

**Minutes of the
NC Public Charter School Advisory Council Meeting
State Board Rm. 755
May 6, 2013**

Attendance/NCPCSAC	Aaron Means Kwan Graham John Betterton Richard Hooker Alfred Dillon Rebecca Shore Tim Markley	Jennie Adams Paul Norcross (absent) Baker Mitchell (absent) Alan Hawkes Robert Landry Joseph Maimone Cheryl Turner Kate Alice Dunaway (absent)
Attendance/SBE/DPI	<i>Office of Charter Schools</i> Thomas Miller, Consultant Lisa Swinson, Consultant Cande Honeycutt, Consultant Deanna Smith, Consultant Joel Medley, Director <i>State Board of Education. Legal Council</i> Katie Cornetto	<i>Attorney General's Office</i> Laura Crumpler <i>State Board of Education, Executive Director</i> Martez Hill

CALL TO ORDER AND MEETING AGENDA REVIEW

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by Chairman John Betterton.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Timothy Markley made a motion that the April 8, 2013 minutes be approved. It was seconded by Ms. Jennie Adams. Mr. Joe Maimone stated that there needed to be revisions made to page 4 of the minutes. The statement should be changed from “any board member” instead of “all board members”. He also added that the next paragraph should state “He went on to say” instead of “He went out to stay.” **The motion passed. Mr. Alan Hawkes abstained from the vote.**

Mr. Maimone made motion that the April 9, 2013 minutes be approved. Dr. Markley seconded. There was no discussion and the motion passed. Mr. Hawkes abstained.

CHARTER APPLICATION APPEALS SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Betterton read the Conflict of Interest Policy. He asked Ms. Kwan Graham to give a report from the Appeals Subcommittee. Mr. Hawkes asked who the members of the subcommittee were. Ms. Graham responded Mr. Aaron Means, Ms. Adams, Dr. Robert Landry and herself. She noted that Mr. Paul Norcross was assigned to the subcommittee but was not able to attend. She explained that each applicant submitted an appeals letter and the subcommittee read and reviewed each letter. Mrs. Graham read from a chart that Dr. Thomas Miller provided during the April 8th council meeting which outlined the reasons that the applications were deemed incomplete. She noted that many of the subcommittee votes were unanimous.

- Mr. Betterton stated that the application directions were clear and the problem could be that the application is lengthy. He further added that he would hate to lose some applications because of technicalities, but the Council has to follow the guidelines they set in place.
- Mr. Maimone agreed with the recommendations of the subcommittee. He noted that a fast track process should be created so that any of the 70 applications who were denied for technical errors could resubmit their applications by June 30. He added that the application was new and there were two ways to submit.
- Mr. Dillon added that the Council was getting in the mindset that if an application was submitted that it should receive a charter and that was not the purpose because the Council should be weeding through these applications. The parameters should not change so that applications would be looked at over and over again.
- Mr. Hawkes stated that some of the applications were not approved for trivial reasons. He added that if applications had omissions he/she should have been contacted and given the chance to add missing components.
- Mr. Betterton reminded the Council that any changes made to the SBE approved application timeline had to be approved by the SBE. Ms. Laura Crumpler agreed with his statement.

ADJOURN INTO SUBCOMMITTEES APPLICATION REVIEW

**Minutes of the
NC Public Charter School Advisory Council Meeting
State Board Rm. 755
May 7, 2013**

Attendance/NCPCSAC	Aaron Means Kwan Graham John Betterton Richard Hooker Alfred Dillon Rebecca Shore Tim Markley	Jennie Adams Paul Norcross (absent) Baker Mitchell (absent) Alan Hawkes (absent) Robert Landry Joseph Maimone Cheryl Turner Kate Alice Dunaway (absent)
Attendance/SBE/DPI	<i>Office of Charter Schools</i> Thomas Miller, Consultant Lisa Swinson, Consultant Cande Honeycutt, Consultant Deanna Smith, Consultant <i>State Board of Education. Legal Council</i> Katie Cornetto	<i>Attorney General's Office</i> Laura Crumpler <i>State Board of Education,</i> <i>Executive Director</i> Martez Hill

CALL TO ORDER AND MEETING AGENDA REVIEW

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am by Chairman John Betterton. Mr. Maimone asked for dates for the upcoming Council meetings that were scheduled for June, July, and August. He stated that because of conflicts with his schedule, he would like OCS to look into changing the dates for the June and July.

**UPDATE ON FAST TRACK SCHOOLS AND SCHOOLS SCHEDULED TO OPEN IN THE
FALL**

Dr. Miller shared updated information about Fast Tack Schools related to the schools' ADM, PMR and 2013-14 student wait list information. He then shared a chart for 24 schools that were approved to open during 2013-14 school year. He noted that Howard and Lillian Lee did not answer their April monthly report so no information could be shared. He reminded the Council that The Expedition School would be delaying their opening for a year.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Betterton stated that there needed to be a change in the order that the subcommittees would be reporting the results of their subcommittee reviews. Each subcommittee chair read highlights from the rubric that was created during the application review. The applications would be reviewed in the following order” Subcommittee C, D, A, and then B.

Mr. Alfred Dillon shared the results of Subcommittee C’s review by reading highlights from the rubric.

- Mr. Alfred Dillon made a motion that **A.C.E. Academy** be forwarded for an interview. He noted that they had a strong board. Ms. Jenny Adams seconded it. There was no discussion. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.
- Mr. Dillon made a motion that **Carolina S.T.E.M.** be recommended for an interview. Ms. Adams seconded it. There was no discussion. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.
- Mr. Dillon made a motion that **Catawba** be forwarded for an interview although it had an inadequate in finances. Ms. Adams seconded it. Mr. Maimone stated that he was not comfortable with a school going forward if it had any inadequate ratings. Ms. Graham asked if the discrepancy was with the management of the money. Mr. Dillon replied by reading information from the rubric. Ms. Turner stated that the Council decided that it would not forward applications that had inadequacies in the three major areas. Mr. Dillon withdrew his motion. Mr. Maimone made a motion that the subcommittee reevaluate Catawba’s application. Ms. Turner seconded. The motion was unanimous.
- Mr. Dillon made a motion that **Charlotte Charter High School** be forwarded for an interview. Mr. Maimone seconded. There was no discussion. The motion was passed unanimously.
- Mr. Dillon made a motion that **Charlotte Learning Academy** be forwarded for an interview. Dr. Markley seconded. No discussion. The motion was passed unanimously.
- Mr. Dillon made a motion to forward **Concrete Roses Stem Academy** for an interview. Ms. Graham asked why there was a split tie in the governance section. At the request of Mr. Dillon, Dr. Miller read from the governance section of the application in which the lead administrator and there were several board members who were college professors in a college that is located in South Carolina. Mr. Betterton seconded the motion. The motion passed 8-1 with Mr. Hooker opposing
- Mr. Dillon made a motion not to forward **Destination Charter School** because of areas in governance and operations and finance. Mr. Maimone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Markley shared the results of Subcommittee D’s reviews by highlighting information from the rubrics.

- Dr. Markley made a motion to forward **Dynamic Community Charter** for an interview. Ms. Adams seconded. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

- Dr. Markley made a motion to forward **Lake Norman Preparatory School** for an interview. Ms. Adams seconded. Mr. Maimone asked if there was any discussion about the name of the school being conflict with the current Lake Norman School that is currently in existence. The motion passed 8-1 with Dr. Markley dissenting. Mr. Hooker abstained
- Dr. Markley made a motion to forward **Torrence-Lytle Charter School** for an interview. Ms. Adams seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Dr. Markley made a motion to forward **Wayne Preparatory School** for an interview. It was seconded by Ms. Adams. The motion passed unanimously.
- Dr. Markley made a motion that **Appalachian Heritage** not be recommended because of inadequacies in finances. He noted that the school had a great education plan. Mr. Dillon seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Dr. Markley made a motion to forward **Cardinal Charter** for an interview. He explained that there were some inconsistencies in finances; therefore the school received an inadequate in finances. Ms. Adams stated that she would like to change the rating from inadequate to average so that the school could be forwarded for an interview. Dr. Shore stated that the application was identical to CUSA with identical student projection numbers. Dr. Markley withdrew his motion. Ms. Adams made a motion to send the application back to the subcommittee for review in June to discuss the inadequacies in finances.
- Dr. Markley made a motion to forward **Central Arts Preparatory Academy** for an interview. Mr. Dillon seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Dr. Markley made a motion to forward **Entrepreneur High School** for an interview. Dr. Markley read from the rubric and noted his concerns with the application. Mr. Dillon seconded. The motion passed 8-1 with Dr. Markley dissenting.
- Dr. Markley made a motion to forward **Envisions Science Academy** for an interview. Mr. Maimone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Dr. Markley made a motion not to forward **Miracle Academy West** for an interview. The school made several references to Student First Academy but there was not a clear relationship to the school. The application also made reference to the high school but the school is K-8. The finance section was not well defined. Mr. Dillon seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- Dr. Markley made a motion to forward **Pioneer Springs** for an interview. There were several questions in the finance section of the application. Mr. Dillon seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Dr. Markley made a motion to forward **The Franklin School of Innovation** for an interview. Mr. Maimone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Dr. Markley made motion to forward **United Community School** for an interview. He noted that the subcommittee had several questions throughout the application. Mr. Dillon seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Markley requested that OCS provide the Council with a map or a chart be created to show the proximity of the charter schools. Dr. Markley explained that there are 6 schools that are requesting locations in Charlotte.

CHARTER APPLICATION REVIEW DISCUSSION

Mr. Betterton reviewed the discussion that occurred on May 6th regarding the applications that were not forwarded to the Council because of technicalities.

- Mr. Maimone made a motion that those 28 applications who were not brought to the council by OCS due to missing appendixes or minor technical adjustments to submit the information to the OCS by June 1, 2013. In addition, applicants who were reviewed by subcommittees and were deemed adequate in ed plan, governance, and finance, but were missing an appendix or attachment, be given the same opportunity to submit the missing documentation by June 1. If these are received in a timely fashion, the OCS is to forward these applications to the council for a fast track review in July, interviews in August, and recommendations to the SBE for the Sept SBE meeting. This would permit a 2014 opening. Ms. Kwan Graham seconded.
- Dr. Landry stated that while the subcommittee was in Charlotte that thought it the cull Council should be reviewing the applications.
- Ms. Turner stated that he problem with the motion is that the Council would be setting a precedent that people will be allowed to add things to the applications and that would be creating a slippery slope.
- Ms. Graham suggested that applications be able to submit missing documents because the process changed in the middle. She added that the Council made faulty policies and procedures.
- Mr. Maimone withdrew his motion. He made a motion to create a subcommittee(s) to review just the applications that were missing attached items during the screening and subcommittee review and nothing can be added to the application. Ms. Turner seconded.

Mr. Maimone withdrew his amendment. He made the following motion: Due to the change in the 2014/15 application process, a one-time subcommittee or committees

will be formed to review all applications that were screened out in the initial OCS review. Ms. Adams seconded. The motion passed 5-4 with Mr. Hooker, Mr. Means, Mr. Dillon and Dr. Markley dissenting.

Subcommittee A

- Mr. Maimone made a motion to forward **Anderson Creek** for an interview. Dr. Markley seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Maimone made a motion not to forward **Flora McDonald Academy** for an interview. He noted that they had an inadequacy in the education plan and there were many private school policies left in their application. Ms. Turner seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Maimone made a motion not to forward **Gate City Community** for an interview because there was a large projected surplus in the lunch program. The school had three different names throughout the application. Ms. Adams seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Maimone made a motion to forward **Heritage Collegiate Leadership Academy** for an interview. Ms. Turner seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Graham recused herself.
- Mr. Maimone made a motion to forward **Invest Collegiate** for an interview. Mr. Means seconded. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Maimone made a motion not to forward **Prep 360 Academy**. It was noted that there were issues in governance and operations, as well as, the financial plan. There were several grammatical errors throughout the application. The board would be making the day-to-day decisions about the running of the school. Ms. Adams seconded. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Maimone made a motion to forward **Wilson Preparatory** for an interview. Ms. Turner added that it was one of the strongest applications written. Mr. Means seconded. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Maimone made a motion to forward **Wisdom Academy** for an interview. However, it was noted that the budget was very tight because there were only 120 students. There was a discrepancy in the EMO amount. Ms. Adams seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Maimone made a motion not to forward **NC Connections Academy** for an interview. The subcommittee could not get past the financial section of the application.

OCS suggested that they use \$3,000 per student funding but this was not the amount that was used. Dr. Medley replied that SBE created the amount. Ms. Turner seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Hooker raised a concern about geographical integrity. He noted that the Council should implement some kind of geographical integrity for consideration for LEAS. Dr. Landry stated that it is a good point because charters are saturated in some areas such as Mecklenburg County.

The Council adjourned for lunch at 12:00 pm.

Meeting reconvened at 1:08 pm.

The following Council members were in attendance: Mr. Hooker, Dr. Shore, Ms. Turner, Ms. Graham, Mr. Means, Mr. Landry, Mr. Betterton, and Ms. Adams.

July 15th, 16th and 17th the agenda will be decided after the June meeting but is tentatively schedule for interviews in the morning and application reviews in the afternoon.

Subcommittee B

Mr. Means made a motion not to forward **Ballancrest Elementary School** for an interview because there was a weak financial plan. It was seconded by Mr. Hooker. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Means made a motion to forward **Bradford Preparatory School** for an interview. Dr. Landry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Means made a motion not to forward **Excelsior Classical Academy** because of inadequacy in finances. Mr. Hooker seconded. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Means made a motion not to forward **Miracle Academy East** for an interview because of issues with governance and finance. Dr. Landry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Means made a motion to forward **Reaching All Minds Academy** for an interview. Ms. Adams seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Means made a motion to forward **The Capital Encore** for interview. Ms. Graham seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Means made a motion to forward **Thunderbird Preparatory School** for an interview. Ms. Adams seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Means made a motion to forward **Wake Forest Charter Academy** for an interview. Ms. Adams seconded. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Means made a motion to forward **West Charlotte Charter High School** for an interview. Dr. Landry seconded. Mr. Hooker stated that the name of the charter school will be confusing to the community. Ms. Crumpler stated that the school could be required to change their name. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Landry motioned adjournment. Ms. Graham seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 pm.