 20-day funded ADM number, not the actual 20-day enrollment number. Mr. Quigley stated yes. Mr. Quigley stated we need schools to focus on the funded number. Mr. Walker agreed especially in light of the fact that the 80 minimum enrollment number is connected to financial viability of a charter school.
- Mr. Snider referenced the general statute that governs minimum enrollment in a charter school.
- Mr. Quigley asked if schools are automatically put on month to month allotments if the school is below the minimum enrollment. Ms. Alexis Schauss, NC DPI Chief Business Officer, stated that schools are put on financial disciplinary noncompliance as it is a violation of state statute. Ms. Schauss stated that happens when the agency is aware of the low enrollment. Ms. Schauss stated it is very difficult to look at financial health at this point in the school year so it is difficult to differentiate between low enrollment schools that may be able to balance their budget, and those that cannot, because that information is not available at this point.
- Mr. Quigley stated he's not sure we need to put forward a recommendation, but the number should be based on the 20-day funded ADM. He stated if that is not clear, we need to put that out there in policy or rule. He wondered if the schools should also be on governance noncompliance for violation of the charter. Mr. Quigley and Mr. Snider spoke about the nuances implicit in low enrollment evaluations and the fact that situations can be very different from school to school.
- Ms. Turner and Mr. Quigley agreed that the CSAB should have low enrollment schools come to the CSAB as soon as possible with revised budgets as they did with the low enrollment schools this year.
- Ms. Kroeger asked if there is anything that could be done to ensure the low enrollment schools don't draw down too much money. Mr. Quigley stated he would be interested in knowing the data that Financial Business Services (FBS) and CSAB need to have to understand the financial situation.
- Ms. Schauss stated that we are dealing with first year schools. She stated that at this point the schools only receive state funding until about September and to restrict cash flow at an early date like July is something that has not been considered. She stated that even schools on monthly allotments have been provided the 34% and then when FBS trues up, they go into monthly allotments. She stated the reality is that schools may project and have evidence of a certain enrollment, and FBS cannot predict, in July, which schools will actually make those projections.

- Mr. Quigley stated he would like to see the three low enrollment schools again in December or January. Mr. Quigley stated that we as the board are going by the 20-day funded ADM and everyone should be aware of that. He stated Global Achievers was a more serious situation than the three schools we saw last month. Ms. Turner stated that will be a good time to see the schools again because at that time the schools will have received the second drop and figures will be trued up.
- Ms. Schauss stated that restrictions were put on those schools with low enrollment and either FBS or OCS did a headcount to confirm numbers. She stated there is not an exact science to ensure all low enrollment schools are receiving restricted funds.
- Mr. Snider stated he doesn't believe there is a particular charge from the board at this point, but for the CSAB to continue to monitor these schools.

### **RENEWAL SCHOOLS FINANCIAL REPORT**

- Ms. Schauss stated that there are two schools with 2019 audits still outstanding – Wilmington Preparatory Academy (65B) and Henderson Collegiate (91B). She stated that during the review, FBS goes back five years of audited financial statements because the trends are very important in terms of financial health. She stated they also look at ADM and any other compliance issues for the Division of School Business.
- She stated the first page of the report lists the schools that are managed by CMOs or EMOs and is just a statement that these schools are dependent on these organizations and FBS does not review the financial statements of those organizations.
- She stated the first grouping is a list of those schools that have no concerns.
- She stated the second grouping are those schools with outstanding audits but based on the prior four years, FBS has no financial or student accounting concerns.
- She stated the third grouping are the schools that have current financial concern or noncompliance, or a previous financial noncompliance. She stated there are three categories: items of concern that have not merited noncompliance, prior year financial noncompliance that has been resolved, and current noncompliance issues.
- She stated the first school is Shining Rock Classical Academy (44A). She stated the school will need to adjust its budget due to a significant drop in ADM. She stated they have a healthy fund balance. She stated the school also had a failure to report in 2017 that has been resolved.
- She stated the next school is Charlotte Lab School (61M) which has several areas of concern. She stated they were placed on disciplinary noncompliance based on the 2018 review including a negative unassigned governmental fund balance. She stated that based on the

2019 audit, the school has made significant improvement in financial health. Mr. Walker asked how the school was able to pull that off in one year. Ms. Schauss stated they had an increase in ADM of 100 students which would have helped.

- Ms. Haire stated that it appears they have a new 500k line of credit so it would be interested to know how much is drawn on that.
- Ms. Schauss stated the next school is Veritas Community School (61P) with three continuous years of declining ADM. She stated the school will need to adjust its budget. She stated there are no other financial issues.
- She continued with Rocky Mount Preparatory (64A). She stated the ADM had been pretty steady until last year when there was about a 200 student decline. She stated the biggest decline in ADM is in 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grades. She stated there is no financial concern however.
- She continued with Ignite Innovation Academy – Pitt (74B). She explained the current financial concerns with the school including signs of financial weakness. She stated they are very, very lean. She stated they will need to continue to make budget adjustments. She stated the school will go on noncompliance for a negative fund balance.
- Ms. Schauss stated that Winterville Charter Academy (74C) show signs of financial weakness with a very small fund balance, however this is a National Heritage school, so this is a normal financial statement for those schools which keep very small fund balances. She continued that those schools are treated the same as any others, and so will be placed on noncompliance if the fund balance falls to negative.
- Ms. Schauss stated the fourth category are schools that had financial concerns in previous years and the 2019 financial statements have not been received, so FBS cannot make a full report at this time. The first school she spoke about was KIPP Durham College Preparatory (32S). She stated the school has a history of failure to report in a timely manner. She explained financial noncompliance history of the school. She continued that the final school is Queen City STEM School (61N). She stated the school has prior year financial noncompliance but was showing signs of improvement. She stated that once the 2019 audit is received, FBS may be able to remove the school from noncompliance. Ms. Schauss stated she does not anticipate having concerns with Queen City, but she needs to see the 2019 audit. She continued that KIPP Durham is very lean.

### **RENEWAL SCHOOL INTERVIEWS**

- Ms. Shaunda Cooper, OCS Consultant, introduced this year's renewal school interviews.

#### **Mountain Island Charter School (36C)**

- Ms. Cooper stated the school is on noncompliance for accountability but has been released from noncompliance issued from OCS. Mr. Quigley reminded the CSAB that schools have been asked not to present slides but provide a one-page summary instead.



- Mr. Quigley stated there appear to be no academic issues and in fact the school is outperforming the county.
- Ms. Kelly Pledger, Board Chair, introduced herself. Mr. Justin Matthews, Director, spoke about the accountability noncompliance. He stated that the school's exceptional children's population is very small with 32 students. He stated the school was technically below the 95% participation threshold, with 94% participation because of the small numbers of the subgroup. He stated the school does everything it could to ensure every student tested. Ms. Reeves stated that students are given two weeks to make-up those tests. Mr. Matthews stated he is not aware of any statutory noncompliance issues.
- Ms. Cooper stated she believes this is not the first year that the school has not met participation rates. Mr. Quigley asked for more information from accountability regarding the participation rates. He asked that any supporting documentation be sent to CSAB.
- Ms. Turner asked about the lottery issue that resulted in governance noncompliance. Ms. Pledger explained how the school has worked to meet compliance and was released in April of this year.
- Mr. Quigley asked what preferences the school uses in the admissions policy. Ms. Pledger stated employee, sibling, board chair, charter transfer, and alumni. Mr. Quigley asked for more detail regarding the previous enrollment issue. Mr. Quigley asked about the volleyball coach situation. Ms. Pledger explained the situation when a volleyball coach's child was given enrollment preference. Mr. Matthews explained the situation came about because the school was trying to fill positions and the school's attorney had vetted the situation. He stated they had a complete defense because the attorney vetted the situation.
- Mr. Snider stated that the statute concerning admissions preferences allows for preferences for "full-time" employees.
- Mr. Matthews stated that his belief is the school is a private corporation that can determine what qualifies as "full-time" for employee purposes. He also stated the school has changed the policy. He stated they tried to do it the right way.
- Mr. Quigley stated we just need to look if there are any patterns of concern. Mr. Quigley praised the school for the academic data.
- Ms. Reeves stated there is also a participation noncompliance for Biology issued this year.
- Mr. Matthews stated he understands, but do not think these issues warrant a three-year hit on the renewal period.

Charlotte Lab School (61M)

- Staff and board members introduced themselves. The Board Chair, Mr. Murray, stated the financial issues the school experienced were really cash flow timing. He spoke about how board members gave no interest loans to the school and then had to wait for local funding to repay the loans. He stated they have since gone a different route and sought private loans. He stated the school has become much better at understanding cash flow timing. He spoke about the financial experience on the board currently. He stated the school is in a strong financial position this year and going forward.
- Mr. Quigley asked for the projected surplus. Mr. Murray stated they project about just shy of 300k surplus at the end of this year. He stated they are not trying to build surplus but reinvest in the students and the school. He stated they are not trying to build big reserves.
- Ms. Kroeger asked for outstanding debt. Another board member stated there are three outstanding loans of 125k and 163k. Ms. Reeves asked if those will be payments or lump sums. Mr. Murray stated payments and he is likely to forgive his loan.
- Mr. Quigley asked how OCS staff feels about the beginning teacher noncompliance. Ms. Cooper stated she is confident they will be on track with that program.
- Mr. Maimone asked for enrollment and capacity. The board stated 655, with a 1000+ waiting list, and they are at capacity at the current location.
- Mr. Walker asked how the school was able to meet growth the last year. The school leader stated that the weighted lottery changed the school population and more students came in with gaps that the school had difficulty at addressing at first. She stated the school has improved its ability to reach all students.
- Ms. Reeves asked if the economically disadvantaged population reported is correct. Ms. Moss, the school leader stated no, it is much higher, and she's not sure why that is happening. She stated the school does not participate in the National School Lunch Program so that may be part of the problem.
- Mr. Quigley asked if the school received the CSP grant. Ms. Moss stated yes and the school hopes to add grade levels.

#### Kestrel Heights School (32D)

- Mr. Quigley has recused from discussion on Durham schools.
- Dr. Mark Tracy, Director, introduced accompanying staff members. He thanked the CSAB and OCS for its support.
- Dr. Tracy spoke about the ADM and insurance noncompliance items. Dr. Tracy stated the school has never lapsed in insurance.

- Mr. Walker stated he believes this school is making significant progress since the high school was closed and he would support a ten-year renewal. He stated the school outperforms the LEA and is not in significant noncompliance.
- Ms. Turner asked Ms. Cooper about the effort the school has made during the renewal process. Ms. Cooper stated the communication and effort has improved.
- Mr. Maimone stated there is also a seven-year renewal term possible. He stated this could be a good compromise for schools like Kestrel.

#### Piedmont Classical High School (41K)

- Mr. Walker asked what happened last year academically. The school director stated there was a transition in leadership. He stated that in five years, there have been five leaders. He stated there was also a change in location that shifted demographics. He spoke about the new academic directors. He stated there are some huge gaps with the students.
- Ms. Reeves asked the school director to address the graduation rate. The school director spoke about how the school does not graduate students that are not ready.
- Mr. Quigley stated that much transition in leadership is concerning. Ms. Turner asked the school director how long he has been at the school. He stated he started in July, so he is the new leader. He spoke about his experience in education.
- Ms. Reeves stated she sees enrollment is increasing, so where are they losing kids. The school director stated that some students decide to leave to go back to the traditional school to graduate with friends.
- Mr. Quigley stated the school has not been comparable to the LEA and he wonders if they need a short-term renewal. The school leader stated that the staff and the students are getting it and moving in a positive direction. He spoke about the benchmark data.
- The CSAB discussed whether the school falls under the five or seven-year guidelines. Mr. Walker stated that under the guidelines it falls under a seven-year guideline. Mr. Walker stated he would be okay with a seven-year renewal if there wasn't such a big drop last year. Mr. Quigley stated that happens with a lot of leadership transitions. Ms. Cooper stated the school has been in constant contact with the OCS about what is happening.

#### PreEminent Charter (92M)

- The CSAB congratulated the school on its academic growth. The Board Chair introduced herself and the school leader Ms. Melanie Williams.
- Ms. Williams spoke about the school's academic growth. She spoke about the school's interventions and strategy to retain struggling students at K-2 levels because that hasn't been shown to impact graduation rates.

- CSAB members asked about the IDEA noncompliance listed. Ms. Williams stated she believes that was Indicator 11. Ms. Cooper stated OCS reports anything on the record, but it appears to be resolved.
- Mr. Quigley stated he wonders if the school would qualify for a longer renewal term. He stated if schools are exceeding growth it should be honored. Ms. Turner stated they have moved out of low-performing status.

#### Queen City STEM Academy (61N)

- The Board Chair introduced himself and spoke about the school's enrollment. He stated the board is excited about the school's growth.
- The principal introduced herself and stated there was 64% new staff this year and that there have been three administration transitions in five years. She spoke about the changes that have taken place at the school.
- Mr. Walker asked about the audit. Mr. Ben Karaduman stated it has been turned in.
- The principal spoke about the school efforts to meet IDEA compliance issues that came up in prior years. She stated NC DPI EC team came to the school for an audit this year and the school passed.
- Mr. Maimone asked for financial data on the school. Mr. Karaduman spoke about the closing costs of the new building. Mr. Walker stated it appears the CSAB needs to get more information from the audit.

#### Shining Rock Classical Academy (44A)

- Mr. Joshua Morgan, Head of School, introduced himself. Ms. Turner asked about the IDEA noncompliance. Mr. Morgan stated there was a transition last spring with the head of school and EC director. He stated that the administration figured out the problem and corrected the noncompliance.
- Ms. Kroeger asked for enrollment. Mr. Morgan stated about 310. He spoke about a very difficult eighteen months the school experienced in regards to transitions and staff morale. He spoke about what the school and board are doing to improve community feelings about the school. He spoke about changes made to the board operations to improve transparency.
- Ms. Cooper stated the school has been very proactive and communicative with OCS.

#### Youngsville Academy (35B)

- Mr. John Allen, Board Chair, introduced himself and Principal Larry Henson. He stated that for the first three years the school operated in a church location that presented operational

and educational challenges. He stated they are now in a new location with four times the amount of after school tutoring and clubs. He stated they are confident they are on the path to be the strongest school in the county.

- Ms. Reeves asked for current and projected grade levels. Mr. Henson stated they are K-6 and plan to expand K-12.
- Mr. Henson spoke about the beginning teacher support program.
- Mr. Walker stated he has yet to see a study that shows the number of certified teachers correlates with academic proficiency. He stated licensure should be focused on student safety.

*\*CSAB adjourned for lunch at 12:10PM.*

### **STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION – CSAB MEETING ADMIN**

- Mr. Machado discussed the SBE's November meeting.
- He discussed the fact that DMV has stopped issuing activity bus licenses and he is working with the department to find a solution. Ms. Turner stated that in her county, her school has allowed other schools to use their buses for testing purposes.
- He stated the next CSAB meeting is December 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>.

### **RENEWAL SCHOOL INTERVIEWS CONTINUED**

#### **KIPP Durham Prep (32S)**

- Ms. Turner has recused herself from discussion. Mr. Quigley has recused himself from discussion.
- Mr. Walker asked why the audit has been submitted late. A representative stated that they have now made changes to the way the audit is conducted to improve timeliness. Mr. Walker asked if there are any findings. The representative stated there was a finding of restatement of a \$7.7M asset finding based on the new building in Halifax.
- Mr. Walker stated this appears to be another one that requires financial audit review.
- The principal stated he has been the school leader since July and spoke about transitions that have taken place at the school. Ms. Reeves asked for the ADM and grade levels. The principal stated 369 and 5-8.

#### **PAVE SE Raleigh Charter School (93J)**

- Mr. Quigley has recused himself from discussion.

- Mr. J.B. Buxton introduced the board and staff members accompanying him.
- Mr. Buxton stated that when the school was started, the board signed a five-year agreement with a management company, and the school and PAVE have decided that the partnership will terminate at the end of the five-year agreement.
- Mr. Buxton introduced Ms. Dawn Arthur as Executive Director. He stated she had been with KIPP for six years prior.
- Mr. Walker stated he is trying to determine how the school could get a five-year renewal given its continually low-performing status. Ms. Arthur stated that one component of the school's plan for improvement is building strong and stable leadership. She stated the school is working to improve communication among school teams. She stated new board members have been brought onboard. She stated academic leaders have visited Henderson Collegiate and the school has reached out to other models to learn.
- Ms. Turner asked to what grades the school intends to extend. Ms. Arthur stated K-8.
- Mr. Crenshaw stated the school's performance is in the top half of the zip code's performance. He stated they are still not satisfied, but they are proud of the results.
- Ms. Reeves asked how many students from Hope Charter came to PAVE this year. Ms. Arthur stated around twenty.
- Mr. Maimone and Ms. Turner stated they believe the school should receive a five-year based on the fact the school only has two years of data and met growth last year.

#### Rocky Mount Preparatory

- Ms. Shauntee Garrett introduced herself as Head of School. Mr. Quigley asked for an update on the school's transitions. Ms. Garrett stated she has been at the school for four years and last year the Head of School resigned, and she was named to the position.
- Mr. Quigley asked why she believes the school did not meet growth 2016 and 2017. She spoke about changes the school has made instructionally. She stated growth was made in reading and math and with all subgroups. She stated now the school is focused on improving staff and scholar culture.
- Mr. Maimone asked if the audit was submitted on time and if there were any exceptions. The school's finance officer stated yes it was submitted on time and there were no exceptions.
- Mr. Quigley stated the issue with this school is the fact it has been pretty stagnant at a thirty percent proficiency rate. Ms. Garrett stated the school is on a transformation process and last year's growth is the first stop. Ms. Turner stated she understands this, but last renewal term there was a new leader with a new plan and we haven't seen major growth.

- Ms. Cooper stated that during the renewal interviews stakeholders expressed that the school is a very safe option in the community.

#### VERITAS Community School (61P)

- Board and staff members introduced themselves. The principal, Dr. Scott, spoke about the decline in enrollment. He stated he is the third principal. He stated that a year ago, it was decided not to expand to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. He continued that as a result, the school lost 6<sup>th</sup> graders and other families lost confidence in the school.
- Dr. Scott spoke about school's academic improvement plan. He stated the EDS number is 33% and not the 17% reported by accountability.
- Mr. Walker stated they are low-performing, but not continually low-performing. A board member stated that the school has had a complete turnover since it opened in five years – completely new board and completely new staff.
- Ms. Kroeger asked for the ADM. Dr. Scott stated 124. Mr. Quigley asked if the school is planning to expand to 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Dr. Scott said yes. Mr. Quigley asked for the grade level breakdown. Dr. Scott stated the enrollment per grade level. Dr. Scott stated the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade is combined.
- Mr. Quigley asked about the competitiveness of the market in the area the school is located in Charlotte. Dr. Scott stated it is a competitive market and the school is promoting its safety and wellness values to help enrollment. Mr. Quigley asked for the ideal K-8 enrollment. Dr. Scott stated 350.
- Mr. Walker stated he believes they would fall under a five-year renewal term.

#### Wilmington Preparatory Academy (65B)

- The principal spoke about the school's academic data and his belief that the school should be compared to county schools with similar ED populations. He stated the school is at 80% ED student population.
- Ms. Reeves asked what the school is doing differently this year. The principal discussed increases in tutoring and the year round calendar. He stated tutoring is offered during intercession and after school. He spoke about data meetings and other improvements the school has made.
- Ms. Reeves asked for the ADM. The principal stated 130 with about 80-85% retention rate. Ms. Reeves asked if the school has tracked the students that come in as kinders and stay at the school. The principal stated yes.

- Mr. Quigley asked about the ideal size of the school. The principal stated they are at capacity with the current building. He continued they hope to get a new building but need to improve wait list numbers to help with financing.
- The board chair stated that the fund balance is now \$150k. The board and principal thought the audit was turned in so they will check on its status.
- Mr. Maimone stated he would support a five-year renewal term based on the exceeded growth marks from last year. Mr. Walker stated there is a lot of good that can be said about this school.

#### Ignite Innovation Charter (74B)

- Ms. Reeves recused herself from discussion on this matter.
- Mr. McCarthy, the principal, spoke about the school's academic data. He stated EVAAS data showed some trends in certain grade levels that showed issues with certain teachers. He stated the school had huge staff turnover. He stated there was a bit of cracking the whip.
- Mr. Quigley asked when the new principal took over. Mr. McCarthy stated July 2018.
- A board member stated the board erred in not making a change in leadership as soon as it should have.
- Mr. McCarthy stated that they want one more year to put the plan in place. He stated last year was that transition year.
- Ms. Butterworth asked how many teachers are certified. Mr. McCarthy stated about 60 percent. Ms. Haire asked if the board is still five members. Mr. McCarthy stated yes. She asked if there is anyone on the board with educational experience. A board member stated yes.
- Mr. Quigley asked about the founder of the school. Mr. McCarthy spoke about the school founders.
- Mr. Quigley stated it is hard to reconcile keeping the school in operation based on three years of no growth.
- The board chair stated they want one more year to show growth.
- Mr. Walker asked the board member with educational experience if she believes in the plan. She stated she does. She stated there is a good team in place.
- Ms. Turner stated that even if they are given one more year, it's really about this year because they will be back up here next year looking at this year's data.



## **ADJOURNMENT**

- **Mr. Quigley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:03pm. Meeting adjourned via acclamation.**