

**Minutes of the
North Carolina Charter School Advisory Board
Education Building
301 N. Wilmington Street
Raleigh, NC 27601-2825
October 13, 2014**

Attendance/NCCSAB	Alan Hawkes Joseph Maimone Phyllis Gibbs Helen Nance Sherry Reeves Mike McLaughlin (absent)	Alex Quigley (absent) Eric Sanchez (absent) Tammi Sutton Becky Taylor Cheryl Turner (via phone) Steven Walker
Attendance/SBE/DPI	<i>Office of Charter Schools</i> Lisa Swinson, Consultant Deanna Townsend-Smith, Consultant Robin Kendall, Consultant Shannon Sellers, Consultant Darrell Johnson, Consultant	<i>SBE Attorney</i> Katie Cornetto <i>SBE</i> Martez Hill <i>Attorney General's Office</i> Laura Crumpler

SUBCOMITTEE MEETINGS

The Policy and Performance Subcommittees met from 10:00 am to 11:30 am.

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order at 11:35 am by Chair Helen Nance. She led the CSAB in the Pledge of Allegiance and then read the Ethics statement. **Mr. Maimone made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Ms. Nance seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

APPLICATION UPDATE

Dr. Deanna Townsend-Smith provided an application update. She informed the CSAB that there were forty applications submitted. However, one of the applicants did not submit payment and therefore would be deemed incomplete.

- OCS will begin the initial screening process and external evaluators will be contacted.
- There were 10 applicants from Charlotte-Mecklenburg and 7 from Wake County. Additionally, there were two applicants from counties, Davidson and Elizabeth City that currently have no charter schools located in their LEA. The other counties that were represented ranged between 1 and 4 applications.

- There were 14 applicants that were affiliated with CMO/EMO groups and 3 conversion schools. 29 applications were prepared with the assistance of a third party.
- Mr. Walker asked if there would be information shared about who the external evaluators are. Mr. Hawkes asked who the outside evaluators were. Dr. Townsend-Smith replied that the evaluators would be from within DPI and former administrators.
- Mr. Hawkes asked for clarification on the subcommittees that will be looking at the applications. Ms. Townsend-Smith replied that the existing subcommittees would be working on the applications.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Policy Subcommittee:

- Mr. Walker stated that the ten year renewal was based upon Senate Bill 793. He explained that a statement was added to the bottom of the document to explain how a school that was not in compliance with state laws related to accountability could not receive a waiver for SBE Policy TCS-U-10. **Mr. Maimone made a motion to accept the Charter Renewal Framework. Mr. Walker seconded.** Ms. Nance asked for clarification of “significant compliance”. Mr. Walker replied that the CSAB members were experts in different areas and should be able to grant 10 year renewals. Ms. Nance replied that she had an issue with the wording of “significance”. Mr. Maimone stated that he had an issue with a school receiving a 3 year renewal only to be eligible for 3 year once. **The motion carried 6-3 with Ms. Nance, Ms. Taylor and Ms. Sutton dissenting.**
- Mr. Walker explained the recommendations from the subcommittee related to the EMO replication policy. Mr. Maimone suggested that an experienced EMO group or board do their own training and asked if the training had to be done through DPI. Ms. Turner stated that there needed to be a certain level of information that had to be consistent. Ms. Nance concurred. Dr. Townsend-Smith replied that SBE would like consistency so that the same information is conveyed to the schools. Ms. Crumpler commented that in court schools often state that “no one told us this” and she was a proponent of the training being done by OCS. Mr. Maimone asked what it meant to be “successful” and if it needed to be defined. Mr. Walker suggested that it not be defined since data would be coming from varying locations. Mr. Walker made a motion to accept the amendments which would include taking out A, B, C and Part III. Ms. Nance stated that she would like to see the changes in writing before voting. **Ms. Nance made a motion to table the decision until after the document with all of the corrections was created. Ms. Taylor seconded.** Mr. Hawkes asked for clarification on why it is being tabled. Ms. Nance replied that she would be more comfortable seeing the changes in writing. Mr. Maimone asked if this would affect schools in the current round. Dr. Townsend-Smith responded that it would not affect this year’s round. **The motion carried 4-2 with Mr. Walker and Mr. Hawkes dissenting. Ms. Gibbs abstained.**
- Mr. Walker commented that boards should not have a say in whether their school should be assumed or not. Ms. Crumpler stated that if a person has a charter they have a property right and you must have the right to appeal. Charter schools must still have the right to appeal and could drag the process out for an unknown amount of time. Dr. Townsend-Smith reminded the CSAB that SBE could still state that the charter will be revoked. Mr. Maimone read information from the CSAB recommended nonrenewal process. Ms. Gibbs asked if the state could issue a statement to the school that states that the school belongs to the state of NC. **Mr. Walker made**

a motion to recommend to the SBE that a school should not be able to decide whether it will be assumed. The motion passed unanimously.

Performance Subcommittee:

- Mr. Maimone stated that the primary goal was to have consistency and uniformity and to streamline the process so that the bulk of the work was done by the outside evaluators. Education, Finance and Governance has to have a pass in order for it to be forwarded to the full CSAB. In order for those areas to pass, a minimum of 50% of the boxes have to be checked. Ms. Nance asked for clarification on the role of the external evaluators. Mr. Maimone restated information from the Application Process. He then made the following motions from the subcommittee. Once clarification responses have been submitted by the applicant, the external evaluators will then determine if the criteria has been met and able to receive a pass rating. **Mr. Walker made a motion to approve the application process. Ms. Reeves seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**
- Mr. Hawkes asked if there would be any way for the applicants to interject information during the process. Mr. Maimone replied that there needed to be some order to it and there was not currently a method for that.

CHARTER ASSUMPTION

Mr. Philip Price stated that he did receive feedback from CSAB. The draft of the Charter Assumption Proposal states that if you are inadequate academically then the policy kicks in if the charter school would like to be assumed. If there is financial noncompliance, the policy would not apply. There was feedback from CSAB that stated that this might be too restrictive. Mr. Price will present the following recommendations to SBE:

- Change the wording to include the six items listed in the statutes, rather than just academics.
- Even if the school is eligible to be assumed and doesn't want to, the SBE can direct that they be assumed.
- The school had to have open warning letters instead of warning letters for the last 3 years.
- Student academics should be compared to local LEA.
- Academics should be based on 2 of 3 years instead of 3 years of growth

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Walker asked Dr. Townsend-Smith what kind of action CSAB needed to take on House Bill 884, dropout prevention pilot, because section 8.5 states that SBE and Advisory Board will jointly make a report by December 15, 2014. Dr. Townsend-Smith replied that the information had already been sent out to schools and the SBE had already taken action. OCS will provide a report to OCS and SBE.

Mr. Walker asked who the information that was collected from CMO and EMO was shared with. Dr. Townsend-Smith replied that the information was requested from the boards.

Mr. Walker asked who would be placed on the virtual pilot programs applications review committee. Dr. Townsend-Smith replied that external evaluators, DPI staff and NCVPS staff would be on that subcommittee. Mr. Hawkes inquired about the recommendation from the CSAB to SBE regarding NC Connection.

Mr. Walker stated that the SBE was presented with a Fast Track process that would be applicable for this group of applicants in which they would forgo a planning year. He asked why the CSAB did not look at it. Dr. Townsend-Smith replied that the SBE made that decision. Mr. Hill clarified that it did not eliminate the planning year but expedited it.

Ms. Nance made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Walker seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.