

**Minutes of the
North Carolina Charter Schools Advisory Board Meeting
January 13, 2020
NC Department of Public Instruction
State Board Room 755 – 9:00AM**

Attendance NCCSAB	Joel Ford – <i>via conference line</i> Bruce Friend Joseph Maimone (non-voting) Sherry Reeves Cheryl Turner – <i>via conference line</i> Lynn Kroeger	Alex Quigley Jeannette Butterworth – <i>via conference line</i> Steven Walker Heather Vuncannon Lindalyn Kakadelis Rita Haire
Attendance SBE DPI	<i>Office of Charter Schools</i> Dave Machado, Director Ashley Baquero, Consultant Shaunda Cooper, Consultant Kebbler Williams, Consultant Jay Whalen, Consultant Barbara O’Neal, Consultant Joseph Letterio Maimone, Consultant	<i>Attorney General</i> <i>SBE Attorney</i> Eric Snider

CALL TO ORDER

- The North Carolina Charter School Advisory Board (CSAB) meeting was called to order at 9:00am by Chair Alex Quigley who read the Ethics Statement and CSAB Mission Statement. Mr. Quigley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion: To approve the December 2019 and January special called meeting minutes.

Motion: Sherry Reeves

Second: Lynn Kroeger

Vote: Unanimous

Passed **Failed**

Motion: To approve the January 2020 CSAB meeting agenda.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Lindalyn Kakadelis

Vote: Unanimous

Passed **Failed**

CHARTER SCHOOL FULL INTERVIEWS

- Dr. Kebbler Williams, Office of Charter Schools (OCS) Consultant, gave an overview of today's charter school application interviews. Dr. Williams explained the application timeline and next steps for the 2019 charter school applications process. She continued to explain the application cycle status to date. She explained the interview process for today's three interviews. Dr. Williams stated that CSAB recommendations will be forwarded to the State Board of Education (SBE) in February for discussion and the SBE will vote on the recommendations in March.

P.E.A.K. Academy Charter School

- Dr. Williams introduced the applicant. She stated the school is proposing to locate in Buncombe County. She explained the proposed enrollment and grade levels. She stated at capacity the school would serve grades K-8 with 400 students. She stated there was no LEA impact statement submitted. She stated no due diligence was requested and there was no special request made by the applicant. She stated the applicant is not a repeat applicant. She stated the board received assistance from Leaders Building Leaders and paid a fee.
- Board members introduced themselves to the CSAB, discussed their passion for the application, and spoke about their respective professional backgrounds.
- Ms. Kakadelis asked about the school's name and the fact that another charter school in NC exists with the same name. A board member stated that the board is open to suggestions.
- Ms. Kakadelis asked if anyone had concerns with the mission. Mr. Maimone stated his concerns regard budget and facility. Ms. Reeves agreed. Ms. Reeves stated that she has no problem with the mission and vision. Ms. Reeves stated that the letters P.E.A.K. are heavily incorporated into the mission and vision and she doesn't see how the board could eliminate that acronym from the mission. Ms. Reeves expressed concern with whether inclusion services were adequately budgeted for. Mr. Quigley stated the name is intentional and he doesn't think they should have to change it completely; he suggested adding Asheville or something similar to the name.
- Ms. Kakadelis stated the goals are very ambitious. Mr. Friend stated he would like to know the status of the facility and the school leader. Ms. Kroeger asked for more clarity on specific budget items including partnering with Avid. Mr. Quigley stated that he has some questions about the educational plan. Mr. Quigley stated he knows the board members Catherine and Joe Lordi from Teach For America and can attest to their character. He stated they are married. Mr. Walker stated the school must be inside the Asheville City limits for budgetary purposes. Ms. Reeves would like to hear more about the sibling admissions policy.

- Ms. Kakadelis stated the CSAB would be comfortable with an addition to the name such as “Asheville.” Ms. Kakadelis asked for more information regarding the school’s goals. Ms. Lordi stated the goals are ambitious, but realistic. She stated the goal that no student will score at a level one is about growing students and high expectations. Ms. Reeves stated that it is important to note that the standards have changed regarding levels of proficiency.
- Mr. Quigley asked if they anticipate taking new students in grades above Kindergarten. She replied that the school would take any grade level student if there is space in that grade.
- Ms. Kakadelis asked about inclusion services. Ms. Lordi stated that the school has budgeted for one full time Exceptional Children (EC) teacher for year one and the board believes that will be sufficient. She stated that the board projects about the state average of a 12% EC population. Ms. Lordi stated the 10k contingency was recommended by Acadia Northstar. Mr. Quigley confirmed the school is projecting twenty students per class in Kindergarten and asked if there will be teacher assistants. Ms. Lordi stated the teacher assistants will be part-time for the first few years given budget constraints. Mr. Quigley asked if the school has considered revising the class sizes. She stated they cannot be too far from the Asheville City Schools’ class sizes in order to attract families. Mr. Quigley spoke about schools that are moving to increase class sizes but use a co-teaching model with two full-time teachers in each class. He stated that is something the school may want to consider.
- Mr. Quigley asked about the ELA curriculum. Ms. Lordi stated the curriculum has changed. She stated that Reading Street was listed in the application but has since changed to Reading Mastery Signature edition. She spoke about the two-and-a-half-hour literacy block each morning.
- Ms. Kakadelis asked about projected enrollment and community interest. A board member spoke about intentional community engagement and interest in the school.
- Mr. Maimone asked what an eight-hour day for Kindergarten students would encompass. Ms. Lordi spoke about breakfast, culture building, literacy block, movement and mindfulness, science/social studies, lunch, recess, electives (giving teachers eighty minutes of planning a day), and finally free choice time. She stated that she has received no push back on the proposed school hours. Ms. Kroeger asked how long teachers would work. Ms. Lordi stated from approximately 7:30am to 4:15pm. Ms. Iheanacho, Board Chair, stated that the board knows the parents they intend to serve will need those hours.
- Ms. Kakadelis asked if any board members plan to be the school leader. Ms. Iheanacho stated no one has expressed that interest.

- Ms. Iheanacho spoke about the facility options and collaborative work with the local Housing Authority. She spoke about multiple contingency plans including church properties. Mr. Maimone asked if 40k would be enough for potential upgrades to a facility. Mr. Bell, board member, stated that there are three facilities that were previously public housing. He stated one facility was built to include classrooms and they all are disability accessible.
- Ms. Reeves warned the school about careful wording of the lottery policy regarding siblings. She cautioned that if the school allows siblings to be admitted if one student is pulled this can sometimes lead to problems if you have multiple sibling groups admitted through the lottery.
- Mr. Walker stated the school will most likely be under the same desegregation order that Asheville City Schools is under. Mr. Walker stated Francine Delaney Charter School is under that order. Ms. Lordi stated she has received the order from Francine Delaney and Asheville City Schools and is working with the board's attorney regarding the same. Ms. Lordi stated the board will certainly speak to other schools and follow best practices regarding the lottery.
- Mr. Walker asked what the contingency plan is if the school must pay for a facility. A board member stated they would negotiate opening within the constraints of the budget. Mr. Walker asked what they would eliminate or reduce if needed. Ms. Iheanacho stated possibly teacher salaries because it's still competitive with Asheville City Schools. Ms. Reeves stated that the salary for the part-time counselor is very low. Mr. Friend stated the school should look at teacher salaries because there may some cushion there, but the substitute teacher expenditures seem low. He continued that computers and software will most likely need adjustments.
- A board member spoke about the board's aggressive fundraising campaign, and stated nothing is dependent on fundraising or the NC ACCESS grant.
- Mr. Maimone stated he is impressed by the board and that alleviates his concerns with the facility. Mr. Walker stated he agrees, and he hopes the facility plan works out.

Motion: Full CSAB motion to forward applicant to Ready to Open with the stipulation that the school adds a geographical term, such as "Asheville" to the school's name.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Lynn Kroeger

- Mr. Quigley stated the board is strong, and the application is extremely well-written, and applicants must be able to write well. He stated we don't see enough well-written applications.
- Mr. Friend asked if we would be open to adding any other geographical term to the school's name. The CSAB agreed they could add any geographical term to the name.

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

Power Elite Male Academy

- Dr. Williams introduced the applicant. She stated the school is proposing to locate in Mecklenburg County. She explained the proposed enrollment and grade levels. She stated at capacity the school would serve grades K-8 with 396 students. She stated there was an LEA impact statement submitted. She stated no due diligence was requested and there was no special request made by the applicant. She stated the applicant is a repeat applicant that received a full interview last year. She stated the board received assistance from and plans to partner with Torchlight Academy Schools, LLC (Torchlight).
- Ms. Rochelle Gray introduced herself as Board Chair of Power Elite Male Academy. She spoke about the school's mission to support black males in Charlotte. She spoke about suspension rates and lack of economic mobility in the area. She stated there is currently no school of choice with a single gender model. She spoke about community interest and support for the application. Ms. Gray spoke about her professional experience in the education sector. Additional board members introduced themselves. Ms. Gray explained two board member absences.
- Ms. Kakadelis would like to discuss the aggressive enrollment projections. Mr. Maimone stated he needs to see strong evidence of support for the school. He spoke about the number of charter schools in Charlotte and whether enrollment targets could be met.
- Ms. Reeves stated she feels the mission of the school is not aligned with the educational plan. She stated the educational plan does not seem targeted to the male learner.
- Ms. Kroeger stated she has concerns about the budget and what services Torchlight is providing.
- Mr. Wheats stated that they have received at least two hundred interest surveys. He stated fifteen families showed up for a meeting in the middle of a storm. He stated he has heard consistently from families a desire for something different in the county. Mr. Maimone asked if they have documentation of the surveys. Ms. Gray stated they sent those to the management company.
- Mr. Walker asked how many total interest surveys were received. Ms. Gray stated around two hundred with eligible students. She stated some surveys have multiple eligible male students.

- Mr. Ford asked what the school’s plan is to meet the needs of below-grade level students who enroll. Ms. Gray spoke about the curriculum plan for the school and plan to use Teach Like a Champion strategies. She spoke about the importance of making sure students are in class. She spoke about motivating male students.
- Ms. Vuncannon asked what professional development will look like given the school’s mission to serve male students. She asked how the school will budget for instructional materials. Ms. Gray stated that in regards to professional development, there will be activities based on active learning. She stated the activities don’t cost a lot of money. She stated they have a lot of community support. She continued that Torchlight will provide training and there will be online training as well.
- Mr. Walker asked how the curriculum is aligned to male education. Ms. Gray stated males need to move. Mr. Walker stated it’s not so much what they are learning, but how they are learning. Ms. Gray stated yes.
- Mr. Quigley asked for more information about Teach Like a Champion strategies. Ms. Gray stated the strategies keep students in the classroom. She spoke about deescalating situations to keep kids from getting suspended. Mr. Quigley asked for more clarity on the curriculum choices.
- Ms. Wright, board member, stated Torchlight has provided the blueprint for success. She stated the school wants to follow what has been successful in the Torchlight charter school. She spoke about the community interest in the school and working with Torchlight to finalized details of the educational plan.
- Mr. Friend asked about Torchlight’s curriculum program. Ms. Gray stated the school gets its curriculum from School Net.
- Ms. Kakadelis asked what the school would cut if it didn’t meet enrollment projections. Ms. Gray stated they have a surplus so do not intend to need to cut anything.
- Ms. Vuncannon asked about support positions such as counselors that are not provided for in the budget. Ms. Gray stated Title I funds would provide for that.
- Ms. Kroeger asked what Torchlight provides for the 10% service fee. Ms. Reeves echoed that question and pointed out areas that don’t make sense in the budget. She wondered why there are additional line items in the budget that are supposed to be included in the 10% service fee. Ms. Gray stated Torchlight would need to explain and that is why the board is trying to get a CPA on the board. Mr. Walker wonders if it is like the National Heritage model.

- Mr. McQueen, with Torchlight, explained the 10% is to guarantee that the management company doesn't put up the 50k funds to get started and end up with a major loss. He stated it is not a duplicate of costs.
- Dr. Haire asked for information about the facility. Ms. Gray stated they have looked at several possibilities. Ms. Reeves asked for more specificity. Ms. Gray stated one is on Statesville Road. She stated one is a former trucking company, one is a church, and one is a former Verizon building.
- Ms. Gray spoke about the transportation and child nutrition plans. She stated the board anticipates that 90% of students will qualify for free and reduced lunch and breakfast.
- Ms. Gray spoke about upcoming community events. Dr. Haire asked if the board knows the grade ranges of those students that submitted interest surveys. Ms. Gray stated yes. Mr. Wheats stated they have two hundred online surveys, but they have thousands total from all events.
- Mr. Friend asked if there is any potential business relationship between Mr. Wheats' business and the school. Mr. Wheats and Ms. Gray stated no.
- Ms. Kakadelis expressed continued concern regarding the projected enrollment. Dr. Haire expressed concern with the curriculum. Ms. Vuncannon agreed and doesn't believe the curriculum and professional development are aligned closely with the target population.
- Mr. Quigley stated the application is similar to other applications the CSAB has seen. Mr. Ford asked for a recap on next steps. Mr. Quigley stated that a motion has not been made but will take place after discussion. Mr. Ford asked what the next step is if the applicant doesn't get through. Mr. Quigley stated they would need to reapply.
- Ms. Reeves stated that since serving on this board, the CSAB has seen a few single-gender applications, and most of the plans have been very much targeted to the single-gender population. She stated that another male single-gender school was approved but was not able to open. She stated she feels this application lacks specificity as to how the school will meet the needs of male students.

Motion: Full CSAB motion to not forward applicant to Ready to Open.

Motion: Sherry Reeves

Second: Lynn Kroeger

- Mr. Ford stated he really wants this charter application to be successful, but the limited knowledge he has is that if you are going to target a population like this, there needs to be not

only a solid plan but the resources to execute the plan. He stated he sees room to improve this plan. He stated he is torn because it is a population in desperate need of innovation and additional resources.

- Mr. Quigley stated he has great respect for the success of Torchlight charter school, but he feels this application is not ready. Mr. Quigley stated the application must be solid from the beginning. He stated Ignite Innovation was a similar application the CSAB was torn about, and the CSAB just voted to non-renew the school.
- Mr. Maimone stated he would like to see very definitive things that are happening at Torchlight that are working in the application. He continued that the application is general and vague. Mr. Quigley stated he agrees, and he wants specific data on male success at Torchlight.

Vote: Cheryl Turner, Lynn Kroeger, Heather Vuncannon, Alex Quigley, Jeannette Butterworth, Joel Ford, Sherry Reeves, Lindalyn Kakadelis, Bruce Friend, Rita Haire (10)
Opposed: Steven Walker (1)

Passed Failed

NORTHEAST ACADEMY OF AEROSPACE AND ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES

- Dr. Joseph Peel, Board Chair, presented a brief history of the charter school. He spoke about the school's mission and program.
- Dr. Andrew Harris, CEO, spoke about the school's goals and classroom instruction model.
- Dr. Tonya Little, STEM Director, stated she is accompanied with students that will present with her today. The students introduced themselves. Dr. Little spoke about their participation in the robotics program of the school. Students spoke about their robotics program experience.
- Dr. Little spoke about the robotics program curriculum. Students spoke about how the program has impacted themselves and their community. Next, the students conducted a coding experiment with the CSAB members.
- Dr. Peel spoke about the school being a catalyst for change in the county. He spoke about the number of students that graduate with a two-year college degree.
- Dr. Harris spoke about student academic performance. He stated the longer the students are with the school, the more they grow. He spoke about the success of the first graduating class. He spoke about press releases and media coverage regarding the school. Dr. Harris also spoke about grants received and student engagement across the country.
- Dr. Harris spoke about the school's new facility that will open next fall and revitalize an area of town that is in need. He spoke about an initiative to get grade 13 established at the school.

***The CSAB adjourned for lunch at 12:30pm and returned at 1:15pm.**

FULL INTERVIEWS CONTINUED

Huntersville Charter High School

- Dr. Williams introduced the applicant. She stated the school is proposing to locate in Mecklenburg County. She explained the proposed enrollment and grade levels. She stated at capacity the school would serve grades 9-12 with 405 students. She stated an LEA impact statement has been submitted. She stated this is a repeat application that received a clarification interview last year. She stated the school did not receive third party assistance and does not plan to partner with a management company.
- Board members introduced themselves. A board member stated the board has already purchased land for the facility. He stated there is an Asperger's school on the property.
- Dr. Haire asked for more information about the three schools that are to share a campus. Mr. Maimone asked how the school is paying for the land that is currently being graded. Mr. Walker would like to know more about the mentioned corporate partners. Ms. Reeves has questions about the day to day schedule. CSAB members expressed questions regarding the curriculum program, transportation plan, facility, and child nutrition. They also posed questions regarding enrollment and budget.
- Dr. Haire asked for clarification on the organizational structure. Ms. Nichols, Executive Director for the Aspire Carolinas Foundation, stated there is a school for autistic students on the campus. She stated the foundation owns the land and will own all the property on the campus. She stated they hope to remain a nonprofit foundation and not use a management company. She stated they are considering moving each of the three campuses into individual LLCs. She stated the foundation currently has no debt. Ms. Reeves asked if Huntersville Charter High School will lease the building from the foundation. Ms. Nichols stated yes.
- Mr. Walker asked about the corporate partnerships. Ms. Nichols spoke about a pending partnership with Lowes. She stated Novant is excited about working with the school.
- Ms. Reeves asked if the school anticipates students from the current middle school entering the high school. Ms. Nichols stated that is a possibility if they get in through the lottery.
- A board member spoke about the historic corridor location of the school. She stated it was probably the first thoroughfare of Mecklenburg County.

- Ms. Reeves asked about the schedule. Ms. Nichols spoke about the school’s exploratory classes. She spoke about the school calendar. Ms. Reeves asked if the trade classes will be state CTE classes. Ms. Nichols stated they will need to use what is the trade or industry standard. She stated experts have told her that the state standards are outdated. Ms. Reeves asked if the students will need to take an exam for the certificates. Ms. Nichols stated some will be ready to take the test, upon turning eighteen, but she can’t say that will be the same for all trades.
- The board chair stated a bus is not in the transportation plan, but the board hopes to work with parents to do a ride-sharing program. Ms. Nichols stated that is the norm in the area. Ms. Reeves asked if that potentially limits access. Mr. Walker stated they don’t need a bus, but they need a transportation plan. Ms. Nichols stated she believes the ride-sharing program would provide transportation access to students. Ms. Nichols stated with 420 students there is very little money in the budget. Mr. Maimone stated he doesn’t see ride-sharing being a problem with high school students.
- Mr. Ford asked for clarification if transportation is provided. Mr. Quigley stated no.
- Mr. Friend asked if they are committed to having diversity on the board and the staff given the anticipated demographics stated in the application. Ms. Nichols stated they intend to have diversity and will search for the highest qualified people that represent the community. Ms. Nichols stated the most interest, based on the survey data, came from non-white families.
- Mr. Quigley clarified that the Ms. Nichols is the foundation Executive Director and sits on the board of the application school and the private school on the campus. Ms. Nichols stated yes. Mr. Quigley asked if the foundation assets have been provided. A board member stated it should be on the IRS form 990. She stated the cash position today is \$1.7 million.
- The CSAB discussed issues with the school becoming an LLC. The CSAB reiterated that only a nonprofit can hold a charter. Ms. Nichols spoke about wanting to make sure funds between schools are not commingled.

Motion: Full CSAB motion to forward applicant to Ready to Open.

Motion: Lindalyn Kakadelis

Second: Rita Haire

- Mr. Quigley stated he believes there will be questions about transportation and thinks the board should consider amending the application to provide transportation. Mr. Quigley stated that data shows low-income students would be attracted to trade school models, but they are also most likely to need transportation.

- Ms. Reeves cautioned the board to make sure the state requirements for graduation are met. Ms. Reeves and Mr. Walker spoke about the requirements the board will need to meet prior to opening including a viable transportation plan.
- Mr. Quigley stated the school is in a much better position to do this type of work given the assets and land already acquired.
- Ms. Turner stated she has concerns with vagueness in the educational plan. Ms. Turner stated she doesn't want to have another school that graduates students that have not met state requirements. Ms. Turner stated she is not overly comfortable with the educational plan.

Vote: Lindalyn Kakadelis, Lynn Kroeger, Heather Vuncannon, Steven Walker, Alex Quigley, Sherry Reeves, Bruce Friend, Rita Haire, Joel Ford (9)
Opposed: Jeannette Butterworth and Cheryl Turner (2)

Passed **Failed**

AMENDMENTS

- Ms. Ashley Baquero, OCS Consultant, reviewed recent amendment requests received by OCS. She explained Wake Preparatory School is requesting a one-year delay.

Alamance Community School

- Ms. Baquero stated the school, scheduled to open in Alamance County next fall, seeks to amend its mission statement by removing reference to grade levels.

Motion: Recommend SBE approval of this amendment.

Motion: Bruce Friend

Second: Sherry Reeves

Vote: Unanimous

Passed **Failed**

Charlotte Lab School

- Ms. Baquero stated the school seeks to expand its current K-8 program to high school with the intention to serve K-12 by 2023, expanding one grade level per year.
- Ms. Baquero spoke about the reasons outlined for this expansion request. She spoke about the financial noncompliance history and the positive trends since the 2018 audit finding. She explained the funding received through grants through the U.S. Department of Education and NewSchools Venture Fund.

- Mr. Quigley stated he is aware of the level of scrutiny and due diligence a school would undergo to receive those grants, so he feels confident the school is stable. The CSAB also confirmed the school recently received a seven-year renewal recommendation from the board. Mr. Quigley stated it seems reasonable to allow the school to expand to high school with the positive trend lines.

Motion: Recommend SBE approval of this amendment.

Motion: Lynn Kroeger

Second: Lindalyn Kakadelis

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION/OCS UPDATES

- Mr. Dave Machado, OCS Director, reviewed the January SBE meeting as it pertains to charter school items.
- Mr. Jay Whalen, CSP Grant Director, gave an update on the CSP grant process and current timeline for the second round of subgrant applications.
- Ms. Kakadelis stated she will be resigning from CSAB due to taking another role in the charter school sector. She spoke about the pleasure she has had working with this board. Mr. Quigley thanked her for her work advocating for charter schools across the state.

LOW ENROLLMENT SCHOOL UPDATES

Tillery Charter Academy

- Board Chair, Ms. Fisher, spoke about current enrollment and application numbers. She spoke about budgetary and staffing revisions. The board spoke about the current financial situation of the school. The board spoke about the school business monthly allotment schedule.
- Mr. Quigley asked if enrollment is holding steady. The board stated yes.
- Mr. Maimone asked when open enrollment will close. Ms. Fisher stated end of the month, but they may extend the enrollment period. She stated they have received 24 applications so far.
- Mr. Quigley asked for the maximum enrollment projection. Mr. Rodriguez stated 144, but they are budgeting based on 100 students.

- The board confirmed the school has met all financial obligations to third parties.
- The school principal spoke about student performance and marketing of results to potential families.
- Mr. Quigley stated he is in favor of not bringing them back until the summer so they can focus on the growth.
- Mr. Quigley asked for the best guess on the number one reason the school didn't reach the enrollment numbers. Ms. Fisher stated she believes it's the fact it is something new in a small community.
- Ms. Reeves asked what they are doing differently to recruit students. Ms. Fisher stated they realized they need to go out to community events more often and not expect families to come to them.
- Mr. Quigley stated the low enrollment schools should come back in May with a really detailed enrollment report and detailed budget to give the CSAB confidence the schools will hit the 80 minimum enrollment.
- Mr. Machado confirmed the school will receive approximately 37k from the NC ACCESS grant.

B.L.U.E. G.R.E.E.N. Academy

- Mr. Quigley asked for current enrollment. He thought there were 50, so it appears the school lost students. School representatives stated ten students left for various reasons. Mr. Quigley confirmed they are down to four staff members.
- Ms. Brake stated they've had twenty interest forms and enrollment opens tomorrow.
- Mr. Quigley confirmed that the school still anticipates a budget surplus. Ms. Brake stated yes.
- Mr. Quigley stated the CSAB definitely needs to know if the school loses more students. Mr. Quigley stated that with 40 students, the school may need to consider having one of the four staff members doing enrollment full-time.

- Ms. Reeves asked for benchmark data. Ms. Brake stated they have done benchmarks. A staff member reviewed the benchmark data. She spoke about intervention plans and tutoring services.
- Dr. Haire asked about board member resignation. Ms. Brake stated a member resigned because she couldn't commit to the duties. Ms. Brake stated they have not met since October but have a meeting planned.
- Mr. Quigley stated the CSAB will see the school again in May and asked the school to keep OCS informed if it loses any more students.

Monroe Charter Academy

- The Board Chair confirmed they have 83 students enrolled and are currently in open enrollment. Dr. Ford, Principal, stated they are currently K-3 and reviewed the third-grade benchmark data. She stated one student scored a level three, one student scored a level two, and all others level one on the BOG.
- The board and Dr. Ford spoke about recruitment efforts in the area.
- Mr. Quigley asked what the board believes caused the low enrollment. Dr. Ford stated that the one-year delay caused some potential families to lose faith in the school. She stated that parents also received phone calls from the district that dissuaded families from coming to the school.

NC CYBER ACADEMY

- Mr. Nathan Currie, Superintendent, and Ms. Domina Blount, Director of Academics, spoke about current benchmark data. Mr. Quigley asked how students do benchmark testing. Ms. Blount stated at home via Case21.
- Mr. Walker asked for clarity on the submitted budget. Mr. Currie stated there is a projected positive fund balance and a cash flow of approximately \$2 million. Ms. Kroeger asked her what date this submitted budget is through. Mr. Currie stated November 2019. Mr. Quigley stated they will probably want to improve that fund balance given the number of students. Mr. Maimone asked if the school has drawn down federal funds. Mr. Currie stated yes, they have not drawn federal funds yet.
- Mr. Mullins was introduced as the new Director of Operations; he also serves as the Director of Human Resources. Mr. Quigley asked what drew Mr. Mullins to NCCA. Mr. Mullins stated he could retire from education but was interested in human resources and has worked

with Mr. Currie previously. Mr. Quigley asked what he believes NCCA is doing well and what NCCA needs to work on. Mr. Mullins stated there is a lot of room for teachers to be mediocre and there needs to be more oversight and accountability. Mr. Friend asked about staff members resigning since last month. Mr. Mullins stated some of that was expected due to poor performance.

- Mr. Mullins stated current enrollment is 2255 as of last Friday. Ms. Reeves asked how the school knows which schools will reenroll next year. Ms. Blount stated that after they finish enrolling new students for second semester, they will do the intent to return in March.
- Mr. Currie stated a new board member was added last month and is now up to eleven members.

ADJOURNMENT

- Mr. Quigley stated there is a charter school fair taking place January 25th at the Raleigh Convention Center.
- **Ms. Kakadelis made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:56pm. Meeting adjourned via acclamation.**