

NC Charter School Advisory Committee Meeting
State Board of Education 7th Floor Meeting Room
NC Department of Public Instruction

January 10, 2012

Meeting Minutes

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

Welcome and Overview	John Betterton welcomed the members and called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. He said he wanted to let everyone know that he told the SBE that the Council had worked diligently on all of the applications and was proud of their accomplishments.
Minute Adoption	Mr. Betterton, as chair, asked for a review of the minutes from the December meeting. There was a question from Mr. Markley on D. C. Virgo. Mr. Betterton said they could discuss that later because this focused on the accuracy of the minutes. Mr. Norcross made a motion to accept the minutes as written and it was seconded by Mr. Means. It passed unanimously.
Applications	Mr. Betterton said that, as expected, some applicants were unhappy about the Council's decisions to not advance their applications for interviews. They have asked that their applications be reopened; so he asked for feedback from the Council. Mr. Maimone made a motion that they not reopen any applications that had not moved forward but instead remind applicants that they can reapply in April. Mr. Dillon offered a second, and it received unanimous approval. Hampton Dillenger, an attorney for Thunderbird and Jefferson Preparatory, interrupted and sought to address the Council. Mr. Betterton said it would be

	<p>inappropriate at this time. Mr. Dillenger demanded to know if the Council members had received the appeal information sent to them, and Mr. Betterton said that he had seen it.</p>
Interview Process	<p>Mr. Betterton told the Council each group requesting a charter would present and then the Council members would have time to ask questions. Ms. Turner asked what could be changed on these applications from this point forward. Mr. Betterton said he did not feel they could change the application at this point, and legal counsel concurred. Mr. Hawkes asked how the time would be allocated. Mr. Medley said it would be a short presentation of 7 to 12 minutes followed by questions from the Council, then deliberation before a vote.</p>
Bear Grass	<p>The leader of the Bear Grass applicant group introduced the people with him and presented responses to the rubric. He said there were budget questions on transportation. He referred the council to page 93-94 and then 99-100 for the school's maximum budget. He pointed out line items that he felt would answer their questions. He said they did not have a detailed transportation plan because they do not at this time know who will be attending. They will, however, recommend and support car pooling.</p> <p>As far as the facility being insufficient, he deferred to Phil Hodges. Mr. Hodges said it was an old facility. It was closed two years ago after having been a 7-12 facility. He said handouts would be available later. He also said he has a report that shows the oldest building is capable of being renovated to be compliant and added that they have a backup plan for mobile units on the property. Right now the building is open, leased, and being used. When granted the charter, they say they would like the town of Bear Grass to own the property. Once a lease is approved, they say they will pay whatever it takes to get the building ready for occupancy.</p> <p>Questions on the Education Plan -- The applicants say this used to be the best 9-12 school in the state. Their goal is to get kids interested in math and science, to teach them to think well, and to focus on doing things differently. They believed the partnership with East Carolina would be beneficial. They feel their team will be able to do this if the school is approved. They also feel their high school could offer more classes beyond what students currently are receiving in the area schools.</p> <p>A question was asked about the board members present. The Council was told that all 8 are present and one has resigned. Mr. Maimone expressed that Fast Track must be ready to open in the fall. Questions were asked about their ability to lease the building and its condition. Bear Grass representatives quoted state legislature as forcing districts to lease buildings to charter schools. Dr. Markley commented that the letter from the district says that they will not make the building available to the school. Dr. Markley asked if there was an estimate on the cost of repairs. Bear Grass simply stated that they would take care of</p>

whatever the needs by borrowing money.

Dr. Landry asked for clarification of their organizational chart on page 11 of their application. He asked them to talk about it and explain who exactly is running the school? They indicated that the principal will run it with the board assisting. Dr. Landry asked them to talk about how they are going to pull in the three educators. The ECU math teacher they brought responded that they envision working with the teachers who will use a student centered approach and problem based learning. She added that they would provide staff development and aid with curriculum development. Additionally, she said they see it as an opportunity for the university to have field experience for their university students. This would allow students to get involved in real laboratory learning which would give students more than EOG's measure.

Mr. Maimone said the application is strong but the Council's concern here is whether they will be ready to open this fall. He asked them what they have done to guarantee the site. Dr. Sharon Slay from the board addressed the Council. She said it is not that they are doing anything new. She feels all of this is very possible and that the school and the community will be collaborative. They then added that they are pursuing a number of things legally to get the buildings. They feel they have the right to lease the building and that will be enough since the buildings are currently being used. Dr. Markley read a report from the county on the condition of the facility. He expressed that \$15,000 to repair it as the application states does not seem sufficient. Mr. Dillon asked for their contingency plan, and the applicant responded that they have a promise of land where they could use mobiles.

Ms. Georgia Smallwood, who taught 7th grade at Bear Grass for 27 years as a science and math teacher, addressed the Council. The Council was told that she on the board to help build the curriculum. She was asked by a Council member to address how their curriculum will be different from other schools. She stated that it would be an excellent opportunity for students in the eastern part of the state to enjoy education that is now only available at the NC School of Math and Science. She said the school needs to stress learning by logic, which would give 6-8th grade students a better foundation for math and science.

Bear Grass representatives said they disagree with the county's assessment of the buildings. They feel the work is mainly cosmetic. They have had a lot of volunteers ready to work on this. They did acknowledge that the high school building needs more work. They feel they will have the building ready to open this fall or they will have mobiles. Mr. Betterton asked for clarification on their secondary site. Bear Grass representatives reminded the Council that without a CO they would not be able to get state money.

Mr. Maimone asked legal counsel for clarification of law requiring a school district to give a building to a charter school. Ms. Crumpler said to her

	<p>knowledge it has never gone to court. She added that if the system came up with a reason, then the school board may stand their ground so the charter would then have to take them to court. Dr. Markley clarified that they would need a charter before asking. Ms. Crumpler stated that if the LEA decided not to lease them the property, then there was nothing that this Council could do to make them lease it to the charter.</p> <p>Mr. Maimone said the precedent is there and added that what the Council would like to have seen is that the charter applicants had already gone down that road and worked the details out so that they can be successful. He says he is not sure that they have convinced the Council that this can happen for Fast Track. At this point Bear Grass asked for a tentative approval contingent on the building happening. Ms. Adams gave a second example with Arapahoe. She said it was very similar, and she does understand the issue.</p> <p>Mr. Mitchell shared an example of it happening very fast in his school, and he feels it is doable. Ms. Dunaway echoed the Council members saying it can happen but cautioned that they would have to work very hard. Dr. Markley says the application is incomplete because of not having facilities. He reminded everyone that this is a Fast Track process. He reminded members they turned down other applications that were incomplete. Mr. Betterton echoed that the bar has been raised in terms of the applications and evidence and performance and they want to keep the bar high because they want excellence for children. Mr. Hawkes said that many have had arguments with their LEA's and says he hopes this doesn't handicap applications. Ms. Crumpler said it was not required by SBE.</p> <p>Ms. Adams motioned to recommend Bear Grass as a Fast Track to the State Board. Mr. Hawkes seconded. The motion carried 11 to 2 with Mr. Hooker and Dr. Markley dissenting.</p>
Cornerstone	<p>Mr. Betterton asked for Cornerstone's presentation. The applicants discussed the need for another charter in their county. They stated that there currently are 2,000 students on charter school waiting lists in Guilford County and many on waiting lists for magnet schools. Therefore, county parents are looking for options. They see their school as being in the second wave of charters. They want to replicate some of the good things charters are doing. They intend to hold their students accountable for academics and character.</p> <p>Regarding questions on finances, the applicant said the packet shows that they are leasing a building and have an intent letter but also have two back up facilities available. Financially, they have a small amount of money and are looking for money from the Bank of Oak Ridge. They also have a signed letter of intent with Acadia Northstar if the charter is approved.</p> <p>Dr. Landry asked for the location of the school. The Council was told it would be</p>

	<p>in the NW Greensboro area, which they say has the fastest growing population in the County. Mr. Betterton had a question on a lease. He asked if it was a church and reminded the applicants of the issues in having a charter in a church. Applicants said they are fine with anything that they have to do. The other site currently has a school and cannot be mentioned. Ms. Adams asked questions on finances for a building. The applicants responded they could stay as long as needed since the facility owners have financial needs.</p> <p>Regarding questions on their Grievance Policy, the applicants said they have clarified this in their handouts. They said their time line does commence with a one month application time. The short term will allow a lottery to be held with other schools in the area. Then they will continue to accept applications as slots are available. They emphasized they have a board, teacher applicants, parents ready, potential sites, community meetings scheduled and could hit the ground running tomorrow.</p> <p>The motion to recommend Cornerstone as a Fast Track to the State Board was made by Mr. Norcross and Mr. Hawkes seconded. It passed unanimously.</p>
Corvian Community	<p>The school presented began with a discussion of their mission. They intend to focus on climate, communication, and curriculum through thematic units and real life connections. Classes will be small so that they can focus on the social and emotional needs of students as well. The applicants are currently a private school and opened from day one with intention of applying for a charter.</p> <p>They addressed questions from the Council regarding their projected opening numbers and growth. They said they considered opening with over 400 students but feel it would be wise to grow more slowly so they can use the same facility. They added the slower growth the first year would allow for a core staff to be well trained in the school's philosophy. They said they do not want to rush the growth process and lose sight of their mission and focus. They added that they know they will lose the majority of their current students but they want to do things right and with integrity.</p> <p>They told the Council that their marketing plan looks toward diversity. They said they are replicating Community School of Davidson and have one common board member. They will also use teacher leaders from the Community School of Davidson to present and train their staff. They feel they have an excellent location in a high needs area that will help with their marketing plan.</p> <p>Mr. Mitchell asked about their marketing plan being similar to Community School of Davidson. The applicants answered that they have already sent out press releases and will send out more if approved – a notebook was passed around showing the local press. A Council member asked about the Community School's lack of diversity. The applicants answered that their location puts them a little further out so that they should have more diversity. The applicants</p>

	<p>responded that they are getting the phone calls already but it would depend on the mix of the lottery. They added that they want the school to reflect the community. Mr. Betterton asked about the congregation of the church where they are currently located. The applicants said it is primarily African American. Richard Hooker asked about the facility. Mr. Maimone asked if the current students know that they will have to go into the lottery. The school replied yes and shared that the private school also held a lottery.</p> <p>Dr. Markley said it is a good application. Dr. Landry said the looping is a good idea and that research supports it. Mr. Betterton said that he was glad to see they answered his questions on moving from a private to charter school. Ms. Turner said she was concerned about the low opening numbers and the sudden jump up the next year but feels they have been answered her question.</p> <p>Dr. Markley made the motion that they recommend Corvian as a Fast Track to the State Board. Mr. Norcross offered a second. It passed unanimously.</p>
Open Discussion: Conflict of Interest	<p>Since the morning applicants finished early, Mr. Betterton opened discussion on conflict of interest. He said because the charter school population is small, they do bump into each other. He said it is important that each of them notify the others if any real or perceived conflict of interest exists. He said everything must be put it on the table.</p> <p>Dr. Landry stated that he is working with Howard Lee as a hired volunteer. He said he will recuse himself from voting on the Howard and Lillian Lee Scholars Charter. He too feels transparency is very important. Mr. Dillon added that the Council will be under a lot of scrutiny and needs to keep arms length from anything that might appear unethical. Ms. Turner added that it is important for council members hold each other accountable. Ms. Crumpler addressed legal conflicts particularly from a monetary standpoint and others things that may be legal “but do not pass the smell test.”</p>
Subcommittee Reports	<p>Ms. Turner suggested that the Council’s sub-groups from yesterday make their reports. Mr. Betterton said he visited all committees and was impressed with their diligence. Ms. Turner reported for the Policy Committee. She said they are trying to figure out the types of policies in which the Council will be involved. She added that there currently are 13 written policies for charter schools and some are old. She suggested they look at those 13 -- working on charter school timelines first and the renewal process second. She added that Mr. Medley had a rough draft that could become policy. Mr. Betterton asked how it is going to get done. Ms. Turner said they have a meeting in January, and she will share information with the rest of the Council. Mr. Maimone said he wanted input from charter school administrators across the state.</p> <p>Mr. Norcross added the Automation Committee met and the application for Fast Track is the one that will be used this next year because there isn’t time to change</p>

	<p>anything. He said their committee would get input from the group and hash out details to present at the February meeting. He said the goal is not changing the application but making it useable. Dr. Landry thanked Mr. Norcross for what he did adding it will be a good tool.</p> <p>Mr. Medley was asked to comment. He said if the charter school application goes completely on line, all members would have to feel comfortable using it without copies. Mr. Betterton asked how Mr. Norcross would get this on the web. Dr. Markley asked if there was a way to standardize parts that must be the same in all applications. Mr. Medley's response was that they had to balance the autonomy of the charter with their requirements. Ms. Crumpler cautioned Council members that the more they write of the application, the less the Council will know that applicants truly understand what is expected of their school. She reminded members that one of the biggest problems is that some boards are not really active. She went on to say that school by-laws were a good example in that Board members need to write them so that they really think about what they mean. Mr. Betterton added that the Council does need to streamline the application process as much as possible. Dr. Markley added he would rather they talk about the philosophy of discipline rather than copying local district's discipline policies.</p> <p>Mr. Mitchell asked about the session the Office of Charter Schools held for prospective applicants last week. Mr. Medley said 134 signed and there were 100 attendees. Of these he said 72 were from identified charter groups in the state. He added that this coming Friday there would be another new applicant training but he didn't have the sign up list yet. He said if historical percentages held accurate, they could see more than 50 applications in this next round.</p> <p>Ms. Adams said they only had two members for their subcommittee, which was not a quorum so they only had ideas to share. She said they do need to revise the application. Ms. Adams said they discussed the importance of the completeness of the application as incompleteness causes a problem. She said they also felt that they needed a place on the application to indicate that an applicant was a replication school. Mr. Norcross said they would work on structure then Ms. Adams group could move forward on content. Ms. Adams said the assurances need to be there and the signature pages need to be signed. She went through each page and would email the list to everyone.</p>
Lunch	
Howard and Lillian Lee Scholars Academy	<p>The applicants said they applied because they want to offer a quality K-8 program in the Chapel Hill area. They would like to offer parents an option, particularly for those who have children who have underperformed in the area public schools. Their intention is to provide a rigorous curriculum because they believe passionately about the education of children. One parent/board member says she had to put her children through the local public school system and wishes this had been available to them. She added that she also homeschooled her children. The team said their curriculum is based on the NCSCOS, but they will use</p>

NWEA three times a year as a way to assess student instructional levels. They feel this will allow them to target students' weak areas. Their emphasis will be college readiness.

The applicants intend to partner with National Heritage Academies because of resources that will be made available to the school, including staff development and program expertise. Regarding facilities, the applicants stated that National Heritage Academies will find the site and build for them. They reminded the Council that they will still, as a board, have final determinations, not NHA. The applicants stated that the board would have final determination of policies and that they will make sure NHA follows the policies of the school's board. Applicants believed that the partnership with NHA will help them with the initial start up which is so difficult for new charters, but the board will retain governance and policy control. They also reminded the Council that the board could pull away from the management company if things did not go well. Mr. Betterton asked what the process would be, and the applicant said he would have to refer to legal counsel. Ms. Raskell, their attorney, spoke. She said the contract does clarify how they could break away. Mr. Maimone asked if the applicants had checked out the other NHA schools. Applicants said they did due diligence by visiting several NHA schools and talking to administrators.

Regarding the location for the school, the applicants said they are still considering sites. Dr. Markley asked about the new construction and making the time frames. The applicants said that NHA has had a lot of experience in building these buildings in a short amount of time. Mr. Maimone asked for more elaboration as to what has happened to guarantee that they will be able to open this fall. The board divulged that they have met with NHA to come up with some timelines for marketing, building the actual building, and taking care of internal processes. They are planning grassroots meetings with the community. They have narrowed the location to three specific site possibilities. Mr. Maimone asked if they had brought any of their documentation with them, and they responded that they had not.

Ms. Adams asked why the food service costs were so high. She wanted to know if it was contracted and the answer was "yes." Mr. Hooker asked about achievement issues. He said NHA schools still had significant gaps for racial groups and wanted to know how the school would close that gap. The applicants responded that they feel that some students come to school less prepared than others and the moral focus, charter development, etc. will help them address some of these issues. They also stressed again that the NWEA "model" will help them to address individual needs and NHA has a good history of setting up schools to meet the needs of under privileged children. They quoted NHA as saying they have a 22% higher performer for the students in question.

Ms. Turner asked for an explanation of the standby opportunity on page 52 that says if the individuals cannot be reached then they will be moved over in terms of

getting into the school. The applicants used a personal example of someone she met who had lost their spot on the waiting list due to this. Ms. Crumpler said they may not realign their lottery list number after the initial list. Mr. Means commented that most of the responsibilities appear to be delegated to NHA. The applicants said that just because NHA is fronting the financial requirements, it does not mean that the applicants are not involved in the process. The applicants stated that the education available in Chapel Hill and the discrepancy in test scores for minority students in the area is really a problem with expectations.

Mr. Betterton said he still has concern about their being able to have a building ready this fall. Mr. Hawkes recused himself from the vote because of the time that he has had with them. Nevertheless, he went on to explain how NHA can build this building in a very short time. He added that NHA has been a great relationship for Greensboro Academy. Mr. Betterton said this would be more difficult in that particular area because of the cost. Mr. Maimone asked the NHA representative present, Cheryl Edwards Cannon, if this could happen. She said that all plots are empty and they could build and have it ready within the time frame. Ms. Turner asked if NHA would assume the cost and responsibility of providing alternate sites if this did not happen, and she said yes. Mr. Maimone asked if it was possible for them to postpone opening if they did not have their site or building. The answer was yes.

Mr. Mitchell said he would recuse himself from voting because of being a competitor. Dr. Markley asked for a breakdown of profit for NHA. Ms. Edwards-Cannon said that 100% of the money is to be routed through NHA but she cannot speak to the profit. He asked for clarification that NHA takes everything that is left, and the answer was yes. Mr. Maimone asked Ms. Edwards-Cannon if any contingency money is left for the school, and the answer was \$35,000 for the board. Dr. Landry recused himself from voting too.

Ms. Adams asked about page 45 of the application which says that the school administrator is an employee of NHA. Ms. Edwards-Cannon said that they will bring candidates to the board for consideration. Mr. Norcross said after talking to Mr. Hawkes, he feels that the board can hold NHA accountable. Mr. Hawkes said that with a strong board, NHA is a good partnership. He said that the profit margin should not be in the discussion as long as the EMO is producing. Dr. Markley said that he is concerned about bringing out-of-state organizations here and even more so if they are a for profit organization. Outside agencies could then have a major impact on state policy. He said he wanted to be sure their motivation was right. Dr. Landry agreed.

Ms. Adams asked Ms. Crumpler what the consequence would be if the building was not ready for the proposed August opening. Ms. Crumpler said that the school could ask for an extension, and it would be up to the SBE whether it would be approved or not.

	<p>Mr. Hooker asked if there was a scenario where NHA would pull out. The answer was that NHA has never pulled away from a school with which they were involved. Mr. Hooker expressed concern with how slow it is to close the achievement gap for minorities and asked how NHA was going to address this. The board member said she is passionate about ALL children making their growth not just the minority students. Dr. Markley asked how they got NHA as their management company and who chose whom. The applicant stated they did the research and reached out to NHA.</p> <p>Mr. Norcross made the motion to recommend Howard and Lillian Lee Scholars as a Fast Track to the State Board. Mr. Hooker seconded it, and three abstained from voting – Mr. Hawkes, Mr. Mitchell, and Dr. Landry. The motion passed 8 to 2 with Ms. Turner and Dr. Markley dissenting.</p>
<p>The College Preparatory and Leadership Academy of High Point</p>	<p>The applicants introduced their team. They have board members from Quality Education and KIPP. One member was on the phone with another member was away on business. The applicants said they have taken the suggestion of Council and changed the name to the College Preparatory and Leadership Academy of High Point. They said the idea for the school came from a board member who has a son at a charter school in Winston-Salem and the lack of college graduates living in the area. They feel that more education is needed for the students to have alternatives as industries close manufacturing jobs. They noticed that students often arrive in college ill prepared and then drop out. This school is being proposed to help address these needs so that students will be better prepared for the current job markets.</p> <p>A Council member asked about their organizational chart. Simon Johnson addressed it. Sprouts for Success is the nonprofit board that will be accountable for the organization. They added that this is not a replication of QEA but they are taking the things from QEA that do work and using them. Mr. Johnson quoted the statistics of QEA's academic performance and said they are hoping to transfer some of these characteristics to this new school. He said they also hope to raise a lot of financial support for the school from the community. He feels they are lifting the relevant things from QEA to transfer to this new school. Mr. Betterton asked him to clarify his relationship with the new charter. He said he is the head of QEA and on the board of the new school. Mr. Maimone asked about SPROUTS for SUCCESS and why it is the non-profit. Mr. Johnson said it was just for expediency. Mr. Betterton asked about the relationship of Sprouts for Success and was told it is the board of the proposed charter. Ms. Crumpler said it is not necessary that a non-profit be exclusively dedicated to the school. Organizations can do this as a side job.</p> <p>Ms. Turner asked about the year round focus. Mr. Johnson said his school is 190 days but he would have to turn it over to academic person in the group to answer the other questions. The applicants say they have two mentor schools KIPP in Gaston and QEA because of their successes. The schools will train the teachers</p>

	<p>at the new school and these mentor schools' teachers will visit their schools.</p> <p>Mr. Maimone asked about the common name of Johnson appearing in so many of their board members. He asked if they were related, and the applicant said yes. Mr. Maimone followed up by asking if the Evergreen site is still the site of consideration. Mr. Johnson said no but they are currently negotiating for a piece of property with 89,000 square feet on Furniture Avenue that is in foreclosure. An offer has been made, and they expect it to be accepted. Mr. Betterton asked about how long it would take to make the facility acceptable for school. Mr. Johnson said very little.</p> <p>The question of Special Education was raised by a Council member. The applicants said they will focus on inclusion with the EC person monitoring unless something else is needed. Gifted and talented children, as with other children, will have differentiated experiences. They added that teachers will be trained to modify instruction to meet the needs of all children.</p> <p>There was a question on the applicants' admissions protocol because of the wording of "first come first serve." The Council requested that it be clarified so it complies with the law. Ms. Adams asked if the executive director would be a voting member on the board and the answer was no. A clarification was asked about whom the Director of Instruction was, and term refers to the principal. Mr. Dillon said the budget shows three administrators but the school indicated they would grow over time. Mr. Dillon commented on their requirement for uniforms and commended them on it because it does produce change in student behavior.</p> <p>Mr. Hooker asked about the performance data that they had shared. He noted that it is not as high as they would like but is above the state average. He asked about the performance of KIPP Gaston and of QEA. KIPP has met AYP and remained a School of Excellence with over 80% passing their EOG's. Additionally, all students are being accepted to colleges with the majority of them attending four year colleges. Mr. Johnson spoke for QEA. He said they are over 80% proficient at the high school level with 98% making proficiency last year.</p> <p>Mr. Mitchell made a motion to recommend The College Preparatory and Leadership Academy of High Point as a Fast Track to the State Board, and Ms. Graham seconded it. The motion passed 12 to 1 with Ms. Adams dissenting.</p>
Mendenhall Country Day School	<p>Mr. Ragsdale began the presentation. He said he spoke to the individuals at Phoenix to see if they could get a school like that with the goal being to replicate Phoenix and to complement the existing schools in Jamestown. Mr. Betterton asked how many members were on the board and how many were present today. Only three of the seven members, if you counted Mr. Norcross, were present for the interview. Ms Purdue read a statement giving the history of education in Jamestown.</p>

Mr. Ragsdale said they would have 23 acres attached to the Mendenhall Plantation though there would be no affiliation. They have a couple of partners. They explored modulars but figured a stick building would be better. They have not yet narrowed down the vendors that will be used. Matt Norcross spoke about how Phoenix Academy has impacted him. He said they have a highly trained staff that can work with all students addressing individual needs. He added that Phoenix Academy wanted to expand their reach to other students.

Ms. Norcross gave the background of Phoenix. They have an ABA model. She said they are the first to have a positive reinforcement model and that it has now been replicated in many schools across NC. She said consequences are also part of the model. They use Terra Nova as a diagnostic tool to discover what motivates students. Brain based learning is critical. She commented on how giving students opportunities to present is important in the school. *Study Island* is their home help system. They are a uniform school with dress down on Fridays. She added that they did not teach curriculum but teach the standard core and goals and objectives. She said they use Bloom's Taxonomy. The teachers have 2.5 hours per week to plan. They have made AYP every year but this year, and character Education is a big part of Phoenix. Her discussion was totally about Phoenix Academy because the intention is to replicate that school.

Dr. Landry asked about the relationship with UNC-G on page 8. It was explained that Phoenix has contracted with UNC-G for speech and will do likewise with this school. Ms. Norcross went on to say that this allows the UNCG students in speech to assist at the school as a partnership. A Kindergarten teacher employed by Phoenix spoke and shared some of their character based activities.

Ms. Graham asked if this was a specific replication. Ms. Norcross clarified that she would be the superintendent of both schools and a principal would be hired; so yes, this would be a replication of Phoenix. Ms. Graham commented that the educational program was not clearly explained in the charter – only the interview has provided in-depth details of the proposed program. Mr. Betterton added that that the application does not outline all of the things they are saying today.

Ms. Graham asked about by-laws and quorum. She asked for clarification on how many board members are needed for a quorum. The applicant answered 5 and Mr. Ragsdale said they would need to clarify more fully in the charter.

Ms. Graham asked for clarification for board decisions in that their application seems to imply that if they begin the meeting and members leave so that there is no longer a quorum that they could still continue. The applicant clarified that they would still need 5 members. She asked they clarify their board by-laws because it is unclear on voting and the number needed. Ms. Graham also asked for clarification on having meetings without really being there. Ms. Crumpler added that this issue happens on by-laws when applicants lift them from outside agencies. They need to be corrected for the final charters.

Mr. Betterton asked why the presenting group today was not addressing the issues expressed as questions or concerns from the subcommittee review. They were not following the format that other applicants had done. Ms. Adams had a question on page 19 under compensation. She asked what they meant in the passage saying that members receiving compensation could not vote on that item.

Mr. Dillon commended them on the design of the building but asked a question on the management organization. He wanted to know if it controls Phoenix Academy or was formed to add the new school, and the applicant said Ms. Norcross would head that management company to oversee both schools. She said she would be compensated for that role, so Mr. Dillon asked if this new management company would be a for profit company. He went on to ask who would be on the board and who would be in charge. Mr. Dillon said he was concerned with the fact that the management company does not yet exist and thinks that should have been resolved before moving forward with this application. In a sense, this application then was not complete.

Mr. Dillon continued and asked about the budget, rental of building, cost for maintenance, and contracted services costs that are listed. Ms. Norcross said \$600,000 is for speech, accounting, etc. and other contracted services. An individual from Acadia spoke saying these numbers are within normal ranges for charters and under \$30 per student. Ms. Norcross addressed that Phoenix now has over one million dollars in reserve so it should happen at the new school.

Ms. Graham asked if the administration's pay is represented in the contracted services and the answer was yes. Mr. Dillon asked what the superintendent's salary would be. He was not given an answer but was told it is in the contracted services. Ms. Turner asked if this arrangement was like discussed with NHA earlier having all of the money dumped into the same budget or if it was different because what is being described is not as the contract is written. Ms. Adams said the NHA contract and this one are identical and that is why they have questions. Ms. Dunaway asked about their saying all revenues go to the EMO. She asked they clarify the relationship between PSI and Mendenhall since the application is identical to NHA's in this regard. Ms. Norcross said they did try to model their EMO after NHA. Mr. Betterton asked Ms. Crumpler if this would be a material change. Ms. Crumpler said that is up to this Council.

Dr. Landry said that he did his research and if this is a replication model then it is pretty good. Ms. Turner said that the issue is that the Council was being told one thing and but the written contract was different. Ms. Graham said that today's oral presentation is different from the educational plan that was presented in the application. Ms. Norcross said in the application she just presented the differences. Ms. Graham said she did not see in the application that this is a full replication. Ms. Norcross apologized for not making it clear. Dr. Landry commented that salaries are not transparent. Ms. Dunaway said that the other schools were given questions to address, and they addressed them. Phoenix did

not. Discussion ensued with Mr. Betterton reading through the questions needing answers by the Council. He added that the applicants have not yet addressed the conflict of interest and they need to do that. Mr. Norcross, who serves on the Council, would be on the board but not the chair at the new school. Ms. Adams added that some of the deficiencies are large. Dr. Landry said there were many things the Council did not understand until the discussion today. Ms. Turner said this is a contract and we do need to be concerned about the wording of the application if it goes forward as presented. Mr. Dillon expressed concern that they say they have a contract with a non-existent organization. Mr. Betterton clarified that they are making a contract with a school that does not exist.

Ms. Norcross said this is the model that others have used that has worked. Ms. Norcross asked the Council to look at their academic and financial records because Phoenix has an excellent reputation. Dr. Landry said they need to separate dollars so there are no misperceptions. Mr. Mitchell asked if the million dollars that Ms. Norcross says Phoenix has is cash or the value of their buildings, and the response was cash in the bank. Dr. Landry said that he assumed they did not have the full curriculum listed in their application but assumed since they said they were following the NC standard course of study, that they were only addressing additions to it. Mr. Maimone said he felt the application was advanced because they are replicating a successful school. He added that it would be prudent to think of conflicts that may arise as they grow. He recommended that duties be clarified.

Ms. Turner said she is concerned that schools were not even given interviews that had major changes and here the Council is dealing with this group needing major changes with no time to change them. She said if they proceed, it will look like they are doing it because Mr. Norcross is on the Council. Council members said they did not get their questions answered. The applicants said they did not receive them; however, Mr. Medley explained that all those receiving an interview were given the same form letter with the rubric. Mr. Ragsdale commented that he was not insinuating it was not sent but he may have overlooked it.

Mr. Maimone made a motion to recommend Mendenhall Country Day School as a Fast Track to the State Board with all additions into the Office of Charter Schools prior to the SBE review. Robert Landry seconded it. Mr. Means expressed his concern that this was advanced without being ready. Mr. Maimone reminded everyone that it was a replication. Ms. Adams said this was a very poor application and yet it advanced. Ms. Turner again asked what could be changed on applications from this point forward. Mr. Betterton said he did not feel they could change the application at this point, and legal counsel indicated that was correct -- only minor things or statutory requirements could be changed.

By a vote of 5 to 6, the motion failed. Mr. Norcross recused himself. Dissenting votes included: Mr. Means, Ms. Turner, Ms. Graham, Ms. Dunaway, Mr. Dillon, and Mr. Hooker.

Cape Lookout Renewal	<p>Mr. Medley addressed the Council on the renewal of Cape Lookout's charter. He shared that additional information came to the Office after the Council's deliberations. When shared with the SBE, they requested further investigation by the Council. He said that on the day after the Council recommended the four year renewal, the school asked for an emergency allotment of \$55,000 from DPI. He said DPI only gave them a 10% amount. As part of their plan, the school has decreased payroll by 10% and made other cuts. Ms. Alexis Schauss, the Director of School Business, could not be in attendance today but shared the schools financials. The report showed that they closed last year exceeding assets by \$109,000 and the school had a general fund deficit larger than \$46,000.</p> <p>Mr. Maimone asked Cape Lookout representatives why this information was withheld on the day of their interview. The principal, Ms. Parker, responded that the school budgeted for 109 students and only had 65. Ms. Parker added that they thought they would get Sugar Creek money to handle the deficit but then the county came up with additional bills they wanted to be paid. Council members asked why the school did not know those were bills on the books. Ms. Parker said she thought the bills were going to be forgiven. She said the County had thought if the school was closed, they would have to forgive the debts. Ms. Turner asked how much they received and the answer was about \$46,000.</p> <p>Mr. Dillon asked if they know about additional debts. At that point, Ms. Parker said they will end the year with a \$50,000 deficit but they have started a brick campaign to save the school. She added that the money is coming in now that they got a four year renewal. Mr. Betterton questioned the timing of the funding advance request because it presented the appearance that the school as not forthcoming with information. Ms. Turner said they talked about enrollment and whether they could sustain their financial obligations.</p> <p>Ms. Adams asked for clarification on what the SBE wants. Mr. Medley said the SBE wanted the Council to review this information and see if this would influence the renewal recommendation. Ms. Graham asked about whether or not the new board and administration reviewed the status of the school's budget when they came on board and the answer was no. Mr. Norcross asked how much local funding would be and whether or not the additional dollars have been budgeted.</p> <p>When asked about the decision from last month, Mr. Medley shared the 4 year recommendation passed by a vote of 10 to 2. At that point, Mr. Dillon made the motion that they recommend to the SBE that Cape Lookout Marine Science not have their charter renewed. Mr. Mitchell offered a second. The motion passed 7-3 with Ms. Dunaway, Ms. Adams, and Mr. Hooker dissenting.</p>
Adjournment	The meeting adjourned at 3:38 p.m., and the next meeting will be tomorrow, January 11 starting at 9 a.m.

Minutes submitted by staff of the Office of Charter Schools.

NC Charter School Advisory Committee Meeting
State Board of Education 7th Floor Meeting Room
NC Department of Public Instruction

January 11, 2012

Meeting Minutes

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

Welcome and Overview	Mr. Betterton called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and reviewed how to submit travel to Ms. Gillott. He reminded members to leave all applications and materials on the table with their notes as part of public record. He recommended meeting April 24 th and 25 th to review the next batch of applicants and added that the sub-committees may need to meet via teleconferencing.
North East Carolina Preparatory	Two board members of 5 did not attend – one due to a job and the other due to the flu. They did bring letters to state their commitment. The applicants said they are a group of educators who were excited about the possibility charter schools offer. They believe in choice and feel there is a real need in the county for another choice. The applicants began by indicating they spent a lot of time on the mission statement because they wanted to incorporate all aspects of the school. Mr. Maimone went to governance questions about board compensation, and that applicants stated these members would not be compensated. Mr. Maimone asked questions on enrollment because he believed starting with 300 students and going to a thousand would be a huge increase as it amounts to 28% of the total student enrollment of the county. He expressed that was a lot to draw from the county. The applicants stated they would draw from more than one

county (Nash, Pitt, and Halifax) and would bring many of the private school students back to public education. Mr. Maimone expressed concern on the grade level growth. He wanted to know how they expected their enrollment numbers to jump so much going into 6th grade. The applicants said that they feel many students leave the public system for 6th grade, and their goal is to capture those students. Dr. Landry asked them if they truly believe that they will be able to draw them, and they said yes. Mr. Hooker asked why there was an exit from the county going into 6th grade. They responded that they did not know; it was just happening.

Mr. Dillon commended them for working with ECU to set up internships, provide student teachers, etc. The applicants said they would not be able to pursue this until their charter school is approved but then they will. Mr. Betterton asked for clarification on the person at ECU working with them. It was explained that this person does adult education.

Mr. Hooker wanted clarification on promoting diversity. The applicant would provide an opportunity for all to attend by actively recruiting. Mr. Hooker further asked how they would be able to educate those students. The applicants responded through lower class sizes, an emphasis on writing, and through a use of hands-on activities. They added that they are also going to ask the parents be actively involved in the students' education. Dr. Landry stressed the importance of actively soliciting the Hispanic population.

Ms. Adams asked they clarify their athletic offerings. The applicant wants to offer a full slate of athletics but they are about academics first. Enrollment would drive the number of sports offered by the school. Mr. Betterton wanted to know their funding for athletics and the school said they may implement a pay to play policy like other schools are doing. They clarified that they are not looking to use state dollars to fund the athletic program.

Mr. Mitchell shifted the conversation by asking what statistical data was used as a basic for them using Multiple Intelligences as a foundation in instruction. A person on the board personally trained under the two leaders of MI and added they were also going to teach thinking skills. Mr. Mitchell pressed for specifics in methodology and the applicant responded that teachers would model steps for answering questions. Research shows that once students' modes of learning are addressed, they learn better. Regarding high level thinking skills. They will focus on the types of questions asked."

Mr. Betterton asked they discuss their facility and the applicant shared they have identified four possible locations. They also have financing through Highmark and distributed a handout. Mr. Betterton asked if it would be ready by August, and they said it would. Mr. Hawkes asked for the grade levels. The applicants answered that they would like to start with K-8 and then add one grade level each year. Ms. Adams asked about the Highmark group that will be

	<p>funding them. The response was that the Highmark group would own the building and lease it to the school with eventual purchase. The applicants went on to say that they wanted local craftsman working on the facility to keep the money local and had specified this with the firm. They also said it would take \$120,000 to cover the contract with Highmark.</p> <p>Mr. Maimone asked if they were ready to address by-law questions that the Council had indicated in their review of the school's application. The applicants' attorney was present and said compensation of board members was dropped. He added that directors would not be involved in other things in the school, and meetings would be held monthly.</p> <p>Mr. Mitchell asked for legal clarification on compensation in terms of paying board members. Ms. Crumpler said that schools could make the decision to do so but these board members could not be employees. A discussion followed that it is a best practice not to have them employed by the school. Mr. Means asked if enough was being borrowed from Highmark to take care of the expenses. The applicants responded that if they did not have enough, they would go to plan B – something smaller and cheaper.</p> <p>Ms. Adams commented that they were the only applicant that tied their EC children's teacher growth to the increased numbers in students. Mr. Maimone asked if they have been in touch with any other schools that have used Highmark for facilities, and the groups responded that they have done their research by speaking with other charter schools.</p> <p>Ms. Graham motioned they recommend North East Carolina Preparatory as a Fast Track to the State Board. It was seconded by Mr. Maimone. The motion carried unanimously.</p>
Discussion	<p>Mr. Landry asked for clarification on when schools are allowed to add extra information and when they are not. Mr. Betterton responded that they could give clarification on questions asked by the Council during the interview but not redo their whole plan. Ms. Crumpler clarified that you they should not bring in applicants that they had not planned on interviewing originally.</p> <p>Mr. Medley clarified that Pinnacle has pulled their application, at the last minute, due to their desire for a full planning year. The groups were notified and asked to attend early to promote a nice flow for the meeting. He further added that he, in the application training, has discussed the boilerplate language that many groups had used in their bylaws.</p>
Research Triangle High School	<p>Ms. Graham announced that she needed to recuse herself from this discussion and vote due to a member of her organization serving on the board for this proposed school. Mr. Betterton reminded Council members that they too need to recuse themselves if they have any connection with any school.</p>

The applicants introduced their team. All but one of the 11 board members was present, and that one was in Guatemala. They said a parent volunteer was also present. The applicants began by addressing the rubric and questions asked by the Council. They acknowledged that their by-laws had discrepancies but said they were addressing the issues and would modify their by-laws to be in compliance with state laws. They stated they would never have just one member. They would abide by all open meeting laws, including posting the meeting date at least 48 hours ahead of time.

Mr. Norcross asked for clarification that changes can be made after the application. Ms. Crumpler had already stated that by-laws are an area where most proposed charters have problems because of using business rather than school models so modifications in this area are common. Mr. Betterton reiterated that minor changes could be made but not major changes.

Under “protected staff,” the Council had questions. The applicants responded that they have an internal and an external mission. They went on to say that they wanted to be able to share their resources and ideas with the staff and wanted to have both internal and external partners. Ms. Adams asked for clarification of these partnerships. Specifically, she asked if they were going to hire people to set up these relationships. The applicants’ response was yes.

There were questions on the proposed business plan. The applicants stated that they budgeted conservatively with smaller local dollars, not knowing from which LEA’s they would draw their students. Mr. Betterton asked where they intended the school to be located. The applicants responded their hope was in the middle of RTP and that they are specifically looking at Alexander and Park Center Drive near Davis. They added they were currently in negotiations for a facility but it was, of course, contingent on getting their charter approved. They added they did have a back up plan of an additional site. Council members asked them why they chose this area. The applicants responded that they wished to be located in RTP proper to bring more vitality to the RTP park. They added that there were many local companies in the area supporting or at least giving positive feedback to this addition. Mr. Betterton said they referenced construction and wanted to know if they really felt it was doable by August. The applicants responded they thought they were as most of changes were not that difficult as they were converting a business area into a school site, not putting up a building from scratch. Mr. Dillon asked if the rent was not pretty high. The applicants said this was Class B type rates because the buildings were older. They added that there is currently over a 30% vacancy in buildings in this area, which would be to their advantage. Mr. Hawkes clarified that they are really just reinventing buildings.

Dr. Landry asked about the impact that taking these students from pretty good schools will have on the LEA. The application said the region we are drawing from has 42,000 rising high school students. They anticipate only drawing

	<p>about 1% of the local students which should be insignificant. Ms. Turner asked for them to clarify if they were asking for a 6-12 or a 9-12 school. The applicant confirmed 9-12 unless they discovered that students were not prepared (and they would add the middle school).</p> <p>Mr. Hooker asked what the ethnicities in the area were. The applicants said that only 10% in the area are non-Caucasian. They felt the issue was really an issue of access. They went on to say that these students are ready for this global approach and increased access. Mr. Hooker said he feels the STEM approach is good, and he was impressed that the applicants were intentional in their application about training teachers. The applicants responded that the model they are using will really help teachers to meet the learning needs of students.</p> <p>Ms. Turner asked with this blended model how they were going to keep the lack of technology at home from punishing students who do not have access at home. The applicants responded that they may have to do a 1 on 1 initiative. They committed to use all devices and resources from the community. They reminded the Council that their students would also be able to download homework before leaving school each day.</p> <p>Dr. Landry asked if the proposed location was in Durham County and how many STEM high schools were already located in the LEA. The applicant referenced the LEA Impact Statement that said 5 exist but they want to foster 21st century thinking skills. Dr. Landry followed up with questions as to whether or not those 5 STEM schools were not already doing that, and the applicants answered that they had no knowledge of that respect. Mr. Maimone said that he had a question on the dollars set aside for technology in their budget given the focus that they were putting on technology. The applicant said their goal is to use open source electronic equipment that can be repurposed to use open source materials better.</p> <p>Mr. Hooker asked them to expand on their constructivism approach. The applicants responded that this comes from many years of experiential learning including that which occurs at Raleigh Charter HS. What they are doing is trying to blend it with digital content to provide better differentiated instruction.</p> <p>Ms. Turner motioned they recommend Research Triangle High School as a Fast Track to the State Board and it was seconded by Mr. Means. Mr. Norcross asked for a clarification that now the Council as allowing changes to be made although that was not allowed yesterday. Legal counsel reiterated again that minor changes were acceptable, and these were minor. The motion received unanimous approval.</p>
Subcommittee Reports	<p>Ms. Adams began with a discussion of the application content committee. She asked the Council members to look at page 3 of the application. She said the terminology of “complete” had been added, and they like that. On page 4, she</p>

said they were asking the word “replication” be added under the section on conversion. She added they also needed a definition of replication as to what kind. Mr. Norcross asked if it is a replication school that academic data and financial information on the school being replicated be provided for the previous three years. Ms. Adams said they also felt that somewhere in the application it should discuss their uniqueness from the replication. There was discussion of why this is so important. Ms. Graham stated, for instance, that it may be a different type of kids. Mr. Betterton said we do not want to lose site of the fact that charters arise from the needs of the community. Much discussion ensued with a conclusion that it was important that applicants address community in their applications.

Ms. Adams continued with a discussion of page 5. She said the blank lines in the charts were confusing and needed to be filled in adding sixth, seventh, etc. rather than leaving blanks.

The conversation shifted to mission-oriented programs and how to quantify that the mission as achieved. Others wanted to see the applicant to have to answer the question: “how will you know that you are achieving your mission?” Finally, Dr. Landry suggested limiting the number of words for the mission.

On page 7, they felt a proposed management company specifically need to be explained. The request was also made that bullets have numbers so that we can be more specific to applicants with their comments.

Regarding page 8: They said they want data on proposed management companies’ academic performance for their NC schools as well as for schools requesting replications. The question was asked whether this could be done as a link. There was a concern expressed that a school had misrepresented their test scores compared to the LEA. A discussion ensued regarding the type of data to request. They said it would be important to have disaggregated data. Mr. Betterton said using the ABC report cards would be apples to apples.

Page 8: The recommendation was made that bullets need to be sorted by topic and grouped accordingly. Mr. Norcross asked if everyone was comfortable with the overall format and there was discussion that there were concerns. The question arose that there could be an issue if the applicants do not list all of the board members or if they do not have a range in numbers for board members. Ms. Crumpler said that a minimum of 5 board members are required and a school’s by-laws should be set up to address these issues.

Page 9 –The recommendation was made to change the title “Special Education” to “Exceptional Children.” It was also suggested in this section that the applicants be asked how they will meet the needs of each EC sub-group. The feeling was schools need to provide further explanation on this section. Mr. Norcross asked if it would be possible for the EC department or licensure to

	<p>review these sections for them.</p> <p>Page 10 Private Schools and Replications need to be here too.</p> <p>Page 15. Need to have letters of assurance for any entity providing funds.</p> <p>Page 17. They wanted an option for “N/A” so they at least know the school reviewed the section. Mr. Norcross asked for an electronic field for applicants. Must allow for additional lines if they are clarifying best and worse.</p> <p>Page 17. Replace “guidance” with student services.” The question arose as to what “other” means. They asked where the line item for audit was. They feel there is a need to align the lines. There is no section for technology or IT.</p> <p>Page 18. They felt the section on food services was difficult to understand. They also felt other things like legal should be in this section. The Council asked that total expenditures be required and then the subtraction done so that they do not have to do it themselves to see if the budget balances.</p> <p>Page 19. Mr. Mitchell commented there were no provision for liabilities.</p> <p>Page 20. There was a question about assurance letters. Mr. Medley clarified that the resource guide does provide the amounts. Mr. Betterton requested the minimum amounts be put in the application in parentheses. Dr. Landry wanted to see some guarantee that they actually have it. Much discussion surrounded insurance. Mr. Medley did clarify how OCS monitors insurance and stated that insurance is required from schools to operate.</p> <p>Page 21 – The issue of the site being ready came up. The Council said there must be some indication on their application that the applicants are moving on this. In other words, they need contingency plans.</p> <p>Page 23 needs proof that the LEA has the application. Mr. Medley stated that LEA Impact Statements are due within 7 days of the application and has suggested that groups deliver the first copy to the LEA. The Council suggested changing the date but couldn’t because it is law. They emphasized that all signature pages must be signed. Mr. Norcross asked they request a background check on the person signing the application. Ms. Crumpler said cannot do that without a new state statute. Mr. Norcross and Ms. Turner asked if the applicants could be asked to pay for them.</p>
Lunch	
Application Discussion Continued	<p>Mr. Betterton recognized Mr. Norcross to further the discussion of applications. Mr. Norcross said he was trying to schedule a meeting with Ms. Crumpler, Mr. Medley, and Mr. Hill. He told the Council he would email everyone as these discussions continued. Mr. Betterton discussed the next meeting being on April</p>

	<p>24 and 25 to review applications, and then asked the Council if a meeting before then was necessary. Mr. Norcross asked about the process – if the Council approves, can it just roll out the automation. Ms. Crumpler clarified that all changes to the application will need SBE approval. Mr. Betterton said he will email everyone if it looks like the need is there. Mr. Maimone recommended a tentative date be set for Tuesday, February 28th at 1:30.</p>
Triangle Math and Science Academy	<p>The applicants distributed materials to the Council and announced they filled another board slot with a local anesthesiologist to answer the council’s concern about not having enough local people. They have seven board members and all were present. They said this was a request to replicate their current school in Guilford County here in Wake County. They feel their strength is their math and technology focus with small classes. Their current school has grown from just over 244 students in grades K-6 to roughly 500 students in K-8. They said they had 840 applications for 128 spots, and their current list has over 1,000 students. They did a survey of 178 parents to see interest with a 98% positive response rate. They reviewed a summary of their academic progress from their ABC report cards.</p> <p>They addressed their budget concerns by indicating they have had a surplus every year. They moved to their current facility of 76,000 sq. ft. on 11.5 acres in their 3rd year. They have technology in all of their classrooms. They reviewed their educational plan with the Council. They said that they have an inquiry approach to learning. Regarding adding JROTC, Mr. Dillon said they would need 10% of their population and at least 80 high schoolers to offer JROTC, so he asked how they would implement this program. The applicants said they were considering it to strengthen their curriculum.</p> <p>A governance question was asked by the Council as to whether or not this was a management board. The applicants stated it was not. They were all non-paid volunteers. They said they currently have 4 board members from Guilford County, 2 from Wake, and 3 parents on their board. They said the boards will meet in their respective areas on an alternating basis. Mr. Maimone asked which board members were common to both schools. The applicants responded that this is one board. They did change the by-laws so that the board meetings will happen in the local schools. They added that they extended their board membership to 9 members to get the additional local representation. The applicants stated that there would be a board meeting every other month but they would rotate locations every other month to facilitate parent interaction. Mr. Means asked for clarification of the location of board members. Mr. Maimone clearly explained the concern of the Council in that local parents do have local representation and access. Mr. Hooker pondered if this governance structure could create any conflicts. Ms. Cornetto said there is nothing that speaks to that but it is important that it can represent both schools and parents can access these meetings. Mr. Mitchell said that his schools have operated this way successfully for many years.</p>

Dr. Landry expressed concern that the parents would have to travel two hours if they have something they need to discuss on “off” months. Mr. Norcross said the content of each meeting needs to be specific to that school. Mr. Maimone added that it is important that the Council get clarification on how this is going to happen.

Regarding their business plan, they said they already have an experienced board running their school. They use fundraising to prevent budget shortfalls and also ask for money from companies in the areas. Ms. Adams asked why there was a zero on the application for these extra funds and stated they needed to add clarification that this was an addition to application. The applicants expressed that they feel they will be able to draw money from other companies as well as large companies such as SAS and IBM.

Mr. Dillon asked if they took kids to Turkey and they said yes but not from school money. Mr. Hooker commented on the Robotics competition and that they were the first NC charter school to be represented nationally. Regarding their transportation plan, they said they are looking for easy access points to pick up kids as well as carpooling. When questioned about the dollars in their budget for transportation, they said they were really for EC kids who do not have access.

As far as a location for their school, they are working with York Estates and have identified a place that may work in downtown Raleigh. They provided landlord letters and copies of the site to the Council. They stated it is a previous school and has a park across the street. There is an adjacent building available and the Kids Museum is right next door. Concerns were expressed by the Council on whether their budget was sufficient for this. The applicants stated that they feel the \$300,000 that has been budgeted will be sufficient. They attached a letter saying the amount is within the fair market value in Wade County. It would be on E. Hargett Street. Mr. Medley addressed that the building had been used by Exploris Charter School and held a 6-8 charter school. The building allowed for common offices for team teachers.

Mr. Mitchell asked the applicant about measurement of success or failure in their mission statement. The applicant said it would be part of daily operations; however, Mr. Mitchell wanted specific metrics. They responded home visits, parent surveys, competitions enrolled in, etc. Mr. Mitchell shifted to their core values and wanted to know where they originated. The applicant said they were the same for nearly all public schools. Mr. Mitchell then wanted to know how they connected to math and science or why truth, as a science based school, was not part of this list. The applicant stated that their goal was not just science to but to develop humanity. Mr. Mitchell then wanted to know who is recognized as the first scientist and the applicant said they sensed a slant in these types of questions.

	<p>Mr. Hawkes wondered how deep the Council should go on their questions. He added that he had been there and it is a good school with test results. Ms. Dunaway asked we move forward and call for vote. Mr. Mitchell said he still had curriculum questions particularly that they claim to be a replication school but the proposed curriculum is very different than the other school. The applicants responded that they are implementing problem based math program. Mr. Mitchell asked if Saxon was problem based and the applicant said yes</p> <p>Mr. Hawkes spoke and said that there have been questions about their affiliation with the Gulen movement. The applicants said that some members are from Turkey and many board members but they do not have any affiliation with any national movement. Ms. Turner asked about the percentage of teachers who are being supported with visas. The applicants answered about 10%. Ms. Turner asked if that was because of a shortage of teachers. The applicant said it is very hard to find qualified teachers particularly for math and science. The applicants then emphasized that they have many teachers from around the world. Mr. Betterton asked what their minority rate was. The applicants responded: 45% white, 50% African American and the rest are “other.” The newest board member spoke and said she would not have come on the board if it had been a Gulen school. She emphasized that math and science people are in short supply, and this type of school will address this need. Mr. Maimone followed up on licensure and whether this has been a struggle with international teachers. The applicant said they have a licensure plan in place and make the statutory requirements.</p> <p>Mr. Hawkes made motioned they recommend Triangle Math and Science Academy as a Fast Track to the State Board. Mr. Maimone seconded and the motion received unanimous approval.</p>
Water’s Edge Village School	<p>Waters Edge introduced their group. All 7 board members were present as well as their local representative – Bill Owens. Mr. Owens spoke and said that there are no charters available in their area and their isolation makes it difficult for children and parents. He said he hopes that in 5 years or so there will be a bridge available, but right now it is not possible. Mr. Betterton asked if there had been any effort to coordinate with Dare County Schools and the answer was yes, but the applicants said they have to pay \$1400 per year per student.</p> <p>They said they started the non-profit because Currituck County had one senior they did not want to send a bus to collect. They know this situation is unique, but, although isolated, they have community and elected official support. They provided survey information to demonstrate support from parents and potential volunteers and those offering pledges of financial support.</p> <p>The Council members asked many questions about the location. The applicants said there were two weaknesses that they perceived in their application before they even address the rubric and building and finances, and those were their</p>

low enrollment numbers and a facility. They did a pledge drive and within 2.5 weeks had pledges totaling more than \$18,000. They have taken care of the site issue and have a letter of intent from the landlords to reestablish a school in the old building for \$900 per month. They understand Fast Track and have met monthly, though the non-profit has only quarterly meetings because they feel they need to reflect times differently for the feds.

They addressed their small population. They intend to open to all students but people who work in the area will probably be the primary applicants. At this point they say they have 31 committed to enrolling their children. The applicants said they understand they will probably not increase their numbers until they prove themselves. They believe that will happen and then they will grow. They are estimating 20 students from the community and 10 who would come from the mainland.

Mr. Maimone asked about future growth for the school, and WEVS answered by saying that many people move due to the lack of a school. They added that there are a lot of babies in the area and believes that having a school will reduce the exit of these students to Dare County. The applicants added that commuters could also bring their children and they had no way to reach those people in their surveys to indicate their interest. Mr. Means stated that the Council was trying to get comfortable with this small enrollment and need to feel comfortable that it will grow. The applicants stressed again that they believe the interest will be there if they get a charter.

Mr. Betterton explained that the Council knew of another charter school that couldn't meet budget with 65 students and wondered how they believed they could make it. Rep. Owens said that in building the school, the people would come and he asked them for the chance to prove it. The applicants said they would balance their budget through volunteers who will keep their cost down.

Mr. Dillon asked how many grades they planned on having and was told it would be K-6. The applicants said most of the students are really in K-2 because parents finally get tired of traveling and move. Mr. Means asked about their planning for 2 multi-age classrooms. Three of the board members said they came from those experiences and did well. They said they feel the peer teaching and peer tutoring are very positive tools. Students would present projects at the end of each year by grade level.

Dr. Landry said he is very familiar with the area and has also heard individuals express their desire for having a school there. Dr. Landry said there is no question about the isolation. He said he was thinking about how successful some one room schools houses had been.

The issues they want the Council to understand deal with the detrimental effect that these long daily bus rides have on the learning of their children. Mr. Maimone asked if they had their two teachers. They said they did not but have

	<p>received a lot of applications. Ms. Adams asked about the LEA's reaction and was told that they are very supportive and included a letter of support in the application. Mr. Means questioned their request to give preference to locals for admission being against the law. The applicants responded that has been stricken from their application and handed that new section to the Council.</p> <p>Mr. Means motioned they recommend WEVS as a Fast Track to the State Board. Seconded by Ms. Adams. Mr. Hawkes said he is not in favor of small schools but this truly was an exception. Ms. Crumpler reminded them that they would need the motion to reflect that they were recommending an exception to the minimum of 65 students required by state law in advancing their application. Mr. Means modified the motion. The Council voted unanimously to adopt the motion</p>
Final Discussion	Mr. Betterton commented that gifts were left in some seats. He reminded Council members to be careful of gifts because it could be misconstrued, and some folks were offended. He asked that this not occur again.
Adjournment	Mr. Maimone motioned they adjourn and Ms. Adams seconded. The meeting adjourned at 2:13 p.m.

Minutes submitted by staff of the Office of Charter Schools.