

**Minutes of the North Carolina Charter School Advisory Board**  
**State Board Room 755, Department of Public Instruction**  
**February 6, 2023**  
**9 AM**

Attendance – CSAB Members	
Dr. Terry Stoops (nonvoting) Dr. Rita Haire - absent Dr. John Eldridge Cheryl Turner - virtual Hilda Parlér Dr. Shelly Shope - virtual	Eric Sanchez Bruce Friend Dave Machado Todd Godbey Dr. Bartley Danielsen- present 10:20am Stephen Gay
Attendance – Other	
<i>Office of Charter Schools</i> Ashley Baquero, Director Joseph Letterio, Consultant- absent Melanie Rackley, Consultant- absent Jenna Cook, Consultant Darian Jones, Consultant- absent Natasha Norins, Consultant Nicky Niewinski, Consultant Davida Robinson, NC ACCESS- absent Barbara O’Neal, NC ACCESS- virtual Lakisha Robinson, NC ACCESS- absent	<i>Attorney General</i> Zach Padget  <i>SBE Attorney</i> Allison Schafer  <i>Teacher/Principal of Year</i> William Storrs- absent Maria Mills- remote Jeremy White- absent

**Call To Order**

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Mr. Bruce Friend, Vice Chair

**Mission and Ethics Statement:**

- Mission and Ethics Statement, Mr. Bruce Friend  
 Dave M. recused himself from Langtree Charter School and Cabarrus Charter Academy

**Approval of the Agenda and Minutes**

**Motion:** Hilda Parlér motioned to approve agenda for February Meeting

Second: John Eldridge

Vote: Unanimous

Passed                       Failed

**Motion:** Hilda Parlér motioned to approve January 2023 minutes

Second: John Eldridge

Vote: Unanimous

Passed                       Failed

**Motion: Eric Sanchez motioned to approve 2023 CSAB Meeting Calendar Revisions**

Second: Hilda Parlér

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

**February Charter School Advisory Board Meeting**

**ESSA Amendment:** Curtis Sonneman, Section Chief-Analysis & Reporting, Office of Accountability & Testing

- ESSA Addendum approved from US Dept. of ED for 21-22 school year. Changes made and submitted to USED for final documentation.
- Request to extend for 22-23 school year. Up for public comment, will be shared in March to SBE.

**Charter Amendments:** Ms. Ashley Baquero, Office of Charter School (OCS) Director

Enrollment/Expansion Requests

- More than 30% enrollment growth or add grade levels; 4 schools to discuss today.
- Clover Garden- grow above 30%. 2001 opened, K-12, not low-performing. Additional 89 students or 43% over. Large wait list. 91% retention average. Last year 95% student retention. Building on to space so have room to add.
- Unity Classical- Charlotte. Meet requirement. 2017 open. K-7, next year K-8. Last year CSAB and SBE approved enrollment increase from 361 students to 600 students and they met the enrollment last year. Enrollment increase request to 840 or 38.6%.
- By statute there are 5 requirements enrollment increase requests. Ms. Baquero reviews the requirements.
- Grade expansion has different statute. Ms. Baquero reviews the requirements.
- Monroe Academy- renewed last month for 3 years. K-6 currently, asking to add 7<sup>th</sup> grade. School states this will help finances with increase in enrollment dollars.
- Cheryl Turner- asks about financial non-compliance requirement. Ashley Baquero- can do without asking if NO financial non-compliance. Need board approval for this because of financial non-compliance issue. This doesn't disqualify them, but they cannot do it automatically without going to the board. Cheryl Turner- what is the issue? Ashley Baquero- related to surplus questions. Reads letter from DPI re: financial review showing financial insolvency from audit. Shirley McFadden reviews that there was unassigned federal balance for last 2 years. Probationary last year but moved to disciplinary due to non-reporting of a financial loan that wasn't reported.
- Bruce Friend- are we voting on these individually? A Baquero: can vote individually if you choose.
- Cheryl Turner- can we hear from school leader to get idea of how this will improve their revenue?
- Ms. Ford, school leader, reviews need for increased enrollment. Currently have 18 students in 6<sup>th</sup> grade that will be going to 7<sup>th</sup> grade and an additional 2 coming in. If not approved to add 7<sup>th</sup> grade, we will lose 22 students because of siblings. Parents don't want kids in 2 different schools.

- Bruce Friend- if don't expand to 7<sup>th</sup> grade, 6<sup>th</sup> grade students going somewhere else. Do you know for sure that parents will unenroll their siblings if one student leaves? Ms. Ford- that has been the feedback from families. They would like to keep their kids in the same school.
- Cheryl Turner- if they go back to district schools wouldn't they still have to go to 2 schools? Ms. Ford states that the school calendar would also be an issue for parents since they are different between charter school and district.
- Bruce Friend- waiting list? Ms. Ford- not at this time.
- Dave Machado- what was original charter for? A Baquero- K-5
- Hilda Parlér- year of the charter? 2019 was first year per Ms. Ford.
- Cheryl Turner- if we approve and they staff but they don't meet enrollment they could end up in worse financial state.
- Bruce Friend- when grew to K-6 did they come before us? Or were they not on financial compliance? Dr. Ford- did request but didn't have to go before board because we met requirements.
- Shelly Shope- in disciplinary action for 3 years? McFadden- probationary last year because they were showing improvement. If the loan had been accurately reported, they would not have been probationary. Dr. Ford- part of deficit is loan to Steve Hubrich with him and Goodall consulting to build building between our board and builder. They are working on payment plan.
- Bruce Friend- just renewed at 3 years. Focus needs to improve school so they're not a 3-year renewal. Is raising their grade level where the focus needs to be?
- Hilda Parlér- very young school.
- Bruce Friend- how does adding grade level help with financial non-compliance? Ms. Ford- provide opportunity to keep current students and ability to enroll more students throughout school which will assist with finances.
- Asheville Peak- Open 2019. K-3 and could go K-4 without approval but they want to grow K-5 so they need approval. Number of students wouldn't change from original charter application but add 2 grade levels in one year instead of over 2 years. Have space. In compliance. Not continuously low performing so meets requirements.
- Dave Machado- leadership turnover? Ashely Baquero- new leader in last month. Apprehension for parents is having kids in more than one school. Adding 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> would help.
- **Motion: Stephen Gay motioned to approve Clover Garden and Unity for enrollment increase over 30%**
- Second: Hilda Parlér
- Vote: Unanimous
- Passed                      Failed

#### Grade expansion

- Bruce Friend- Can we vote separately? Ashley Baquero- Sure. Bruce Friend- let's start with Monroe Academy. My question is this the right time for them to expand a grade level when they're 3-years into being financially non-compliant?
- Cheryl Turner- management company? Do they have financial support? Dr Ford- we are up for negotiation and contract ends in June. They said they would support if approved by CSAB.

- Dave Machado- academic standpoint not a good idea.
- John Eldridge- I'm just estimating that \$200,000 is the debt and adding students would mean hiring new teachers so unsure how that would provide a gain?
- Cheryl Turner- Especially since middle school requires content specific teachers.
- John Eldridge- what is the current enrollment? Ashley Baquero- Current ADM 133. Dr. Ford does that sound right? Dr. Ford- yes.
- Bruce Friend- focus has to be academics. Would feel better if they had clear path to overcome finance.

**Motion: Bruce Friend moves to not approve Monroe Academy forward for grade expansion approval**

Second: Hilda Parlér

Vote : Unanimous

- Passed                       Failed

**Asheville Peak Grade Level Expansion:**

- Stephen Gay- current enrollment? Ms. Wynn, School Leader answers 90. Waiting to hear for CSAB about expansion before encouraging families to enter application for 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Right now, 11 families interested in 5<sup>th</sup> grade.
- John Eldridge- They have 90 students? Web site says 172. Ashley Baquero- That was their projection. Have struggled with enrollment.
- Bruce Friend- To verify, if they only added one grade level they wouldn't be before us. Ashley Baquero- Correct. Original application plan for next year was to go to 4<sup>th</sup> w/no CSAB approval but because they want to expand two grade levels at once, they are before you today. Bruce Friend: what volume of applications for next year? Ms. Wynn- 52 families in lottery and 10 community engagements planned. Bruce Friend- that's for all grades? Ms. Wynn: according to charter we are behind in student enrollment right now.
- Stephen Gay- What about K-3 enrollment for next year. How does that look? Ms. Wynn: 22 in lottery for kindergarten, first grade 10, second grade we have 3 and for third we have 5.
- Bruce Friend- What about facility? Does adding 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> put any constraints on facility? Ms. Wynn: No. Original charter said adding 4<sup>th</sup> and enrollment of 200 which is the capacity the building can hold. We're good in regard to space. Bruce Friend- more grade levels, still below application enrollment target. Ms. Wynn: 36 in each grade level.
- Dave Machado- move to approve. TG- second. Unanimous.
- 2 amendments of schools looking for renewal today. Raleigh Oak and IC Transform. Location changes. Will vote on these requests during renewal discussions.

**Motion: Dave Machado moves to approve the request for Asheville Peak to expand grade levels**

Second: Todd Godbey

Vote: Unanimous

- Passed                       Failed

Ashley Baquero- that's all we have for today. There may be more as we get closer to summer. I have two more requests for relocation, but I want to hold off on those. Both of those schools are up for renewal discussions, so I thought it was best to ask questions during the renewal discussion.

**Financial Overview of Renewal Charter Schools-** Shirley McFadden, DPI, School Business Services

Shares overview of financial review/health analysis. Reminds of ChTR-006 for financial compliance.

- 6 no significant issues: Langtree Charter Academy, Uwharrie Charter Academy, Cabarrus Charter Academy, Raleigh Oak Charter Academy, Paul R. Brown Leadership Academy, The Institute for the Development of Young Leaders
- 4 warrant discussion: Z.E.C.A. School of Arts and Technology, Next Generation Academy, Eastside STREAM Academy,
- Eastside STREAM- financial noncompliance for 3 years. 20-21 moved to cautionary. Has continued to improve. Do have continued reliance on loans. \$240,000. Prior to that loan their expenditures would have exceeded revenue. Off of financial noncompliance at this time.
- John Eldridge- To clarify. If they didn't have the loan, they would be in the negative. Ms. McFadden: even if they didn't have loan they would have been removed because the percentage that their expenditures exceeded revenue under threshold if didn't have loans for negative balance. John Eldridge: Does that loan reflect as a negative maybe not this year but next year? McFadden- it's already in this year's so it's accounted for in the analysis. Won't come up next year.
- ZECA- not on noncompliance. Reason we brought them up today is because their ADM has significantly decreased over last few years. Financially in the positive. Covid funds \$171,000 left. If ADM doesn't go up, they will have concern once Covid funds are gone.
- IC Transform- slight decrease in ADM this year. Have been on disciplinary. Unassigned govt balance has gone back down. -\$359,000. Expenditures far exceed revenue by about \$400,000. About 575,000 which includes a loan of \$280,000 that was due at the end of the year. Liability- about \$500,000 includes capital loan. Back on disciplinary. Continue to have financial concerns. Student attendance issues to discuss as well. –
- John Eldridge- What's causing this? Ms. McFadden: look for big factors. Did you buy a new building or other significant factors. If we can't see them then I bring it to you. Can't speak to where funding is going.
- Hilda Parlér - can they? Ashley Baquero- They will be present for renewal discussion so you can ask questions at that time.
- McFadden- site visit for student attendance details shared along with truancy process concerns. 48/315 students not present. 20/48 students not present during site review were not marked absent in PowerSchool. 227/315 students w/3 or more unexcused absences. 105 w/3-5 unexcused absences. 78 w/6-9 unexcused absences. 44 students w/10 or more unexcused absences. 14/44 have 20-40 unexcused absences. No evidence of truancy letters as required by statute. 62 of 315 cumulative folders were missing.
- John Eldridge- This was in January? Ms. McFadden: 2 weeks ago. Report was issued to them on Friday. Cause for concern re: reliability. John Eldridge- Did you have a 20th day head count? I would like to see correlation between 253 actual student records and 20<sup>th</sup> day head count. Ms. McFadden- even the folders that were there were empty, folders with one piece of evidence, folders on the floor. John Eldridge- any correlation between hard records and what was in PowerSchool? When students transfer that information comes with them in PowerSchool. Ms.

McFadden- these were records of students who were at the school at that time we were in the building and those folders were missing. These were not students that moved at all.

- Ashley Baquero: 20<sup>th</sup> day data was 329.
- Next Generation presented by Ms. McFadden: disciplinary since 2020. Increase in ADM and increase in funding. Their long-term debt has dropped significantly. Paid off short term debt. Did pick up a settlement charge and new payable but still looks good until we get to the spending part. Expenditures- still have unassigned govt fund balance. Liabilities continue to exceed assets. Cash flow significant concern- overdrawn in all accounts in June by \$108,000. Substantiated by desk review. Exec. Dir. used own credit card for \$22,000. Was reimbursed by school. Times he had to pay to cover late bills. School is providing invoices for some providers. Significant issues with internal control deficiencies. Unallowable funds in ESSR funds must be repaid- one is a personal expenditure that was reimbursed. Building/construction expenses for a building not owned by them and doesn't qualify to be used. Equipment purchased for construction but couldn't be identified or found while on site. Did not provide design of construction review as required.
- Dave Machado- what was the settlement? Ms. McFadden: Moved out of old building and still owed money to the previous leasing company. Dave Machado- beginning of ESSR there was confusion over what charters could use the money for buildings they did not own. Ms. McFadden: 50-year lease interest or ownership to use funds. May have been sent to charters a little later but it has always been in legislation.

10- minute break until 10:25am

**Renewals Discussion and Voting-** Jenna Cook, OCS Consultant

**February Vote**

School Name	Code	Placement
Paul R. Brown Leadership Academy	09A	3 Year or Non-Renew
The Institute for the Development of Young Leaders	32P	3 Year
Next Generation Academy	41M	3 Year
Invest Collegiate Transform	60Q	3 Year
Z.E.C.A. School of Arts and Technology	67B	3 Year or Non-Renew
Cabarrus Charter Academy	13B	3 Year
Langtree Charter Academy	49F	10 Year
Eastside STREAM Academy	60P	3 Year
Uwharrie Charter Academy	76A	10 Year
Raleigh Oak Charter School	93R	3 Year

- Reminders of renewal guidelines. 6 schools present. 4 not here because only waiting on financials.
- Bruce Friend- Do individually is my preference. Present 4 schools first.
- Langtree Charter Academy and Uwharrie Charter Academy- meet 10-year legislation.
- Langtree- EC issue has been corrected.

**Motion: Hilda Parlér moves to recommend Langtree Charter Academy to receive a 10-year placement starting July 1, 2023**

Second: John Eldridge

Vote: Unanimous- Dave Machado recused.

- Passed      Failed
  
- Uwharrie Academy- school information is presented. Meets requirement of 10-year legislation even if on low-performing list if meets comparable percentage guideline.
- Uwharrie- falls within statute for 10-year for renewal. On low-performing list. Legal- if they meet within 5% of LEA criteria then they qualify for 10-year.
- Eric Sanchez- 5% legislative defined? Ashley Baquero: in charter policy. Eric Sanchez- So we can review in future? Ashley Baquero- yes. A change in policy for the definition because legislation didn't define the policy was created to address that. Eric Sanchez- Seems that would be worth discussing in the future.

**Motion: Bruce Friend moves to recommend Uwharrie Charter Academy to receive a 10-year placement starting July 1, 2023**

Second: Stephen Gay

Vote: Unanimous

- Passed      Failed

3-year placement:

- Schools not present since we were only waiting on financial report: The Institute for Developing Young Leaders and Cabarrus charter Academy.
- IDYL- School information presented. Continuously low performing. Met growth all 3 years. First renewal.
- Cabarrus Charter- School information presented. Several compliance issues with finance and ESSR. Low performing. First renewal

**Motion: Bruce Friend moves to recommend the Institute for Developing Young Leaders to receive a 3-year placement starting July 1, 2023**

Second: Stephen Gay

Vote: Unanimous

- Passed      Failed

**Motion: Bruce Friend moves to recommend Cabarrus Charter Academy to receive a 3-year placement starting July 1, 2023**

Second: Stephen Gay

Vote: Unanimous- Dave Machado recused.

- Passed      Failed

Next group of schools are here for questions if needed.

Raleigh Oak Charter School

- Low performing. Requesting re-location. Introduces rest of board in attendance. First renewal- received 5-year initially.
- School- Roxanne Bellamy; Board Chair. Discusses school and move request. Bigger building, more room, old Casa Esperanza building. Big hope is to stay there 1 year before permanent move near Wake Med Hospital which is ideal location for targeted population we wanted in charter. Approval to move twice in two years. Prelim polling shows parents are excited. 90% have said they will or will likely go to temporary location. 75% population state will also go to permanent location. Families informed 3 weeks ago.
- Bruce Friend- families are well aware of the double move? Board Chair- have been aware for about a year and recently official with families. Trying to keep families as informed as possible. Bruce Friend- any sense of negative enrollment projections? Board Chair- 30% of current families don't seem willing to move. Anecdotal evidence shows most are excited. New location close to several large apartment complexes and bus routes.
- John Eldridge- brave to move twice especially with low performing and 3-year renewal so coming back in 3 years. Board Chair- over last 2 years we've done a lot to get ahead of learning loss. Using more assessments and data for academics. Public Waldorf doesn't love assessments and we've seen a change in our community's acceptance of more data so we can close the gaps. Are we worried about academics yes but are we behind? I think we're on top of it.
- Stephen Gay- enrollment for next year, wait list? Board Chair: 290 enrolled right now. Hoping for bump next year. 700 students in 3 years. Lottery- 430 applications. 173 are kindergartners. Pairing with 2 marketing firms to focus on temporary and permanent location.
- Dave Machado- 5 year vs. 3 information. Waldorf model in application was said to make academics better but now using it as an excuse for poor performance. I was taken aback that you were listed as low performing. Board Chair: Waldorf very hands -on and art focused. Pandemic made it difficult to do the hands-on material because of virtual data. Public Waldorf exceed LEA per Stanford Study.

**Motion: John Eldridge moves to recommend Raleigh Oak Charter School to receive a 3-year placement starting July 1, 2023**

Second: Stephen Gay

Discussion: Dr. Danielsen made a comment re: online transition for classes from his perspective as a professor. Classes already online were designed and transitioned easily; other classes struggled. Reasonable explanation because classes not designed online were not as effective.

Vote: Unanimous

- Passed       Failed



**Motion: John Eldridge moves to recommend Raleigh Oak Charter School to receive approval for move to permanent location.**

Second: Hilda Parlér

Vote: Unanimous

- Passed       Failed

Paul R Brown Leadership Academy

- Jenna Cook discusses school information including site visit results.
- Todd Godbey- States that a couple of years ago it appeared the school need was culture and academics. Culture has been addressed. Time to address academics.
- Dr. Wray- School Leader w/board members present. Mr. Wray: Deal with culture first then have to deal with root causes of struggle. Performance in testing. Align grades in class with testing performance. Can't get an A in a class then score level 1 on a test. Ask students if they were exposed to material on test and address with teachers. 3-year plan for academics given to CSAB. Calculated and purposeful for continuous improvement. 95% attendance expectation for staff and students. Takes time and observation to develop a solid plan. Plan includes tracking data and specific strategies to address and make sure we improve. First goal is to increase proficiency scores by 5% each school year. Met this goal last year. Increased scores after covid is a positive. Second goal increase teacher and student attendance by 3%. Third goal is to increase parental contact by 25%- important for low performing school. Share academic performance with parents. Parent Advisory Committee formed. Improvement rubric used to measure improvement. 11 high-probability instructional strategies- research and evidence based. Curriculum- make sure aligned to NC-SCOS. Introduces board members in attendance.
- Dr. Purdy- Chair of Board. We know where we are and what we need to focus on. Dr. Wray has given us a plan for road ahead. Confident that Dr. Wray will get us in the right direction and be more successful. We've also had Leaders Building Leaders come in to assist us and Ed Direction for guidance. Appreciate opportunity to continue
- Mr. Caldwell- Ed direction, science-based data for culture and climate. How it ties into teaching and learning environment. Very encouraged by new leader. You see as soon as you walk in a sign that states how teachers and students will treat each other. Every classroom- teacher and student agreement of how we treat each other. Why we're learning and why we're teaching.
- Hilda Parlér- moral focus curriculum? Mr. Wray: 4 pillars. Academics, Leadership, Discipline and Athletics. Quantify with students to measure growth in 4 pillars. Hilda Parlér - so no curriculum for moral or character? Mr. Wray- we have a Cadet Handbook that lays all that out and they are tested on it. Hilda Parlér -Uniforms? Mr. Wray: uniform every day.
- Eric Sanchez- excel in reading but not math? met with MS math teacher and students. Students say they didn't see most of information. Met with teacher and he was trying to teach all the standards rather than focus on standards being assessed. Did NC check ins this year and iready, released test in all tested subjects. He was teaching the impossible. Understand why then we can target and address. Eric Sanchez- block schedule or yearlong? Mr. Wray- HS block. MS year long. Eric Sanchez- may want to reconsider. Mr. Wray: last year there was no biology teacher. Eric Sanchez: support for curricular issue? Mr. Wray- Ed Direction provides academic support. PLC training. Classroom observations. PD with teachers. Work with teachers individually. Eric Sanchez: specifically, to what students are doing daily in class? Data? Mr. Wray: when I arrived I studied the data. We weren't doing check-ins. Now we are. Using that data to drive instruction.

Eric Sanchez- Advice. Find a school that is similar and attach to them. Mr. Wray: I came from that school.

- Mr. Campbell- team of qualified educators working directly with teachers and students.
- Stephen Gay- Quality vs. quantity. Actual changes? Turnover? Are they on the train? Mr. Wray: I was asked if I had the right people. I then asked the staff what they thought. Lost 4-5 teachers as a result. Sometimes necessary to turnover. We have the right folks on the team. Moving in the right direction.
- Hilda Parlér - tutoring? Mr. Wray: commandant time. 55 minutes every day after school. Iready. Math help. Target Level 3 students. Hilda Parlér - attendance? Mr. Wray: mandatory. Bus doesn't leave until 4:00.
- Stephen Gay- 3-year renewal, how will you assess, measure success. Mr. Wray: I will ask for 10-year renewal. That's our success and goal.
- Dave Machado- impressed by you and board. Why should this board believe your kids are better off than LEA. Mr. Wray: we offer something different. 5 different counties. Parents needed kids there for discipline reasons. Not sure there was ever an academic focus before. We have kids willing to show respect and listen to learn. We have to recognize that it's about teaching and learning. Can't blame it on the kids.
- Hilda Parlér - Kids who don't need tutoring? Mr. Wray: peer helpers. Works out well.
- Bruce Friend- thank you for sharing and having the board here. Understand the seriousness of situation. Compare to LEA what is difference? Real difference has to be performance of students. Can't continue to have low performing. Board- you're highly motivated. What is the board committed to do to keep you in this place? How do you feel about their commitment? Mr. Wray: when here in December advised to have conversation with board and we did that. Difficult but necessary. Had to get conversation out of the way to move forward. School moving forward without board support is difficult. You can see this with their attendance today. Words with actions.
- Eric Sanchez- asking to gauge trajectory. Leader coming up and new. Lifted hood of car and didn't like what I saw. Liked what I heard today. Reassuring.

**Motion: Eric Sanchez moves to recommend Paul R. Brown Leadership Academy to receive 3-year renewal effective July 1, 2023.**

Second: Hilda Parlér

Discussion:

- Todd Godbey- to board. Dr. Ray brings something to Brown that is needed. You being present today is encouraging but when get back continue to be present.
- Bruce Friend- charter is given to board. In this case, I'll support this because of man behind the podium. Can't be about how great the culture is next time. Academics is litmus test.
- Eric Sanchez- encourage going around state to visit schools who are successful with similar demographics.
- Bart Danielson- charter given to board. Close call for me because while board is happy right now, a month from now board may have second thoughts. Would be disappointing if a different person is at the mic and academics are low again. I don't think I could vote to extend again if the academics are low again.

Vote: Unanimous

- Passed       Failed

ZECA- Jenna Cook, OCS presents school information and site visit feedback.

- Ms. Howard, director. Introduces board in attendance. Reminds of what they discussed at last meeting. Today share academic components. Partnership with Solution Tree, PD in math. Good Seed, cultural responsive teaching training. Teachers did curriculum mapping work connected to social justice standards. Required standards to be taught. Math BOY- 3 years behind. MOY- showing positive growth. Targeted instruction seems to be working. Reading has typically been strong. BOY- 17% tested 3 years behind. MOY is showing positive growth. Migration of students moving to be at grade level. Closing the gap. Curriculum coach added to staff. Teachers required to have weekly data checks with students tracking growth and making goals. Every Monday teachers are in PLC. Enrichment after school, do not dismiss until 5:00pm- academic focus and wide variety of clubs. Lexia used for after school reading tutor. Added benchmark with Transcend. Doing it this week so no results available. Classroom feedback from Howard and consultants. Change in enrollment- drop in enrollment due to Covid migration. During pandemic public housing near our school was closed and we lost 59 students. Families rely on transportation. At the time didn't have reliable bus service at school so couldn't provide for them. Recently purchased a bus. Now better position to offer transportation. 2 drivers. Now marketing beyond city.
- Bruce Friend- 5 board members? Ms. Howard: 3 here today. 2 are educators and couldn't attend.
- John Eldridge: How many teachers? Ms. Howard: 9. John Eldridge: How many are certified? Ms. Howard: all but 1.
- Bruce Friend- what is license they are getting? Ms. Howard: they are in Teachers for Tomorrow to get licensed. Put in for emergency license but still have not received.
- Dave Machado: F the entire time you've been open. Why should this board recommend staying open? Why are you better for kids? Ms. Howard: I'm going to have our consultant answer that. They gave clear picture of what our students need.
- Consultant: students who come to school, enter school so far behind. Met growth over the years. They have kids who have been suspended or expelled from their home school at our school. They are thriving in our school. Cultural understanding of benefit to school for kids. Most are 3 years behind. We look at growth to quantify their learning. Calling us the alternative to the alternative school. We have support in place for students to grow. Look at numbers of Title I and in poverty if we were a regular school federal government would probably shut the school down because it looked like we were spiking our numbers. They're better off at our school because we have things in place to support the social and emotional needs so we can get to education.
- Dave Machado- students in your school who have been expelled? Ms. Howard- on their way to expulsion. Dave Machado- application used this population as reason to be successful now it seems it's an excuse. Ms. Howard: We didn't anticipate the mix of students with high levels of trauma. Had to put in place wellness program for teachers and train them on how to assist students with high trauma. In a good place now so focus is academics now.
- Consultant: using as an excuse? 100 students in regular school as opposed to 10 in our school. Weighted scale. My F looks totally different than another large school.
- Eric Sanchez- fair point when making comparison to other large schools. Where is the school going? Staying with the same F and there is a value added? Is there a different trajectory? Consultant: there is absolutely a different trajectory. Eric Sanchez: what's next? Are you going to be a D? Ms. Howard- reading was F and now cusp of C. Math went backwards so we brought in Solution Tree to help with pedagogy. Marketing to bring in more diverse group.

- Cheryl Turner- my concern is at some point there has to be shift to academics. 10 years open and if student has been with you the whole time isn't proficient. At some point you have to shift. Ms. Howard: EVAAS data shows students from 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> was doing really well as cohort. We are doing one on one tutoring and equity group is helping us to shift.
- Bruce Friend- board member to mic. You've never been anything but an F school. What is confidence level of board about leadership and teachers? Ms. Needley, Board Chair: founder and CEO Ms. Howard. Staff and leadership. Board is very active. Is a concern, moving forward we will be able to turn it around. Participate in recruiting activities as board member. ZECA is a safe place. They have the opportunity to learn. See self-esteem growing in kids. Spoke with 60 or more families from public school who want kids in ZECA for their kids. Support in community. Assistance with recruiting. Bring in other experts to help raise academics. Confident in leadership. Ms. Howard- all about high quality teaching. When they come to us, if they are not buying in we don't have time to wait. Tough decisions based on growth of student learning and response to feedback.
- Hilda Parlér - tell them before they are hired or after? Ms. Howard: do during interview. Front end. Changed hiring process to hire better.
- Bruce Friend- does board meet outside of regular meeting? Ms. Needley: we do have subcommittees- one is program development. Our board does have experience in education to focus on academics.
- Hilda Parlér- more males than females? Ms. Howard: males across the board.
- Bart Danielson- Evidence that families who don't live near you want to commute to your school? Ms. Howard- at end of next year the housing will be done. Military families will be moving in. Families want to be at our school because their student are socially awkward and whatever and they want to send their kids to our school.
- John Eldridge: website says 8 teachers. Ms. Howard: our web site is not up to date. Board meeting minutes are up but our website is not up to date.
- Bart Danielson- very hard case. F school every year, 2 of last 3 years they met growth. Most recent did not meet but lost 50 students. Significant change. Relative to district- academically comparability has improved compared to district. Concern- right the ship on enrollment and not sure what to think about that. Guidance from others.
- John Eldridge: this charter was not written to be an alternative school was it? Ashley Baquero-no.
- Bruce Friend- site visit with Jenna. Students engaged. And none had negative comments about school. Positive exchanges with staff. Walked away feeling good. Just looking at data it's not good. I'm glad I did a site visit. We're here to support High Quality school. I think they have some elements that are good. No change in leadership in 10 years. Hard to generate students.
- Stephen Gay- downward spiral will come down to word of mouth from families. Comes down to reputation.
- John Eldridge- weight of making sure we're sending up schools we're confident will be successful. I'm not experienced in this area, but I do feel weight of this decision and what happens when they're not.
- Eric Sanchez: I've not decided where to go. History- making excuses. I didn't feel optimistic. Want the group in front of us to be inspiring and know change is coming. Message seemed to be that if we get some different kinds of kids, it will be better. The reading data was accurate and true. Did meet growth 2 out of last 3 years. Didn't feel that they were going to be successful moving forward.

- Hilda Parlér - would start to do better if they got 3-year renewal.
- Cheryl Turner- in same place as Eric. I don't hear what I need to hear to feel confident about improved academics when they renew again in 3 years. They are meeting SEL needs of kids. We're a school and tasked with making sure students are academically successful. I just don't hear that.

**Motion: Dave Machado moves to not recommend Z.E.C.A for 3-year renewal.**

Second: Hilda Parlér

Discussion:

- Eric Sanchez- you were there and wondering if you are still supportive.
- Bruce Friend- if I had not visited the school I would have made the motion Dave Machado made. Compared to school we just had I didn't hear a plan to execute academic success. We challenged this last school to not come back in 3 years if you don't improve. If they come back in 3 years and still F school, they can't be renewed. We can't continue to support low-performing schools.
- John Eldridge- that's why I brought up. Marketing program with website that is out of date doesn't seem like a good thing. I don't doubt their heart.
- Dave Machado- 2<sup>nd</sup> possible 3<sup>rd</sup> time they've come before us with this data.
- Bart Danielson- Our charge is high quality schools and not if the kids are better off here than another school. You might be good for children with services provided. On the data this doesn't look like a high quality school. I'm also not sure they're going to make it anyway.

Vote: TG- nay, BF- nay. BD- nay.

Motion passes 7:3

- Passed       Failed

**Northeast Academy for Aerospace and Advanced Technologies**- Andrew R. Harris, Ed.D., Chief Executive Officer

- CEO Introduces staff.
- Principal Of the Year- TJ Korrell. Informs CSAB of "Who We Are".
- Professional Coordinator- explains mastery/standard grading. HS combined traditional/standards based grading. Design Thinking Process class, PBL
- Senior Student Presentation: Gabby Hawkins. Shares opportunity school has given her.
- Donahue- instructional coach and teacher. Explains demonstration that students will do. Biotechnology focus.
- 2 students walk around to share heart model.

**Lunch** until 1:30 pm

## **Renewals Continued**

Next Generation Academy- Jenna Cook, OCS shares school information including additional compliance issues not known at previous meeting.

- David Miller- Board Chair. Introduces members with him. Started process of correcting most of these findings.
- Brian Moore- Board Treasurer. Provides financial history of school. ADM was low to start but committed to keeping school open was priority. January board meeting discussed finances. Next year plan is to eradicate fund balance issues.
- Bruce Friend- review from finance this morning. Repay amount by end of the month. Are you poised to make it? Mr. Miller- we are but we still have questions since funds were used to improve schools per mandate of CDC even though we didn't have a 50-year lease. We felt responsible to make sure kids had a safe environment.
- Bruce Friend- internal controls concern- Mr. Moore: Friday pulled together a team so there are procedures for signing off on purchases. We were following it but didn't have the correct paper trail when auditors came. Present to board on monthly bases financial information.
- Dave Machado- financing in house or third party vendor? Mr. Moore- Aprio. Dave Machado- how long have you had them? They didn't help you with the procedures? Mr. Moore- they did but not as formalized and detailed as needed. Dave Machado- who signs checks. Mr. Moore: I do and principal. Dave Machado- invoices? Mr. Moore: I do or principal does. Dave Machado- so you are looking at invoices and writing checks? Mr. Moore: hasn't been seen as an issue to this point. Segregation of duties will be more explicit. Approvals each time rather than on a monthly basis.
- Stephen Gay- who does audit? Mr. Miller: Henry Mills. Stephen Gay- They've never said anything about your process? Shannon Watson from Aprio says that by the time it gets to us the approvals have occurred already. There needs to be more internal control and we have given them advice moving forward.
- Dave Machado- you're just giving them that advice? Ms. Watson: there was no findings that this was a problem the last four years. Dave Machado- Would your company not know that the Superintendent was signing invoices. Ms. Watson- no. We get all the information from the treasurer after all of the signatures have been made. We're not at the school to know the process they used. Dave Machado- How many charter schools do you have? Ms. Watson- 15 charter schools.
- Hilda Parlér - how long in business? Ms. Watson- Aprio has been in business 70 years open. Hilda Parlér - headquarter? Ms. Watson- all over. I'm based in Charlotte. Firm is nation-wide, international.
- Eric Sanchez- superintendent is signing invoices. Is there a threshold for signing? Ms. Watson: I believe there is. Above \$10,000. Eric Sanchez: Designate some type of conflict? How are you looking at contracts or invoicing to address an appearance of conflict of interest. Ms. Watson- that has not come up since I've been with the school.
- Bruce Friend- \$22,000 at Home Depot etc.? Mr. Miller: Expenses I incurred. We were doing a lot of the work, putting up sheet rock, doing work our self. Took it upon myself to pay the bills to keep lights and water on. There was cash flow problems which we don't have anymore. Bruce Friend- Were there other items that can show where they are. Mr. Miller: When the auditors came the custodian wasn't on campus and we couldn't find the equipment.
- Dave Machado- Are you a recipient of the NC ACCESS grant? Mr. Miller: Yes. Dave Machado- what year are you in the grant? Mr. Miller: Third year. Hired coaches, retired teachers to tutor.

- Eric Sanchez: \$22,000 of reimbursement w/out oversight- who's signing off on those invoices and checks. Mr. Miller: Those were signed off by principal. Moving forward they will be signed off by me.
- McFadden- clarify. Cash flow issue. There was a \$4,000 reimbursement that was reimbursed so this practice is still continuing. We were looking for purchased equipment not rented equipment. What was written was a good control. But that was not the process in place. Aprio received a log with supporting documentation. No evidence that principal was reviewing purchases. If it's a cash flow problem, what is the solution? Creates risk for fraud and abuse. No indication of board approval. There may have been board approval for large items on the front end but no evidence of approval above \$10,000.
- Eric Sanchez: what is the gap for reimbursement? McFadden- couple of months time, Sometimes had to wait to pay him back until funds were there. Eric Sanchez- no record for approving for line of credit?
- Hilda Parlér - receipts for reimbursements? McFadden- Yes. Always a receipt. Concern was that executive director was using personal funds and getting reimbursed which is probably not the solution.
- Todd Godbey- still items not located/found? McFadden- couple of weeks ago to look at equipment. More recent purchase. Had team member stop by and to date no evidence those items have been found. Corrective action plan they recently received. Time to implement plan and follow-up when in place.
- Bruce Friend- last year met growth but 15% below LEA. How is it looking this year? Mr. Florence, principal- continuing to see growth. Missed exceeding growth by 1 point. Standards based school. Helps us to stay on track for monitoring. Today, teachers looking at data points to do small group instruction. NC Check-ins completed. Results are looking strong in reading and work to do is math. Academically we need time.
- Dave Machado- \$31,000 for bus funds that can't be used for ESSR- Who is supposed to catch that? Mr. Miller: That was part of our ESSR funds. Summer school line item that was approved. Told that if we change that narrative it would apply.
- Ms. McFadden- Possible for gas for buses may be eligible for summer. Our understanding was that that was used for regular school year. Part of plan was to get with DPI to see if would qualify or not. If not, they would need to return \$89,000.
- Eric Sanchez- Did school apply for line of credit? Mr. Moore- School does have past loans. Process paying those back. Increased ADM. \$2 million in grants. We are coming out of those hard financial times. \$300,000 in bank. Focused on paying down. Controls do need to be in place but as board we were trying to get out of the hole. Don't want to take out additional loans.

#### Discussion-

- Eric Sanchez: surprising. Doesn't seem like a young group of people who wouldn't know the optics of what this looks like? Scary in terms of why it would take that long to see optics are awful.
- Hilda Parlér - RTO finance course attendance?
- Dave Machado- very concerned about optics and whether intentional or unintentional. Need to be great stewards of tax payer dollars. Uncomfortable with what I'm reading here.
- Eric Sanchez- what are options for motions for 3-year renewal? Ongoing oversight?
- Bruce Friend- we could have them come back to us every year as part of motion. Site visits.
- Eric Sanchez- implicit already in their current status that there would be oversight.

- Ms. McFadden- standard process go back and do follow up. Corrective plan then go 30-45 days on site, maybe longer to see if corrective action in place. Go back after that 6 months to a year given extensive nature of findings. Can design something to review every year.
- Hilda Parlér - Announced or unannounced? Ms. McFadden- announced because of documents that need to be pulled and person available.
- Bart Danielson- Had procedures but not being followed? Ms. McFadden- yes.
- Eric Sanchez- Does that include the \$10,000 sign off? Ms. McFadden- there were no other approvals. We looked at 2 years' worth of information. Eric Sanchez- line of credit question was it aligned with cash strapped time, between funding times? Ms. McFadden- certainly influx of cash and increase ADM. They definitely paid off loans. Evidence of bringing debt down.
- Dave Machado- Department has manpower to visit school as stipulation? Ms. McFadden: reasonable priority for us to find the resources to visit annually.
- Bart Danielson- Every year for 3 year renewal, wouldn't you see after 1 year if controls weren't in place? Ms. McFadden- If that happens again I would certainly bring it to you.
- Bart Danielson- Year from now still issues what happens? Ashley Baquero- statute where charter can be revoked.
- SBE Lawyer- SBE policy for different levels of non-compliance.
- Ms. McFadden- Disciplinary already. Use federal guidelines. First step is to get controls in place.
- Todd Godbey- Currently existing, my understanding to wait to vote. Anything advantageous for you if we wait to vote? Ms. McFadden- Depends how quickly they are able to implement policy in action. May be opportunity to review again if they can get things in place. Would not be as extensive.
- Eric Sanchez- \$22,000 how much were you able to match up in reimbursement? Ms. McFadden- went through every receipt to make sure it matched. High risk, vulnerable items being purchased that could walk away especially when not customary for this business. Our intention wasn't to do inventory, intent was to make sure what money was being used for.
- Cheryl Turner- What was the financial situation that the Exec Director needed to use personal funds? Dr. Mishner- Process of paying back loans. Waiting for a drop and the money wasn't there so I agreed to pay the bill. Lead custodian not there- items in building but couldn't find.
- Hilda Parlér - General contractor without equipment? Mr. Misher- Kelly Construction.
- Bruce Friend- Any relationship between board and Kelly Construction? Mr. Misher- No.
- Eric Sanchez- you hear the narrative right? If she comes to my school I get off the phone. Can't find the equipment. Mr. Mishner: We do understand. No malicious intent. We were trying to save money and do work ourselves to make sure kids were taken care of. Optics will be fixed. We can come back and share with you what we are putting in place.
- Cheryl Turner- Who owns building and what kind of lease? Mr. Misher: BB Belk out of Charlotte. 5-year lease.
- Bruce Friend- bid process for construction? Mr. Misher- Kelly had done work with schools. Other contractor too much money. Kelly allowed them to do some work themselves.
- Dave Machado- Define my guys? Mr. Misher: Custodial staff. That's what I meant.
- Bart Danielson- What's the dollar amount of missing items. Ms. McFadden- Not significant. \$200 each. High risk vulnerable item was issue. Not significant. Bart Danielson- Not enough to call it fraud. Mr. McFadden- It's cumulative picture that created concern. Entire approach, not necessarily items.
- Eric Sanchez: We're not considering Todd's idea?
- Bruce Friend- Not sure it can be resolved in next month.



- Todd Godbey- Can show how serious they are taking this to change procedures.
- Bruce Friend- What would we see 30 days from now to show it exists or not.
- Eric Sanchez- I like thought of school fighting for charter. Demonstrate with Shirley that they're doing the right thing. Reassuring this board that their board is serious about internal controls.
- Todd Godbey- Ms. McFadden feedback of how transparent they are, working with finance department.
- Bruce Friend- We could certainly do that unless someone makes a motion.
- Dave Machado- Entertaining to wait on vote then come back and share internal controls.
- Hilda Parlér - Have procedures they didn't follow them.
- Bart Danielson- Is that enough time to see if they are following rules.
- SBE Lawyer- SBE policy states correction made within 10 days or until time is set. Encourage to give them a time frame. Ms. McFadden- 30 days was given. Opportunity for them in next 30 days to look at one month of expenditures.
- Ms. McFadden- Other reviews done. Other findings with federal grants. Lack of supporting documentation.
- Bruce Friend- Let's delay vote until next month.
- Ashley Baquero- Our office can talk to federal programs to see if they can come explain.
- John Eldridge- I don't get how auditors could miss this every year.
- Ashley Baquero- That is something we can bring to board and discuss what changes need to be made.
- Ms. McFadden- We put out guidance every year. If it doesn't reach certain threshold, they may not see this. Internally we are asking harder questions.
- John Eldridge- We're adding more charter schools and audits coming in later and staff smaller. Recurring theme.

#### Eastside STREAM Academy

Jenna Cook presents school information.

- Mr. Bowers- Financial was discussed in November. Transition between leaders didn't reach us and we have adjusted for that. Attorney by trade- asked 3 times since board chair about improper association between staff and board. Went through myself, one part-time person associated with board in some capacity. Academics- good years but years where we need to do better. New board chair, new principal, community excited. Work on educators as well as students. Started PD on Saturdays. Teach Like A Champion. Closing the Altitude Gap. Academy to students on Saturday. 10:1 or 5:1. EOG boot camp. Game plan in place and strategy for academics.
- Bruce Friend- Board members here? Mr. Bowers- Felt it wasn't necessary. Felt I could represent well enough and brought the people who could answer questions. Bruce Friend- Why change over in leadership? 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> principal of school? Mr. Bowers- I asked same question. Discover several challenges. Some was opportunity.
- 2:41 John Eldridge left.
- Mr. Bowers- Some was culture. Student challenges made culture hard for leaders to run school. Moved to new facility. Can serve same students and attract others as well.
- Bruce Friend- Staff turnover. Percent of staff been with you? Mr. Bowers- Exit interviews for most part, opportunity better than we can offer. Ms. Stevens- 45 total staff.
- Stephen Gay- How many teachers? Ms. Stevens- 18 teachers.

- Todd Godbey- How many licensed? Ms. Stevens- over 50%.
- Bruce Friend- performing below LEA. What steps are you taking to close the gap. Mr. Bowers- Working intensively on PD on weekends. Need to figure out how to pay them. Working with STARS math/English academies that helps with PD and academic support for students. Those are type of things for us to close gap. Mr. Wooten- Making sure we have quality instruction. We serve population that has some issues. Hiring process is much more thorough to hire right individuals. High quality instruction. Quality of educators bringing in.
- Eric Sanchez- History was strong. Furthest from growth that we've seen today. Assurance there is a real plan in place to move academics forward. Give me some real solutions. Mr. Bowers- Before academics we need to talk leadership. At that time, none of these people here were there. Once issues began, board members left. Previous board member has returned to support. Eric Sanchez- Looking for better detailed response to how we're going to turn the ship.
- Mr. Ozer- PLC in place. Using data. In the past not using NC Check ins. We are now using them. IReady. Administrators in classrooms to support teachers. MTSS in process. Identify students as early as possible. Eric Sanchez- other than Iready. Mr. Ozer- 10 out of 14 better for NC Check ins from first test.
- Mr. Wooten- Manager of SIP. In years academics going down, wasn't following SIP plan with fidelity. Get SIP back up and running. Holds people accountable for improvement. Has been a great tool for us. Meet monthly. Leadership (Mr. Ozer). Past year we've owned fact that we are struggling. Plan in place to improve.
- Dave Machado- What is the relationship between Eastside Stream and One Church of Charlotte? Mr. Bowers- Dr. Crews has been a support for our school. Having ability to park buses there. Volunteer efforts. Dave Machado- Web site says Ms. Cruz is First Lady.
- Ms. Stevens- Church gave us a lower bid to park buses in their lot. We pay them monthly.
- 3:00 Eric Sanchez leaves.
- Ms. Stevens- About every 6 months we look again for parking for 9 buses. Competitive bidding and First Lady was not part of bidding committee.
- Dave Machado- Ms. Stevens if I send an email to someone who gets it? Ms. Stevens- Mr. Ozer. Was changed after board directed her to change it.
- Bart Danielson- 18 or 19 teachers and 45 staff includes teachers, bus drivers, admin, cafeteria. Bart Danielson- Is that the norm? Teachers to total employees? Bart Danielson- Difficulty retaining teachers because of pay. Budgeting process make decisions about staffing and payment. I don't know if that's reasonable.
- Bruce Friend- Problem with turnover is more about compensation.
- Ashely Baquero- Gone through past site visits. Staff turnover repetitive over the years. 2019- numerous absences, frequent behaviors, teacher turnover. Difficult to help a school when leadership is always different. Teachers who have resigned have said the reason was environment not pay.
- Stephen Gay- In Charlotte market it's hard to match pay. Number of candidates dwindling.
- Bruce Friend- More than just money that keeps people there. Saying the right thing. But haven't done it. These numbers are showing that. Couldn't run a restaurant with this turnover or any business let alone a school. Send child to school with 3 principals in a year? Mr. Bowers- Can't change past years of charter. New leader was brought in with expertise in areas school struggles in. Answer challenge with thorough hiring. Being transparent about what we can offer at school. Can help you grow professionally; help you grow and gain experience and impact challenging

students. Transparent up front when hiring. Takes time to set culture. We know what's before us and this team is committed to making it happen.

- Stephen Gay- Teachers don't quit schools, they quit administrators.
- Bart Danielson- Boards get charters. Important thing to do is perpetuate itself with good board members. Board that exists today is not board that got the charter. Hard market to fix problem they've got. Turnover. Gives me pause.
- Dave Machado- Real concerns about this school. F, F. Subgroups a concern. On top of that. Large turnover calls to OCS of toxic environment. Situation with board members and church. I'm very concerned and I was concerned when I was at OCS.
- Bart Danielson- Vote we take now gets passed up to SBE. This is a recommendation to SBE.

**Motion: Dave Machado moves to not recommend Eastside STREAM Academy for 3-year renewal.**

Second: Hilda Parlér

Vote: Unanimous.

- Passed       Failed

Break until 3:30- Todd Godbey left, John Eldridge left, Stephen Gay left (joined virtually).

IC Transform-

Jenna Cook, OCS, shares school information.

- Mr. Foster. Last meeting, we provided glows and grows. Glows- reached our highest level of academic achievement in many years. Close to a C. First graduation class. 11 of 13 have been accepted into colleges. Award winning arts program. Beta school of distinction and merit. Grows: most recently I was hired as turnaround leader. Introduces board and COO.
- Ms. Richardson, Board Chair. I have 2 champions who attend IC Transform. Excited to get school back on track. Over last several days we have been informed about recent findings. We have a plan in place to address. Missing cum files are being fixed. Working with Acadia to close out ESSR funds. We understand seriousness of issues. Confident team can meet deadlines and put in processes to get things back in order.
- Ms. Hawkins- Board member. Next 90 days- focus on location strategy for budget purposes. Compliance- closed out and ensure internal and external audit. Increase enrollment- for students and more teachers. Right leaders in place. Communication- resolve unresponsiveness issues.
- Dave Machado- Explain large discrepancies between PowerSchool and site visit. Mr. Foster- wasn't 58 students it was 48. Around 10 students were at CPP. If they had come 30 minutes earlier could have seen those students physically. Cold and flu season. 48 students were not present that day.
- Dr. Bouldin- Working on internal controls. Attendance folder for all teachers now. Former employee who was in charge of folders but new employees working on making sure we have accurate counts and records as well as our withdrawal process.
- Dave Machado- Open for 10 years and just now looking at these controls? Dr. Bouldin: putting procedures in place now. Dave Machado- How many cum folders on the floor? Ashley Baquero- there was a couple of piles on the floor. Don't remember the exact number. Dave Machado- that's

a lot of confidential information. What's your explanation? Dr. Bouldin- They were in a locked office. That person was transitioning but in locked office. Do have new locked file cabinets and new student service coordinator who is going through all the files and making sure they are locked and secured.

- Bruce Friend- Staff turnover. Mr. Foster: 4 teachers resigned. 5 terminations. RIF toward beginning of school year. Bruce Friend- What percentage of teachers have license? Mr. Foster- 59%. 6 applied for licenses. Once cleared will be at 77%. All EC teachers licensed. EC associate that is highly qualified. Bruce Friend- Elevate for online instruction outstanding debt. Mr. Foster- We are caught up on that. Not behind on any bills as of today.
- Dave Machado- 62 students without cum folder? Mr. Bouldin- Scribbles for online enrollment platform. Wasn't printed out and put in files. For students who have no information in Scribbles platform we are contacting parents. Dave Machado- Contacting parents or school they came from? Mr. Bouldin: Both. Some came from out of state. Dave Machado-How many of those 62 students had an IEP that weren't getting served do you know that? Mr. Bouldin- No I don't.
- Bruce Friend- What is the org structure? Mr. Foster- lower principal left for opportunity. Upper principal was offered to teach math and she found other opportunities. Bruce Friend- Who is doing their role? Mr. Foster- lower school, I stepped in as well as being Head Of School. Dean of Arts is taking on MS/HS.
- Bruce Friend- Renewal and move. Last meeting you had not notified parents of move. What is status? Mr. Foster- we have communicated with parents about move. Joel Davis- board member working on move. Optimal move, current location taking large part of budget. Currently talking with 2 locations. Keeping families updated. Bruce Friend- How? Dr. Bouldin- families notified via email, text. Ashley Baquero- materials submitted says you are moving to Steel Creek Church. Mr. Foster- correct. We have 2 locations. Ashley Baquero- Can't vote this month because can't take to SBE without final location.
- Bruce Friend- How are you paying for new location? Mr. Foster- Generous donors supporting us including current landlord. It will be a different landlord and Legacy Impact Group for financial support.
- Bruce Friend- high school classes. What % on elevate? Mr. Foster: 8 and most foreign language.
- Bruce Friend- Did you respond about homeless education? Mr. Foster- due to our RtI impacted liaison. We have since found liaison and they will do the training.
- Bruce Friend- program findings for ESSR? Mr. Foster- Grant written before my term with Acadia. Working hard to find the documentation.
- Bruce Friend- Who's teaching core HS classes? Mr. Foster- last semester elevate was for a couple of math classes and 1 for English IV. This semester- mathematician teaching all HS math classes.
- Bart Danielson- Last 3 years enrollment dropped by 60 students. What's going on there? Mr. Foster- Partnered with media integrations to help market. They are known for double and tripling charter enrollment. We believe we will increase enrollment.
- Bruce Friend- What was deadline for ESSR? Mr. Bouldin- Deadline is Feb. 26. Acadia is helping get the documentation.
- Hilda Parlér - Have you always had homeless children? Mr. Bouldin- Not to my knowledge.
- Bruce Friend- I'd like to get a better handle on ESSR compliance before sending to SBE.
- Ms. McFadden- finance. Unassigned Govt. Fund Balance. Significant amount. Working capital loan of \$280,000. Getting worse then better.
- Bruce Friend- If we wait until March then to SBE in April. Ashley Baquero- same situation as Next Generation.

- Bruce Friend- I'd prefer to wait.
- Bart Danielson- Concerns me that financials deficit getting worse. Seem to be very very bad at paperwork elements of compliance. Academic side I would be comfortable, but you have to run a business. Will have more information next month.
- Dave Machado- Clarification. Renewals approved will go to SBE in March. Delayed vote will be in April. Ashley Baquero- 36 renewals to SBE in March. Last 2 will be 2 months behind.
- Bruce Friend- Thank you for having board members here. We wanted to see that. Not sure it's necessary for next meeting. Table decision until March.

**Reconsider Rejected Standard Timeline Applications-** Ashley Baquero, OCS Director

Heritage Leadership Academy of Wake County

Ashley Baquero- one applicant rejected by state board and per statute can come forward to CSAB for reconsideration. CSAB needs to vote again to send back to SBE.

- Dr. Bazemore- Board members on call. We were disappointed by SBE vote. We were left with the feeling that we didn't give them the information they were looking for. Read in news and observer that some members were concerned. Amy White- former WCPSS board member. Was board member at time I had legal claim. Sexual harassment against my employer and she would of known about that. Hope it's not a conflict of interest.
- Dr. Bazemore mentioned a defacto segregation order in Wayne County.
- Dr. Bazemore stated there has been much reflection, petition for another opportunity to serve students. Spirit of reconsideration. We want to be held accountable. We were assumed after only 4 years in operation. Started to receive noncompliance after 4 months open. Board minutes not posted in first year. Many boards are not posting minutes consistently. I remember calling for help with deadlines with performance framework. Fast forward to torchlight closure. They were marked compliant on many measures that was not correct.
- 4:06- Dave Machado leaves.
- Dr. Bazemore continued: Simply- Mr. McQueen was not poised to lead HCLA after Torchlight. The assumption process had never been done before. Judge didn't know what to do either. HCLA operated for 4 years. Met growth 2 out of 3 years. When we scored below 60% and so did the county. Many homeschooled kids came to us and Torchlight Academy. Despite difficult start we were making progress. Current superintendent working to make equitable accountability processes. We have continued to tutor kids and work with parents. Many of these students are successful early college students. If you have any idea what you can advise us to do, please tell us. Wake Prep is a good school but not poised serve the students we want to serve. Discipline policy there is not good for students we want to serve. We want to serve Black, poor, brown, exceptional children. Not excluding anyone. We will nurture and help them grow. Former Torchlight families want to attend our school. Keep this about children. Want to know that I am highly qualified as a teacher, principal, shadowed some of the highest performing charters in nation. Founded Brooklyn Ascend and is still success. HCLA- was a tribal community. Relationships still in place. Did well with parent engagement. Saturday academy a success. Extra curricular groups. We thank you for your support and any guidance about which steps to take between now and next month we would appreciate it.
- Bruce Friend- CSAB was unanimous. We did share with SBE our deliberations. We did encourage them to accept recommendation.
- Hilda Parlér - SBE didn't give a reason for denial.

- Bruce Friend- question about Dr. Bazemore affiliation with school. Dr. Bazemore- so confused what that's about. I worked on this application for 7 years. Bruce Friend- we asked you a lot of questions about past school. We still have a quorum right? Ashley Baquero- yes. Ms. Bazemore- would like to share that during my time in Bertie County I was dealing with medical issues. ADHD and Asperger's and it was difficult to obtain my meds. A lot of terrible things said about me in Bertie County. Love Raleigh and graduated from NC State. Wonderful connections.
- Bruce Friend- don't want you to feel like you have to convince us. Between now and next month focus on application now and leave out the past or other schools.
- Hilda Parlér - What's next?
- Ashley Baquero- Next SBE would be final decision.
- Allison Schafer- SBE voted to not accept application. Unanimous.
- Bart Danielson- Trying to figure out if there was any conversation?
- Bruce Friend- We will make a recommendation again today. I shared with SBE Application was a well-written application. Felt they would do a good job. Leadership learned from past errors.

**Motion: Bruce Friend moves to recommend HCLA for application approval to SBE.**

Second: Bart Danielson

Vote: Todd Godbey- nay

ES, JE, DM no longer present.

Passed 6:1      Failed

**Motion to Adjourn:** Hilda Parlér

Second: Bruce Friend

Unanimous.

4:25 pm