

**Draft Minutes of the  
NC Public Charter School Advisory Council Meeting  
State Board Rm. 755  
July 15, 2013**

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

**CALL TO ORDER AND MEETING AGENDA REVIEW**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by Vice Chairman Dr. Tim Markley.

Dr. Miller shared a map, created by a Google application, that showed the location of current charter school locations, location of schools that will opening Fall 2013 and proposed location of applicant schools.

<https://www.google.com/fusiontables/DataSource?docid=1KM0pDAJ67sEK26edCRRzWE9HC4ZKuxgz1UCCLLY&pli=1#map:id=3>

Next, Dr. Miller shared planning allotment figures for schools that are scheduled to open fall 2013. He noted that there were four schools who currently had received less than 65 enrollment applications. Dr. Markley asked what the process would be for schools that do not meet the minimum enrollment of 65. Dr. Miller responded that OCS would be taking those schools to the SBE. Ms. Adams asked for clarification on the percentage that the school reported. Dr. Miller responded that the information was reported using a survey and the schools chose the closest figures based on a multiple choice response. Dr. Markley asked if there were any geographical data for schools that were not filling up. Dr. Miller responded that many of the rural schools are having difficulty. In addition, Dr. Miller shared that there are only five out of twenty schools

that have turned in Certificates of Occupancy thus far. Mr. Hawkes asked if the late approval had any impact on the enrollment of the new schools. He noted that it looked like a lot of the schools are having problems with their building because they have four months. Dr. Miller explained that there are several reasons and every school would have to be discussed on a case-by-case situation. For example, some applicants did not thoroughly research the county requirements for a C/O. This has caused multiple schools severe delays. Howard and Lillian Lee for example has tried on two separate occasions and is still having zoning issues. As far as enrollment some of the year one projects might have been unrealistic. Especially when you are trying to recruit students in high school, he concluded.

Dr. Markley read the Ethics Statement and inquired if there were any potential conflicts of interest. Ms. Kwan Graham stated that she would be abstaining from any discussions concerning Heritage Academy and KIPP Halifax. Ms. Kate Alice Dunaway stated that she would be abstaining from discussion concerning Invest Collegiate.

## **APPLICATION INTERVIEWS**

### ***United Community School***

The board chair of the school introduced herself and the other members of the board. A packet of information was distributed to Council members that addressed questions posed by the subcommittee. She stated that there was one board member absent and there was a letter that explained their absence. Mr. Dillon asked the board to explain the piano theory component of the curriculum. The representative explained that the school would focus on piano theory and will be mandatory for all students K-8. Mr. Maimone asked for an update for the budget projections for facilities. The representative responded that the school would be located at a church and the budget is the same as it was reflected in the application. Ms. Adams asked for clarification on the relationship with the schools and Minds Engaged. The representative explained that Minds Engage and UCS would not have anything to do with each other. Minds Engaged is currently an afterschool program. **Mr. Maimone made a motion to forward the application to SBE. Ms. Graham seconded. The motion passed 7-1 with Ms. Adams dissenting.**

Dr. Robert Landry joined the meeting.

### ***Wake Forest Academy***

The board chair introduced herself and the other board members that were present. There was one member absent and a letter was provided, along with a packet of information, to the Council. Mr. Hawkes stated that he had a conflict of interest because he currently sits on the board of a NHA school but he would like to participate in the discussion but would recuse himself from the vote. Mr. Dillon stated that he was the former president of Forsyth Academy. Dr. Markley replied that that was not a conflict. Dr. Markley asked a representative to explain the number of EC teachers. The representative explained that they would hire more EC teachers if they needed to. The representative explained that NHA will provide a building and the budget is very

conservative. Dr. Markley asked the fee for the EMO. The representative replied 98% and the school would have 2% in which the board would be in charge of. The board would govern but NHA would be in control of finance. Dr. Markley asked Mr. Hawkes to explain the relationship between the board and NHA. Mr. Hawkes replied that they are farming out all services but they are being held accountable. Mr. Maimone stated that there is no contingency fund because NHA gets all of the money. The representative asked what the contingency fund would be for. Dr. Markley explained that if there is money left over that could be used for new innovative programs. Mr. Maimone explained that the school would have a difficult time breaking away from NHA because all of the dollars flow through NHA. The representative explained that the tie could be cut at any point and time. She added that the budget would be approved by the board and the board would be monitoring every cent. Dr. Landry stated that the board keeps using the word accountable and if there were plans to hold students accountable because there are accountability gaps for NHA schools. Mr. Maimone asked if any board members would receive any compensation. The rep explained that there is a \$35,000 budget given to the board. **Mr. Maimone made a motion to forward the application to SBE. Mr. Dillon seconded. The motion passed unanimously with Mr. Hawkes abstaining.**

### ***Wayne Preparatory***

A representative introduced himself and the other members of the board. The applicants distributed a packet of information that addressed questions that the subcommittee posed. Mr. Maimone asked the relationship with Jefferson. The representative explained that they are Jefferson doing business as Wayne Preparatory. Mr. Maimone asked if the board had changed. The representative replied that the board had changed, but there was one board member that was the same. Ms. Adams asked if there are minutes and if they were provided. The representative explained that they had been meeting since January but there were no minutes provided. Ms. Adams asked what the difference and similarities of last year's application. The representative explained that they have no defending of last year's application. The application is different. Dr. Markley noted that there were some pieces of the application that were the same. The representative replied that there were some good pieces that they did use. Ms. Adams asked the process for writing the charter. He explained that his wife wrote it and the board approved it. **Ms. Adams made a motion to forward the application to the SBE. Mr. Means seconded. The motion passed 8-1 with Ms. Dunaway dissenting.**

### ***Wilson Preparatory***

A member of the board introduced himself and asked the other board members to do the same. He distributed a packet of information that addressed the questions that the subcommittee posed. Dr. Landry asked for clarification on a statement regarding "the only charter school that offers personalized services and a parent support". The representative stated that the school would

offer programs that Wilson County Schools is not currently offering. Mr. Maimone stated that the school is missing two teaching staff. The representative explained that the board, upon approval, would look at the nonessential people from the proposed budget. He also noted that there may be too much money in transportation. Dr. Markley stated that the K-8 is well written but high school seems sketchy. The representative explained that there were particular programs that will be used in high school such as the Pearson model. Dr. Landry asked about the amount of money for Pearson. The representative explained that all of Pearson's fees are built in into the budget. Ms. Adams noted that the non-instructional personnel seemed heavy. The representative explained that the board would be looking at the amount they will be paid in an effort to scale down. There are other areas that have been identified that could scale down the budget. **Dr. Shore made a motion to forward the application to SBE. Ms. Graham second. The motion passed unanimously.**

### ***Wisdom Academy***

A representative from the board introduced himself and the other board members. A packet of information that addressed the subcommittees concerns were distributed to the Council. Ms. Adams asked for clarification of the grievance policy. The representative stated that grievances would be addressed to the principal, even if the grievance is about the principal. Dr. Markley asked for clarification on the EMO fees. He noted that the application stated 12%. In the application, the budget was based on 10% for the EMO. The representative replied that there was a typo and it should reflect that the EMO fee would be for a range of 10-12%. The board created a new contract that reflects 10% but did not bring it because it was new information. Mr. Maimone asked why the school chose GPS as an EMO. The rep explained that after doing research they gave them the most for their money and they were willing to work with them and have them gradually release them. Dr. Landry asked about GPS track record with student success. The rep responded that they have a great record and they are currently operating nine schools. Dr. Markley noted that there was an issue with the bylaws. The representative explained that the board would operate by all North Carolina rules and regulation. Ms. Crumpler stated that the board could not participate by proxy. The board would have to follow the open meetings laws. Mr. Hawkes asked to address the EMO and asked if they understood that their contract would be 10% rather than 12%. He explained that GPS is hands-on and would be accessible to the school. He explained that he recently purchased an office location in Raleigh. Dr. Landry asked for the name of a highly successful school. The rep named three successful schools in Michigan. Mr. Maimone asked if the EMO helped about the finances that were in the application because he was concerned with the budget and wanted to know why there was a negative fund balance. The EMO representative explained that there was an oversight. He explained that upon approval the school would receive a grant. The representative explained that it was not reflected because it could not be obtained unless the charter was granted. Ms. Adams stated that a letter of assurance would have helped the application. Dr. Shore asked if they are

planning to be on campus. The campus sated they are making a commitment of being on campus at least 3 weeks per month. There will be project teams that would work with personnel as well as students. Dr. Landry shared that the Michigan Dashboard shows that the EMO's schools did not make AYP. **Mr. Dillon made a motion not to forward the application to the SBE. Dr. Landry seconded. The motion passed 5 -4 with Ms. Dunaway, Dr. Shore, Ms. Graham and Mr. Hawkes dissenting.**

Ms. Adams left meeting.

### ***West Charlotte High School & Charlotte Charter High School***

Dr. Markley explained that the two schools would be addressed together. A representative explained that the schools would be two separate brick and mortar schools. The purpose was to prepare students for a post-secondary education. The school would be modeled after a successful drop-out prevention program in Florida and would operate 205 days per year. The school would use an EMO, Accelerated Learning, which has a proven track record to ensure that every student has an opportunity to succeed. He explained that there is a need in the two locations in the Charlotte area. He explained that the model is a blended model with online instruction and face-to-face with certified teachers. Dr. Markley asked what the teacher's role was in the model. The representative explained that the EMO wrote the education plan. Mr. Maimone asked why they were submitting two applications. The representative responded that the drop outs are in two areas in Charlotte and two schools needed to be available for these areas. They are trying to make a significant impact. **Ms. Graham made a motion to forward both schools to SBE. Ms. Dunaway seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

### ***Pioneer Spring Community School***

A representative introduced herself and the other board members. A packet of information that addressed the questions that the subcommittee had was distributed. Mr. Maimone asked how many students were currently enrolled in the private school. The representative explained that there are 19 students in grade K-1. Dr. Markley asked if the school planned to always be a charter school and if they did why did they open as a private. The representative explained that the need was great and they couldn't wait to open. Dr. Markley stated that there are four applications that are based upon Community of Davidson. The representative replied that they are not a replication because they are focusing on science and nature. The reason they are going from private to charter is so that many more children can experience a great opportunity. Ms. Dunaway asked if there had been one new member and one that resigned. Ms. Graham reminded the applicants that there is a document in there packet that is new information. Dr. Markley stated that the salaries for teachers seemed low. The representative stated that it seemed to be on target with the area school districts and they are competitive. **Mr. Maimone made a motion to**

**forward Pioneer Springs. Mr. Means seconded.** Dr. Markley commented that his only concern is this is the fourth school that is replication of Community School of Davidson. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. Hooker entered the meeting.

### ***Heritage Collegiate Leadership Academy***

A representative from the board introduced herself and the rest of the board. A packet of information that addressed the concerns of the subcommittee was distributed. Dr. Landry noted that he had a concern about the anticipated budget of \$145,000 for administration. The representative explained that the school feels this amount is fair and needed because of the many hats that they will wear. Mr. Maimone stated that the school's opening numbers are approximately 30% of the county's population. The representative explained that there were several families that are home schooling and choose to send their students to other schools outside of the local school system. Dr. Markley stated that the school will be located in a rural area and there may be a problem with recruiting teachers. The representative explained that she has a relationship with Teach for America and she has already received a number of inquiries about positions. Mr. Richard Hooker asked about the Institutes of Higher Learning in the area. The representative explained that Chowan, Elizabeth City and East Carolina were located near the proposed location. **Mr. Maimone made a motion to forward the application. Dr. Shore seconded.** The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Graham recused herself from the vote.

Dr. Landry left the meeting.

### ***Invest Collegiate***

A member of the board introduced herself and the members of the board. She explained that one member resigned but was replaced and letters were provided. Mr. Maimone stated that there was a lack of representation from Buncombe County on the board. The representative explained that it is more important for the board to understand the foundation of INVEST Collegiate but there is a representative on the board from the county. She explained that the researched revealed there are three K-8 in the county and the school would be offering K-12. There is a need in the community. What is going to be different about the school is an artist in residency program. Mr. Hawkes reminded the council that Triad Math and Science wanted to use the same board from Triad Math and Science and that it is a position of the Council to recommend that they have at least 2 members from the county. The representative stated that there is one member from Buncombe County and there is a plan to add another. Dr. Markley stated that the 2013 school did not meet the enrollment projections if there is a concern. The rep responded that this would be a separate endeavor and there is a need in the area because it is a unique opportunity. Ms.

Crumpler asked how many board members there are. Dr. Markley read from the application that there will be a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 5 and asked how the board would serve six different locations. The representative explained that it is not the intention for the board to serve for each school and each school would have a separate board. Ms. Dunaway stated that each school has a separate non-profit. Dr. Markley asked about the connection for each school. Ms. Dunaway explained that it is not an umbrella operation. The mission would be present in every school. Mr. Hawkes asked if the Council recommend this school to SBE and how soon would the two residents be on the board. The representative stated it would happen as soon as they were to find someone who would meet the qualification. There is not date but the board is currently looking for a replacement. Mr. Maimone asked what the process for finding. The representative stated that they are meeting with someone and want to make sure that they find the right person. **Mr. Maimone made a motion to recommend Invest with an understanding that a second board member from Buncombe County be added to the board. Mr. Hawkes seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.**

#### ***Lake Norman Preparatory School***

A representative introduced himself and the other board members. He explained that there was a need for additional schools in the area. He addressed the principal's relationship with the board and explained that they would not be dealing with the day-to-day operations of the school. The principal will provide a monthly report to the board. Ms. Graham asked if the educational need for the school is based upon the wait list of the existing school. The representative explained that the need is based upon crowding and the growth in the community. She shared information that she found impressive about three schools that Charter Schools USA currently manages in Florida. Ms. Dunaway stated that the school was planning to use Charter School USA's plan. The representative explained that their application was different from the others in that there is a college preparatory component. Ms. Graham stated the data for the need and the data for targeted group is different. The representative explained that the program is designed to academically unique and the Cambridge Education Program will address the needs of the elementary students. Dr. Markley stated that 2 million dollars to the EMO is high price. The representative explained that as the board they are to manage the EMO. Dr. Shore stated that the lack of detail with the elementary program is a concern. The high school curriculum is well written but those students will not be in the school at the beginning. The principal reports to the EMO. **Mr. Hawkes made a motion to forward the application to SBE. Mr. Maimone seconded.** Mr. Maimone asked how many schools the schools the EMO is currently operating. There are 2 opening in August. There are 4 that have current application. **The motion failed 2-6 with Mr. Dillon, Mr. Hooker, Ms. Dunaway, Dr. Shore, Ms. Graham and Mr. Means dissenting.**

### ***Envision Science Academy***

A representative introduced herself and the other board members. She addressed questions that the subcommittee had by reading explanations. She explained that Wake County had been identified as the LEA. If they have not found a property they will use modular buildings. Envision has allotted money in the budget for students to receive free and reduced lunch. There were two letters from NC State in the appendices that explains a partnership with STEM. Dr. Markley noted that the letters were for individuals and wanted to know if there were anyone from departments. A representative read from a list of several staff members that they have met with from area colleges. Dr. Markley stated that the growth projections are high and the salaries don't match the area. The representative explained that there is a waiting list in the area and there is a need. There have been 4 community sessions and every parent stated that they would like a program that is based on STEM or STEAM. The school received a \$30,000 furniture donation which will help the budget tremendously. The salaries are competitive because the board wants to attract teachers from Wake County. Mr. Dillon noted that the technology budget decreases each year and being a STEM school how are they going to stay abreast to technology. The rep explained that they have already received donations and the connections that have been established will be commitments once the charter was granted. **Mr. Means made a motion that Envision be forwarded to SBE. It was seconded by Mr. Maimone. The motion passed unanimously.**

### ***Providence Charter High***

A board member introduced himself and the present board members. A packet of information related to questions that the subcommittee raised was distributed. A representative addressed the comment that the subcommittee did not encourage the applicants to be an "elitist" school. Colonel Dillon asked where the school would be location in Eden. The representative explained that they wanted to be centrally located so that they could share bussing with Bethany Community. Colonel Dillon asked if the proposed location would need some renovations. The rep explained that they would not need to do a lot of renovation. Ms. Graham asked if the budget was different from the application because facilities cost was not in the original application. The representative explained the information in the packet was new information. Dr. Shore asked if there were any board members that had education experience. He replied that one of the board members does have education experience. Dr. Shore and Ms. Graham asked for clarification on whether new information was added. The rep apologized for his misinterpretation of what could be added for the interview. Dr. Markley asked about the mandate for all students to take AP courses. The representative explained that the top 10% of the students would attend the local community college. The EC students would also be challenged and there will be creative ways of having them participate. The application says one AP or one college course of their choice. Dr. Markley stated that the superintendent in this county was



concerned about addressing the top 10% and not the other 90%. Mr. Hawkes reminded the Council that this application is similar to the application in Bertie and would be for more opportunity for the county. Mr. Maimone stated that this school is similar to Thomas Jefferson in which students who would have never been challenged will be challenged. Ms. Dunaway noted that she was struggling with the packet being changes instead of clarification.

Ms. Graham asked how many board members were listed in the application. The representative stated there were 9 listed but there are only 5. Ms. Crumpler stated that if they were going to have between 5 and 9 then that was an amendment to the application and is up the Council to allow them to make that change. Dr. Markley noted that it is the first time that he remembers getting a rewritten section of the application during the interview. Mr. Hawkes stated that it could be looked at as clarification and not revisions. Dr. Shore asked for an explanation on the section in the application versus what was presented today. The representative replied that they want all of their students to go to college and want their EC students to just go back home and have nothing to do. **Mr. Hawkes made a motion to forward the application to the SBE.** He added that it would be a catalyst for Rockingham County and he did not see any of the issues brought up as being pedantic. He added that the applicants did not mean to state that they have 9 board members. **Mr. Hooker seconded the motion.** Mr. Hawkes added that the board has a little refining to do with the application and the idea is great. Dr. Shore reiterated that there were changes made to the application. **The motion passed 5-3 with Ms. Dunaway, Ms. Graham and Mr. Means dissenting.**

Ms. Graham stated that she was flabbergasted that the Council allowed new information to go through for the last application when it has never allowed before.

#### **MEETING ADJOURNED**

Dr. Markley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:30 pm.

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**CALL TO ORDER AND MEETING AGENDA REVIEW**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by Vice Chairman Dr. Tim Markley. Dr. Markley read the Ethics Statement. Ms. Graham stated that she would be abstaining from any discussion concerning KIPP Halifax.

**Reaching All Minds Academy**

A member of the board introduced herself and allowed other board members to introduce themselves. The applicant informed the Council that the students in her current afterschool program have had success in their local schools therefore they wanted to open a charter school. They noted that one of the strengths of the application is the Response to Intervention to respond to the needs of individual students. Various members of the board shared stories about the current successes of the current program that the group offers. Dr. Markley stated that in the bylaws it says that there can be 1 to 15 members. A member of the board replied that they would revise that in the bylaws because there are currently nine on the board. Mr. Dillon asked how many students were in the current program. The representative replied 150 students were in the program and that there were several people who have begun to call to express interest in enrolling in the school. The representative explained they already have a 15,000 sq. ft. facility in which they lease the building with the option to buy. **Mr. Maimone made a motion to forward the application SBE. Mr. Dillon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

## **The Capitol Encore Academy**

A member of the board introduced himself and the other members of the board. They distributed a packet of information that addressed the questions the subcommittee posed. He explained that two members of the board were not present. The board is currently looking for additional members of the board. Dr. Markley asked for an explanation of the schools conflict of interest. Ms. Romanoski stated that she is a member of the EMO and also a board member. She explained that she would not be voting on anything that would be a conflict. Dr. Markley stated that everything that the board votes on is related to the EMO. Ms. Romanoski stated that everything that is voted on with the board is not related to the EMO. Dr. Shore asked if she was planning to fly in each month for meetings. She stated that she was. Dr. Markley noted that the county already has several arts schools with an A plus curriculum. The representative explained that the program that they would like to create is not a duplication of the program because many community resources would be in walking distance of the school such the library and symphony. Ms. Graham stated the EMO having a vote is a conflict. Ms. Romanokisi stated if her being on the board would cause the application to be denied, she would step down off the board. The EMO currently has eight other schools and the EMO does not serve on the board. Mr. Maimone noted that the mayor wrote a letter support and asked about his/her role in the school. The representative explained that the mayor is in favor of expanding downtown. Dr. Shore asked what the role of the EMO was going to be. The representative explained that the EMO is running the day to day operations. They could also offer professional development but they would also be looking for outside professional development opportunities. Mr. Dillon stated the salaries were below and he could not find the fee for the EMO. The rep explained that it is listed under business services. She also explained that the teacher salary scale would be less and it would be offset by being jointly employed by the school and EMO so that they could get the benefits package. Ms. Adams asked if there are letters of assurances for business and community. The rep explained that they are looking for partnership with the entire community and letters are not provided. Mr. Maimone made a strong recommendation to forward the application if the EMO representative was a non-voting member or not on the board. Mr. Hawkes seconded the motion and reminded the Council that they were not to be concerned with the LEAs opinion. Dr. Miller reminded the Council that members of the board cannot be compensated. Mr. Hawkes withdrew his second because he was not comfortable with the EMO being on the board. Dr. Shore made a motion to forward the application if the EMO representative rolled of the board no later than July 1, 2014. Mr. Maimone seconded. Ms. Dunaway stated that the Council needed to be more diligent to being fair to all charter school applicants. Dr. Markley stated that the issue is duplication of services within the LEA. It deserves some consideration. **Mr. Maimone made a motion to forward the application to the SBE with the strong recommendation that any EMO members become non-voting members or cycle off of the board. The motion passed 7-2 with Ms. Graham and Ms. Adams dissenting.**

### **The Franklin School of Innovation**

A member of the board introduced herself and the other board members. She presented a Power Point that addressed the issues that the subcommittee posed. There were two members that were not present for the meeting. Mr. Maimone asked if the school would offer any sports programs and costs associated. The school would eventually offer sports and is working on partnerships. Ms. Adams stated that the application was well written. She asked why Henderson County did not have both federal and state funds listed in the application. The representative explained that it was a typo. Mr. Dillon asked the representative to explain the budget for facilities because it seemed to be excessive. The representative explained that they had been trying to create partnerships and they will likely be leasing. **Mr. Maimone made a motion to forward the application to SBE. Ms. Graham seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

### **Thunderbird Preparatory School**

A member of the board introduced himself and the other board members. The representative asked Ms. Crumpler to clarify Class III offenses. Ms. Crumpler stated that if a child is expelled from school a school does not have to let him back in. She went on to say that the statute does not have anything to do with Class 3 offenses. Ms. Graham stated that the schools discipline policy, specifically Class 3 Offenses on page C-10, needed to be amended. Mr. Maimone stated that the statement needed to be consistent with state law. Ms. Crumpler stated that this is not a military school but a public school in which all students can attend. Ms. Graham asked for clarification for the need and reason for the school. The representative explained that there was a great demand as evidenced by the wait list in the area. Mr. Maimone asked what was going to separate Thunderbird from the other schools. The representative explained that they would be a leadership academy and the place where leadership is developed. Dr. Markley asked why the application was similar to another application. The rep replied that great minds think alike. Mr. Maimone asked what has changed from last year's application. The representative explained that there are three board members that remained the same and there are two new members. He also noted that the purpose of this interview was not to discuss last year's application. **Mr. Hawkes made a motion to approve. Mr. Means seconded. The motion passed 8-1 with Ms. Adams dissenting.**

### **Torrence-Lytle Charter School of Leaders**

The board chair introduced himself and the board members. They distributed a packet of information that addressed the questions that were posed. The representative stated that North Mecklenburg is not currently serving the needs of the population of students that they are planning to reach. Dr. Miller shared information that was received by the Office of Charter School from two former employees of McKinney Academy. The employees claim that they are still owed paychecks from the month of June. Dr. Miller shared that the OCS has concerns regarding the current board structure of Torrence Lytle as the board currently has three major

members who were directly responsible for the finances at McKinney Academy. The principal of that private school is also listed as the principal of the proposed charter school. Dr. Miller clarified that it is a separate nonprofit but they ask the board to clarify this raised issue. Mr. Willis, the Torrence Lytle board chair, stated that the reason that many of the previous board members are a part of the charter board is because they saw success of the education program. Mr. Maimone asked why the school did not submit as a conversion. The representative stated that it is not a conversion and the intent was to close the private school. The school is a completely separate group. Ms. McKinney is on the board because the board believes in her leadership. Ms. Graham asked if the staff was informed of the financial state of the school. Ms. McKinney stated that she informed the staff that the school would be closing and because the school was closing she was not able to get sponsorships from the community. Dr. Markley asked for the private school's highest enrollment. She stated 100. Dr. Markley asked why there weren't more students enrolled. She explained that once a child got in a charter school, enrollment began to decline. Ms. Graham read an email in which Ms. McKinney asked staff members not to deposit their May check until June 3. Ms. McKinney stated that they sold assets on June 1 and was expecting to get donations from past parents to be able to cover the last payroll. She emailed the staff to let them know that they were not able to cover payroll for June. Dr. Shore asked who the treasurer was of the board of the private school and who would be the treasurer of this charter. The treasurer identified himself and stated that he held the position for both boards. He also noted that the moral thing to do was to honor the commitment to the staff and make sure that they got paid. Dr. Markley stated that the school is tying up a lot of money to preserve a historical building. The treasurer stated that the location was specific to target the location of the population. Ms. Dunaway recused herself from the vote. She stated that the location would draw the most diverse charter school in the region. Ms. Graham stated that she was concerned with the same board managing the money. A representative explained that this was a different board in which 4 out of the 7 members were different. **Ms. Adams made a motion to table the discussion until the end of the agenda. Ms. Graham seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

### **Catawba Charter**

The board representative introduced himself and the other board members. He explained that one board member was absent. The school would be located in Gaston County. The school would be using an EMO, Charter Schools USA. The applicant stated that he would have liked to use an EMO that was in North Carolina but they are going to use Charter Schools USA. Their success is evident and the board did not work on things themselves. Mr. Maimone asked what part of the application the board had input on. The rep responded that the location of the school was the board's choice. Dr. Shore asked how the board members came together. The representative explained that they were all connected by knowing the same people that were involved in Langtree School. The reading and science goals were based on the state and district averages. The goals for year one are an estimate and will be reevaluated after year one. The

students will have personalized learning goals that follow them from school year to school year. With the contract with the EMO, the principal would answer to the EMO. The principal would be presenting a monthly report to the board. The other funds in year one is for afterschool and food service funds which will bring in \$318,000. The fee associated with the afterschool program is not in the application. Charter Schools USA has this afterschool program in all of their schools. Ms. Adams stated that she did not see a letter of assurance with a bank for the loan that is listed in the application. The rep stated that the board has relationships with the bank and other people in the community. Ms. Graham asked if the \$927,000 listed in the application is a loan and if it has been secured. The representative stated that the loan had not been secured. The representative stated letter of intent that was in the application was for the wrong board. Mr. Maimone stated that without the documentation that assures the loan he could not support the application. Ms. Graham stated it was the board's responsibility to make sure the components of the application were present. The board is not strong in understanding the components of the schools finance outside of the EMO. **Ms. Graham made a motion not to forward Catawba Charter to SBE. Mr. Maimone seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

### **Cardinal Charter**

A member of the board introduced himself and the other members of the board. They are using an EMO, Charter Schools USA. The school is a replication from a school that is located in Florida. Ms. Graham asked for clarification on the location of the proposed school. The representative explained that the Cary area was very diverse and pockets of communities are low-wealth or underserved. The area has always dealt with the issue of redistricting. Mr. Means asked about the "other funds" line items for \$927,000 and if there was a letter for assurance. The representative responded that there was not a letter of assurance for that. Ms. Adams stated that Charter Schools USA included a letter of intent that states that they will provide their start up needs but it does not explicitly mention the loan amount. Mr. Dillon asked how much input the board had with the finances. The representative explained that the budget was created by Charter School USA. Dr. Markley stated that three Charter Schools USA have the same numbers. The representative stated that the board had the discretion of the management fee. The board will access the fee each year. Dr. Shore asked if the management agreement is different from the other Charter Schools USA agreements. The representative explained that it is a sliding management fee that is set every year. **Mr. Dillon made a motion not to forward the application to SBE. Mr. Means seconded.** Mr. Maimone asked if there was documentation that the \$927,000 would be assured. Ms. Graham asked for an explanation of the \$317,000. The representative stated that it included funding for lunch services and an after school program. Mr. Maimone stated that all funds have to be documented and it is not clear that this will occur. Mr. Hawkes stated that EMOs secure short falls. Ms. Graham made a motion not to forward the application to SBE. The motion failed with Ms. Adams, Mr. Hooker, Dr. Shore, Mr. Maimone and Mr. Hawkes dissenting.

**Mr. Maimone made a motion to forward the application to SBE. Ms. Adams seconded. The motion carried with Mr. Dillon, Ms. Dunaway, Ms. Graham and Mr. Means dissenting.**

### **KIPP Halifax College**

A member of the board introduced herself and other board members. There were four members not in attendance. The board distributed a packet of information that addressed the concerns of the subcommittee. She explained that the most community interest is in the Littleton, NC area. The board understands that the same board members will run KIPP Halifax and KIPP Gaston as separate entities. Mr. Hawkes asked how far the two schools are from each other. The rep answered 15 miles. Mr. Maimone asked why the school would start at 5<sup>th</sup> grade. The representative explained that this was the model of KIPP. Mr. Dillon asked about the \$317,000 insurance quote. The rep explained that the information is accurate. **Ms. Adams made a motion to forward the application to SBE. Mr. Hooker seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Graham abstained.**

### **South Brunswick School**

A rep introduced the members of the board and explained that letters for 7 absent board members were included in a packet of information that was distributed to the Council. Dr. Markley asked in a typical board meeting how many times would the EMO abstain. A representative of the EMO stated the approval of the budget would be abstained but he would vote on personnel changes. How often does the board meet? The representative replied that they meet once per month. Ms. Crumpler stated that the EMO should not be voting on personnel matters. The EMO serves on the board to ensure activities on the campuses. Dr. Markley asked about the number of schools the board governs and how often. The rep explained that there are four schools that it would govern. Dr. Markley asked who on the board made the recommendation to start the school. The representative responded the parents that were on the video presentation expressed a need because of their long commute. She also explained that there was waiting list of students from Charter Day. Dr. Markley stated that the teacher turnover rate is higher than the local school systems. He also noted that Charter Day's testing data for black students is lower than the county and state. Dr. Markley asked if there was an interest meeting for this proposed school. The representative responded that there were 10 people who attended. Dr. Markley stated that the replication school that is scheduled to open in the fall only has 29 students currently enrolled. The representative replied that the building the school will be located is having an impact on enrollment because it is a former Head Start location. Mr. Hawkes asked about the enrollment of Douglas. The representative assured the Council that they would reach the enrollment. He stated that there were 35 out of 200 students enrolled. Dr. Markley stated that there are 2 EMO employees on the board. The representative explained that he is on the board because he had a

financial tie. Mr. Maimone stated that the Council feels better when it is known that an EMO is not running the school. Dr. Markley asked a board member how a typical board meeting runs. He stated that he had not attended a board meeting in a while but in the terms that the one that he has attended there was not conflict. Ms. Crumpler stated that it is the board directors of the non-profit that operates the school and the EMO policies and leadership does not take over the independent judgment of the nonprofit. The charter is given to the nonprofit and not the EMO. Ms. Graham stated that she was struggling with the need since there were only 10 people who showed up for the interest meeting. The representative explained the waiting list of the kids that have been trying to get in the schools. Although the number of people who showed up for the meeting was low, there were many calls that showed interest. **Mr. Maimone made a motion to forward the application to the SBE for approval with the strong recommendation that any EMO members become non-voting members or cycle off the board. Mr. Hawkes seconded.** He noted that he was troubled with the unhealthy distance with the board. Dr. Shore replied that she was concerned that there are only 2 board members present and one is from the EMO. Dr. Markley asked if the current EMO member would commit to resigning. The EMO representative stated that he would resign. **The motion passed 5- 4 with Ms. Graham, Mr. Dillon, Ms. Dunaway and Mr. Hooker dissenting.**

### **University Public Charter**

A rep introduced himself and the board members. A packet of information was distributed to the Council. Ms. Dunaway stated that in a traditional Montessori school grade schools starts grade 1. The rep. responded that his program would be designed so that ages 5-8, grades K-4 would be in the same classroom. Ms. Crumpler and Dr. Miller clarified that Woodson University applied for the charter as the governing non-profit organization, so they are the governing board. Mr. Hooker asked if there was a link to Woodson University and University Public School. The representative replied that there was no link. Dr. Markley stated that the board listed in the application is not the board for Woodson University. The University Public Charter School is the non-profit entity. Mr. Maimone asked if this board is the same as University Public School that helped to construct the application. Ms. Dunaway asked if there was a list of board of trustees for Woodson University. The representative answered that there was not a list. Dr. Fleming, the lead contact stated he was awaiting clarification from the Office of Charter Schools regarding this issue. When asked by Dr. Miller from the OCS what was the date of this clarification? Dr. Fleming responded, "About a week ago." Dr. Miller stated that the application was due on March 1, 2013. The clarification he is waiting for has no relevance to the conversation. Woodson University Inc. applied for the charter and submitted the Articles of Incorporation. **Mr. Maimone made a motion not to forward the application. Adams seconded.** Mr. Hawkes stated that there could be a remedy and board shouldn't be so punitive. Dr. Shore stated that the Council made provisions for other boards. Ms. Adams asked if the application was forwarded would it be legal. Ms. Crumpler replied that board member applications are usually in the application and the board members that were present were not the



board members of Woodson University. Dr. Markley asked if Dr. Fleming had just accepted a job at another charter school. Dr. Fleming replied that he had but it had nothing to do with this application. **The motion passed 8-1 with Dr. Shore dissenting.**

#### **Torrence Lytle discussion continued**

Dr. Markley reminded the Council that the conversation about the teachers not receiving the pay is a separate matter. Mr. Hawkes stated that he would like to consider the application on the merits outside of the private school's finances. Mr. Hooker stated that leadership could run a successful charter school. Ms. Adams stated that if the information was isolated without the other information she would not be inclined to forward it because of the finance section. **Mr. Hawkes made a motion to forward the application to SBE. Mr. Hooker seconded. The vote resulted in a 4-4 tie with Mr. Maimone, Mr. Means, Ms. Adams, and Ms. Graham dissenting. The board chair, Dr. Markley broke the tie with a no vote. The motion failed 4-5.**

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Ms. Adams made a motion to approve the minutes for June 10, 2013, June 11, 2013 and July 1, 2013. Mr. Maimone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Dr. Markley stated that the next date that the Council is slated to meet is August 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. He proposed that there needed to be a discussion about the recently approved schools whose enrollments are below 60. Mr. Hawkes suggested that Dr. Markley make a recommendation to SBE that EMO's not serve on local boards. Ms. Dunaway asked about the budget component of the application and if any changes had been made to the new application. Ms. Deanna Smith stated that some modifications had been made. Ms. Maimone asked if the new application had to be approved by Council. Ms. Smith stated that the changes were minor. **Mr. Means made motion to adjourn. Ms. Graham second. The meeting adjourned at 4:41.**