

**NC Charter School Advisory Committee Meeting
State Board of Education
Meeting Rm. 755
NC Department of Public Instruction**

December 10, 2012

Meeting Minutes

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

Welcome and Overview	At 9:00 am, Mr. John Betterton began the meeting by welcoming everyone.
Approval of Minutes	Mr. Joe Maimone noted that there were some grammatical errors on page two and four that needed to correct. Mr. Maimone made a motion to approve the minutes with corrections. Dr. Markley seconded it. The vote was unanimous.
Discussions	Mr. Betterton stated that he had a list of items that he would like the Council to discuss and that list is below. (1) <u>Funding</u> : Mr. Maimone stated that a barrier has been set between charters and LEAs related to funding. Ms. Laura Crumpler asked if there was a way to identify which funds were still an issue. Dr. Markley stated that issues with back issues are what are currently being litigated. He further stated that the lines for funding seem to be clear. Ms. Adams asked if there was a document that delineated which funds are shared and which are not. Mr. Maimone informed the Council that such a document does not exist and that was the problem because part of it is in the charter law and the other is in the budget portion of the state legislature. There will continue to be disagreement between LEAs and charters until there are laws that need clarity and need to be on a clear list to let LEAs know which funds are on the list to share and which are not. Ms. Crumpler replied that there is a list and the LEAs make the determination. Mr. Betterton suggested that Mr. Phillip Price provide an update to the Council. Mr. Maimone volunteered to be on a

committee to discuss funding to figure out what there needed to be a discussion between charters and LEAs related to line items. Ms. Adams suggested that Councils be allowed to piggyback on LEAs for checking state testing.

- (2) Charter/LEA collaboration: Mr. Betterton stated that there could be sharing of resources and ideas. Ms. Cheryl Turner informed the Council that the Superintendent of CMS has invited charter Heads of Schools to a meeting to discuss such topics. Mr. Betterton informed the Council that he recently attended the Executive Committee of the Schools Board Association, in which he represented himself and not the Council. He added that his purpose was to create a dialogue. Mr. Richard Hooker commended Mr. Betterton for having courage to attend the meeting and having a dialogue. Mr. Alan Hawkes suggested that the Council have a discussion about what an LEA/Charter partnership would look like in response to a recent newspaper article about Rockingham County proposing to open multiple charters. Ms. Crumpler clarified that the non-profit applies for the charter; not the local Board. Dr. Markley stated that Superintendents are looking to get the same flexibility as charters. He added that most Superintendents are not opposed to charter schools. Ms. Adams asked what flexibilities are desired. Dr. Markley gave an example describing flexibility in licensure. Mr. Maimone replied that LEAs should learn from charters and replicate the good practices in LEAs. Dr. Markley noted that current legislature prevents that from happening. Mr. Betterton stated that he preferred to have recommendations made, discussed and then brought back to the Council to vote on during the next meeting. He stated that he would like to stay on the table for a month before decisions are made. Dr. Markley stated that he sees charter schools more for choice rather than innovation.
- (3) Flexibility for both: Mr. Maimone added that he would like more freedom to hire more uncertified teachers and freedom from state testing. Traditional and charter schools are having the same problem in which regulation is running the schools. He suggested that the Council recommend using MAP testing with NWEA to replace current state testing. Dr. Robert Landry agreed and would like to see less testing. Mr. Martez Hill stated that the legislature has chosen testing as a means to evaluate teachers. He asked the Council to suggest ways, other than state testing. Mr. Maimone replied that there are great models of testing that have growth models, such as MAP testing. He added that teachers are currently teaching to bullet points of information rather than skills. The current accountability program cost approximately \$20 per student and MAP testing would cost \$8 per student and save the state money. Dr. Markley noted that MAP testing covers the basic curriculum but would not assess all teachers. Authentic assessments would be a better assessment of what is happening in the classrooms. He further noted that MSLs do not truly evaluate teachers. Giving a test to all teachers for the sake of fulfilling a grant is not best practice.
- (4) Alternative Licensure: Mr. Betterton noted that Performance Based Licensure would benefit schools. Dr. Landry suggested that the Council request that the state allow alternative licensing routes. Ms. Turner stated that classroom management is a great indicator of the success of a

	<p>teacher, not his or her PRAXIS score. Mr. Maimone stated that his recommendation should be that schools should be able to say to the state that a teacher has demonstrated success in the classroom and should be granted a license. Dr. Shore noted that universities are caught up in the same administrative restrictions as the school systems are. Ms. Crumpler added that the licensing board serves as a nationwide gate keeper for those who would not be good in the classroom.</p> <p>(5) <u>Sibling preference</u>: Mr. Betterton asked Dr. Medley to clarify the charter law related to sibling admittance. Dr. Medley explained the law related to the phrase enrolled in the previous year. Ms. Crumpler stated that a child who is currently enrolled would have sibling preference which does not mean that both siblings that apply to a school would automatically get in. Ms. Turner and Mr. Maimone replied that that wreaks havoc on families. Ms. Crumpler added that the change would have to be a legislative change. This does not apply to multiple births.</p> <p>Due to constraints of time, these discussions were halted to move into the renewal conversations; however, the Council would return to them later today.</p>
<p>Charter Renewals</p> <p>Kennedy Public Charter School</p>	<p>Dr. Medley informed the Council that there would be two schools up for charter renewal. He then explained the OCS process for charter renewals. Dr. Medley explained that the schools assigned consultant would be presenting information. Ms. Cande Honeycutt explained how she compiled raw data using the DPI Data and Statistics website.</p> <p><u>Kennedy Charter</u>: Ms. Honeycutt displayed Kennedy Charter's data and explained that the chart compares Kennedy Charter with all charters, as well as, Charlotte-Mecklenburg. Kennedy Charter has made a tremendous amount of growth over the last five years going from 10.4% in 2008 to 42.4 % in 2012. There are still some concerns with the schools academics. Their last renewal from the State Board was a five year renewal due to poor academic performance. The school began as a 6-12 school, was approved to add grades K-2 and then 3-5 which was added this school year. Dr. Landry asked Ms. Honeycutt to describe the schools demographics. Ms. Honeycutt replied that the students are from the neighborhood and that representatives from the school would be able to add additional information. The school was originally an alternative school but that designation was changed by the SBE in 2009. Dr. Medley explained that being an alternative school for accountability purposes meant that the school could write some on-performance goals that would be evaluated and used in the schools overall performance. Ms. Honeycutt noted that the school is serving a unique population and they have made some changes to address of the population. Ms. Adams noted that as she looks at the data there does not seem to be a level change of the cohorts. Ms. Honeycutt replied that the population is transient. She added that they had not met AYP in the last five years nor did they make growth during the last school year. The school could possibly be up for revocation if they do not have a composite of at 60% this school year. There are 360 students in grades K-12 currently enrolled in the school. Ms. Honeycutt presented information about the school's EOC results over the last five years. She noted that there will be no Biology scores for this school year because the school is not offering the course. The withdrawal rates have fluctuated as a result of the schools population changing</p>

and the success measures that the principal has put in place. The withdrawal rate is noteworthy because it is significantly higher than the charter school average of 7%. The four-year cohort graduate rate has dropped. Ms. Turner asked how the schools graduated the number of students it did based on student EOC performance.

Ms. Honeycutt explained that the school is compliant in every area except for Child Nutrition and Governance. The school does not currently have 100% highly qualified staff. The Child Nutrition report shows that their point of sales practices, as well as, their work with vendors was not compliant. Ms. Adams asked if the child nutrition staff member were going to present more often. Ms. Honeycutt answered that the school hired new child nutrition staff and that issue was being improved.

The mission of the school is serving a particular population and the expectation is that they will serve them appropriately. Ms. Turner noted that there is a drastic difference between serving alternative versus low socioeconomic. The principal, Mr. Stubbs, is in his second year and has implemented many changes in the school such as making home visits, flexible scheduling and tutoring. The parents spoke very highly about the school and noted that the school offers extended opportunities for their children. The staff shared that the school does not use pacing guides but each teacher creates long-term plans. Data is analyzed frequently using NWEA. In summary, the composite scores have been significantly lower than the LEA, they have not made AYP in the last five years, but have had a dramatic increase in their composite scores. The school has a high annual teacher turnover rate and they have been more strategic about the teachers that are in the classroom. The school is not eligible for a ten-year renewal due to their academic performance. Mr. Betterton asked if the school submitted an academic intervention plan. Ms. Honeycutt noted that they had and the plan was very thorough. Evidence of the plan's implementation was seen during the site visit.

Representatives from Kennedy distributed material to the Council. Mr. Bruce Thompson introduced himself as the school's legal counsel and led the discussion on behalf of the charter school. He informed the Council of the people who were in attendance from Kennedy which included school board members, staff, parents, a trustee from Johnston C. Smith School, Mr. Howard Lee and two students. Mr. Thompson pointed out a letter from the president of Johnston C. Smith University in which they express an interest of working with Kennedy Charter. Dr. Fred Grosse, the school's superintendent is also the President of Elon Homes for Children. He stated he owned and operated Kennedy School. He stated that the school was founded by Elon Homes for Children. All of the children were previously in DSS custody and their length of stay for Elon Homes was their length of stay for Kennedy School. Dr. Grosse explained the history of changes at the Home and school. This is the first school year that Kennedy will be a full K-12 school. He noted that the school's population has changed. They have been meeting with Johnson C. Smith so that the Kennedy School, foster care programs and outpatient mental health programs could be moved to their campus. This will occur after the approval. The students would be exposed to daily mentoring, interventions and

exposure to academics and opportunities for sports and STEM. Currently, there are 140 Kennedy students who already reside in that neighborhood. Mr. Maimone asked about the distance from the current location to the proposed location. Dr. Grosse explained that the schools are five miles apart. Dr. Landry noted that partnering with the university would be a great opportunity for Kennedy. He asked if Johnson C. Smith would be governing Kennedy School. Dr. Grosse explained that Kennedy Charter School Board would continue to govern the school. Mr. Betterton asked how many students, beyond Elon students, come in through the regular enrollment process. Dr. Grosse replied that there are 10-15 foster children and the rest are from Mecklenburg.

Ms. Adams noted that the Board governs two entities: Elon Homes and Kennedy Charter. Dr. Grosse replied that the Board is in transition and has up to 10 members. There are four members who will continue but the rest are new. He mentioned that DPI noted that the Board needed to change its practice of concentrating on child welfare and be laser focused on the school. All Board members will be from Mecklenburg County. Dr. Landry asked how the Board will be able to assure the Council that they will be successful. Dr. Grosse replied that the Board is receiving training, adding Johnson C. Smith and the faculty has changed and it is best that the school has ever had. Mr. Hooker asked Dr. Grosse to explain how the mentoring would work and describe the parental support. Dr. Grosse replied that there is not a formal agreement and currently in Elon Homes the mentors are trained and university faculty and students would be trained and assigned specific children. Because the population has been so stable over the last two years, the faculty knows how to work with families. The school is offering rent free space in their former communications building for elementary. Mr. Betterton asked how students are recruited. Dr. Grosse explained that it is done through word of mouth and the school is not interested in expansion. Mr. Landry referred to data that was included in the previously distributed packet and asked how Kennedy is performing compared to the local school systems. Dr. Grosse replied that Kennedy's data is comparable to the area schools and they believe that partnering with the university would increase schools.

Ms. Adams asked if the school had developed a lottery procedure. Mr. Grosse stated that he would defer to school personnel to answer that question. Dr. Markley asked what percentage of the 360 students attend Elon Homes. Dr. Markley noted that there is a big discrepancy between West Charlotte's data and Kennedy and asked Mr. Grosse to explain why. He replied that he would defer to school personnel.

The Dean of Students shared information about Kennedy's testing data history and noted that the goal was to increase scores by 12% this school year. The schools composite scores have increased each year and they have a goal of increasing by 5% each year. The school continues to have an increase in test scores by using a four-pillar system that includes data-driven instruction, innovative teaching strategies, parental involvement and tutoring. Mr. Maimone asked if the school had results for ACT and EXPLORE test and asked for the results of the test. Ms. Gibson replied that 5 out of 25 8th grade students met the

benchmark of the test and ten to fifteen students were at the cutoff. There were 3 or 4 students out of 45 who passed the 10th grade test. She explained that grades 3-8 complete NWEA tests and their results are used for instructional grouping. Mr. Maimone suggested that since the state will not have test results until October that the school put together NWEA testing results to share with the Council. Ms. Adams asked about the number of licensed teachers. Ms. Gibson replied that there are two licensed teachers, as well as a coordinator. Dr. Shore asked what science classes are being offered this school year since Biology is not being offered. Ms. Gibson replied that there is a plan for all students to have all of the graduation requirements met but she would have to refer to her one of her colleagues for that information. Dr. Markley asked if Kennedy has the same graduation requirements as the state. Ms. Gibson explained that they have the same requirements.

Mr. Stubbs explained that the current science courses being offered are Chemistry, Anatomy and Forensic Science. He further explained that many of their upper class students have already taken Biology. He explained that with the school's academic shift and raised rigor this was the first year that they could offer pre-Calculus. Ms. Adams asked if the school could exist without having a lottery in place. Mr. Thompson explained that there is a lottery in place. He further added that the partnership with Johnson C. Smith will be well publicized. Ms. Turner asked Mr. Stubbs to explain why there aren't students who need to retake Biology since only 35.6% of them based during the last school year. Dr. Markley asked how much of the test growth is attributed to the change in student population versus changes in the school practices. Mr. Stubbs replied that many of the student's scores, while the school was in alternative status, are reflected in the 2008-2009 data. The data from 2010 to now reflects the changing population.

Ms. Adams asked if the shift to Early College was a material change. Dr. Medley replied that there are limited areas that could go to OCS and other items would go to SBE. The aforementioned changes would go to SBE. Ms. Honeycutt stated that OCS is recommending a five year renewal. Mr. Maimone asked if there were any changes submitted to OCS that reflect the material change. He noted that it would be such a different school with those changes and he would feel uncomfortable granting a five year renewal. Dr. Grosse replied that the partnership is not set in stone because they are waiting for an approval from SBE. Dr. Landry noted that he would like to know who would be running the school. Dr. Grosse replied that there will be no designated Board seats for Johnson C. Smith. Ms. Kwan Graham asked if there was any information available for the background of the new Board members that have been added. Dr. Grosse replied that there is rolling recruitment and Board members can be added throughout the year. Mr. Betterton asked if the resumes of the new Board members were available because they are the critical body of the school. Mr. Grosse explained that he did not bring those documents but could supply those. Mr. Maimone asked if the Board members listed in the renewal document were the current Board members. Mr. Grosse responded that those were not the current Board members.

	<p>Dr. Medley stated that the school was notified that they had to make 60% composite or they would be going up for revocation this year. There is no growth component for the upcoming school year. Mr. Maimone reminded the school to create a packet of data to share with the Council. Dr. Landry noted that it is a big plus for the school that Ms. Honeycutt noticed a change.</p> <p>Mr. Maimone made a motion to grant Kennedy a five year renewal contingent upon a successful reapplication for changes in the charter. Ms. Adams seconded. Ms. Graham asked if the Board would be solidified at that time. Dr. Markley noted that the test scores seem to be more of a reflection of population rather than instruction. Mr. Betterton stated that he is bothered by the schools overall composite score. Dr. Landry stated that he agreed with Mr. Betterton but he also remembers what Ms. Honeycutt said. The vote carried 4-5. The motion failed.</p> <p>Dr. Landry noted that there was an email from two Council members. Mr. Betterton replied that the email vote could not be counted. Dr. Shore asked if less than five years could be granted. Ms. Turner replied that two years would be the minimum. Dr. Landry suggested that the Council grant the school three years. Mr. Maimone added that he would like to give the school an opportunity to work with the university. Dr. Landry made a motion to grant a three year renewal contingent on the approval of SBE material changes. Mr. Maimone seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously.</p> <p>Dr. Medley asked Mr. Betterton for clarification on what the Council is asking the school to do in order to get this to the SBE. Mr. Betterton replied that they must present the changes that they are proposing. Dr. Medley stated that the school wants to get the renewal first and then possibly have an Early College. Mr. Thompson replied that the main material change would be the relocation of the school. Mr. Hawkes asked for clarification of the material change. Mr. Thompson replied that the school originally was coming forth to simply get a charter renewal but now understands that that decision is contingent upon the partnership with Johnson C. Smith.</p>
Question regarding Letter of Intent from Board Chair	<p>Dr. Medley explained that there have been seven letters of intents that have been turned in thus far. He explained that last year there were 145 people who attended training and this year there were 85. He noted that it is hard to project the number of applications that will be submitted. Mr. Maimone asked where the letter of intent is being advertised. Dr. Medley replied that it is listed on the Parent for Education, Alliance and Association websites. He added that one reporter has expressed interest in covering the topic in December</p>
Charter Renewals (Con't) Tiller School	<p>Ms. Lisa Swinson displayed data for Tiller School renewal. She explained that in the last three years they outperformed the local LEA. She also noted that they made AYP each year. Dr. Markley asked how many subgroups the school had. Ms. Swinson replied that there were nine. The school has a waiting list in all grade levels except for fifth grade. The school has 189 students. The schools mission focuses on the whole child developing lifelong learners. Ms. Adams noted that there are 35 EC students and inquired about the number of EC teachers. Ms. Swinson replied that there are two EC teachers. There is a portion of each Board meeting in which teachers get to voice concerns. Each teacher must attend at least one board meeting. During site visit parents noted</p>

	<p>that they were very pleased with the school and that the only thing that they would change would be the addition of a middle school. The teachers noted that they love working at Tiller. OCS is recommending a 10 year charter renewal.</p> <p>Principal, Ms. Virginia Jones shared a slide presentation that summarized the schools mission and provided an overview of what makes the school successful. She focused on sharing information about the schools social curriculum, The Responsive Classroom. Mr. Betterton asked if the school was interested in increasing enrollment. Ms. Jones explained that the school recently was outbid when they attempted to purchase land that is adjacent to the school. Mr. Betterton asked if the school is diverse. Ms. Jones replied that the socioeconomic status of the students is very diverse. Racial diversity is on the rise with the rate of multi-racial students increasing the most.</p> <p>Dr. Markley made a motion to grant Tiller School a ten year renewal. Ms. Kwan Graham seconded. The vote passed unanimously.</p>
Discussion (Cont')	<p>(6) <u>Letters of Intent</u>: Mr. Hawkes stated that Dr. Medley addressed one of the items that he wanted the Council to discuss and he was okay with the information that he shared. Dr. Thomas Miller informed the Council that there were 26 counties that were represented in the charter application trainings.</p> <p>(7) <u>Earlier Approval</u>: Mr. Hawkes stated that the less time new charter have the less leverage they have as they try to make arrangements with vendors and get staff in place. He further stated that final approval of March 1, 2013 needs to be moved up to February 1, 2013. Businesses do not want to commit without the charter agreement in hand. He further stated that the schools, especially the smaller schools, need additional time. Dr. Medley reviewed the SBE process for approving new charters. Dr. Miller shared that there have been four dates in which new school training has occurred. He informed them that there will be three more meetings prior to March. A massive amount of the schools have had board turnover. Four schools have asked for material changes, one has asked to change LEAs. This month the training will occur via webinar. The charter school boards need to know what they will be responsible for. Mr. Betterton asked if the information that is being shared today will be shared with the SBE. Dr. Medley explained that Dr. Miller has created a chart that summarizes the information. He explained that the Council informed the schools that there were things that needed to be changed. However, due to the lack of staffing in OCS, the staff has not had the time to do so by January. Dr. Medley noted that this is the last year that the schools will have the timeline that is currently used. Ms. Adams asked Mr. Hawkes if contracts was the major concern he had with the current SBE approval date. Dr. Medley informed the Council that schools have been informed that OCS will talk with lenders. Ms. Turner asked if the schools that are not showing up for meetings will still be granted their charter. Dr. Medley answered that the information will be shared with SBE and they will make the determination. Dr. Markley asked Dr. Miller if he could identify the schools that were not attending meetings and completing task. He</p>

	<p>answered that he could. Ms. Graham stated that if Boards are changing then the application is not the same as what the Council approved. Dr. Miller informed the Council that he began the new charter training by stating that the Board needs to be people who are going to be sustainable for 3-5 years. Ms. Graham stated that she does not like the Board changing because that is not who the Council approved. Mr. Betterton asked if the Council could review the applications prior to the next SBE meeting. Dr. Miller stated that he finds out about the charter amendments through the monthly reports that they are to submit. Dr. Markley would like to know which schools have changed over 50 percent of the board, training attendance, material changes to the charter and a one page update. Dr. Medley informed the Council that Dr. Miller will be emailing them a summary of the schools progress at the conclusion of the meeting. Mr. Hawkes noted that the Council can lose its credibility if schools are not attending meetings and continuously making changes to their charter. Mr. Betterton asked if the Council could review the charters and make recommendations to the SBE to pull a charter. Ms. Crumpler replied that the SBE can listen to recommendations but they do not have to act on them. Dr. Medley informed the Council that the SBE item is due this Wednesday and OCS will do the best they can to get items on the agenda. He further added that he would feel more comfortable with the Council looking at the data about the new schools to make a decision. He stated that it is a back and forth process if the Council identifies that there are schools that need to be revisited because the rubrics would also need to be reviewed by OCS staff. Dr. Medley stated that OCS can make a recommendation but they would like the eyes of others. He also informed the staff that the Council could meet via webinar so that there could be a recorded vote of the decisions. Mr. Betterton informed the Council that the webinar would occur next week in the morning.</p> <p>(8) <u>Automated Application</u>: Dr. Miller gave an update on the online application. The application is in the testing phase. The information would auto populate and download two separate PDFs. There will be three trainings that will occur face-to-face, through webinar and a blended model. The application goes live on January 1, 2013. The rubric is not tired in the system. Mr. Hawkes asked if there needed to be an application fee to offset OCS expenses. Ms. Katie Cornetto explained that the legislator's appropriate money and they would decide where the money would go.</p>
Adjournment	Mr. Maimone made a motion to adjourn. Dr. Markley seconded. The meeting was adjourned.