

**Minutes of the
North Carolina Charter School Advisory Board
Education Building
301 N. Wilmington Street
Raleigh, NC 27601-2825
November 25, 2013**

Attendance/NCCSAB	Alan Hawkes Joseph Maimone Baker Mitchell Helen Nance Paul Norcross	Alex Quigley Eric Sanchez (absent) Tammi Sutton (absent) Becky Taylor Cheryl Turner Steven Walker
Attendance/SBE/DPI	<i>Office of Charter Schools</i> Joel Medley, Director Thomas Miller, Consultant Lisa Swinson, Consultant Deanna Smith, Consultant Robin Kendall, NACSA Fellow Cande Honeycutt, Consultant	<i>SBE</i> Martez Hill Katie Cornetto <i>Attorney General's Office</i> Laura Crumpler

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

After extending a welcome to all participants, Chair Helen Nance called the November 25 session of the Charter Advisory Board meeting to order. Ms. Nance turned the meeting over to Ms. Lisa Swinson. Ms. Swinson stated that the purpose of today's meeting was to establish which schools would be coming forward in December to present to the CSAB.

Mr. Alex Quigley stated that he would be abstaining from any vote concerning Carter Community.

Mr. Steven Walker made a motion that any school that does not come in front of the board would receive a 10 year renewal. Mr. Alan Hawkes seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF 2014 RENEWAL CHARTER SCHOOLS

Costal Academy for Technology and Science (CATS)

- They have had areas of noncompliance including Title II, Exceptional Children's and Finance. They have had inadequate record keeping and have not been able to maintain a minimum of 65 students.
- **Mr. Maimone made a motion to invite CATS to interview with CSAB. Ms. Turner second.** Mr. Hawkes noted that this was a school that the Council had a lot of issues with. This is a school that has been in noncompliance for a long time. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Carter Community

- Carter currently has no noncompliance issues. Ms. Swinson read the renewal site visit report. Mr. Hawke asked about alignment of the schools mission and Ms. Swinson said that each group that was interviewed discussed a different mission for the school.
- Mr. Maimone asked if an audit had been turned in. Mr. Paul Norcross inquired about the fund balance. Ms. Alexis Schauss replied that they had a deficit but they still had an unrestricted fund balance. She was assuming that they made capital outlays but their fund balance is currently 18%.
- **Mr. Walker made a motion to invite Carter to interview with CSAB. Mr. Hawkes seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

Carolina International

- A summary of the school was read by Ms. Swinson. She said that the school is compliant in all areas. The school was non-compliant in teacher licensure, and criminal records check.
- **Mr. Maimone made a motion not to invite Carolina International to interview with CSAB and grant them a ten year renewal. Mr. Walker seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

Community School of Davidson

- Ms. Swinson mentioned that CSD was a school recommended by the OCS to receive a ten year charter and not be invited to an interview.
- **Mr. Quigley made a motion not to invite Community School of Davidson to interview with CSAB and grant them a ten year renewal. Mr. Maimone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

Crossnore Academy

- Ms. Swinson stated that Crossnore is currently are compliant. They were non-complainant in licensure, exceptional children, and insurance. Ms. Nance asked how long had they been compliant. Ms. Swinson responded that the school has been compliance since they have a new principal two years ago.
- Mr. Quigley suggested that they be brought in for an interview. Mr. Norcross replied that they do incredible things.
- Dr. Joel Medley added that the average time a student is there is 18 months because it is a residential school in which students are placed.
- **Mr. Maimone made a motion not to invite Crossnore Academy to interview with CSAB and grant them a ten year renewal. Ms. Turner seconded. The motion passed 7-2 with Mr. Quigley and Ms. Taylor dissenting.**

Dillard Academy

- Ms. Swinson shared that Dillard has a strong board and strong teaching staff. The school has a lot of things going on in the community. Their composite score is usually below 60% and they usually have expected growth. Last time they were in front of the board they received a 3 year renewal.
- Mr. Quigley made a motion to invite Dillard to interview with CSAB. Ms. Taylor seconded. The motion failed 5-3 with Mr. Hawkes, Mr. Maimone, Mr. Norcross, Ms. Turner and Mr. Mitchell dissenting.

- Mr. Maimone stated that Dillard Academy works with a high minority population. The Board needed to focus on getting growth out of students. Ms. Turner replied that their only issue is academics and if they don't reach growth they could be back in 2 years.
- Mr. Hawkes made a motion to grant Dillard a five year renewal. Mr. Norcross seconded. Mr. Maimone stated that it is important for the Board to be consistent. The motion should be for an interview or granting a ten year renewal. Mr. Norcross retracted his second.
- Ms. Turner stated that she was concerned with the message of "if you work with hard kids then were going to make it hard to keep you open". She was more concerned about their rate of student retention.
- Mr. Maimone made a motion to not invite Dillard Academy to interview with CSAB and grant them a ten year renewal. Ms. Norcross seconded. The motion carried 4-3 with Mr. Walker, Ms. Turner and Ms. Taylor dissenting.

Guilford Preparatory

- Ms. Schauss stated that they had not receive the 2013 financial statements. There was a 30% decrease in ADM.
- **Mr. Norcross made a motion to invite Guilford Preparatory to interview with CSAB. Mr. Walker seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

Kestrel Heights

- Ms. Swinson stated that the school is currently compliant. They were not compliant in Title II, EC, and Accountability. Their last renewal was for three years and they were supposed to have no noncompliant issues for three years. The school did not comply with this.
- Ms. Turner made a motion to invite Kestrel Heights to interview with CSAB. Mr. Quigley seconded. The motion passed 7-3 with Mr. Maimone, Mr. Norcross and Mr. Mitchell dissenting.

PACE

- Ms. Schauss noted that she had some concerns because they have had a decline in their financial situation and a deficit of \$ 245,000. During the ADM audit, out of 169 students, only 89 were present.
- Mr. Maimone made a motion to invite PACE in for an interview. Mr. Walker seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Research Triangle

- Ms. Swinson stated that Research Triangle was currently compliant in all areas. They were not compliant in accountability. Ms. Schauss noted that their ADM has gone from 690 in 2011 to 645 in 2013 which is a 9% decrease. If the operator EMO decided to leave, then the school might fail.
- Mr. Quigley made a motion note to invite Research Triangle in for an interview and grant them a ten year renewal. Mr. Maimone seconded. The motion failed 6-2 with Mr. Hawkes, Ms. Nance, Mr. Quigley dissenting.

Sugar Creek

- Ms. Swinson stated that Sugar Creek is one of the schools that OCS suggested to receive a 10 year renewal because of their academics and their areas of compliance had been clean over the past five years.
- Mr. Norcross made a motion to not invite Sugar Creek for an interview with CSAB and to grant them a 10 year renewal. Mr. Walker seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Torchlight

– throughout renewal, no non compliance issues. They currently only have 4 board members.

SW – have them come in for an interview. I would like to hear more about board. I would like to hear more about the withdrawal rate. I would like to have them come into an interview.

PN – 2nd motion

AH JM – yes HN – yes PN – yes AQ – yes BT – yes CT – yes SW – yes BM – yes
Unanimously passed, torchlight will come into an interview.

JM – Roberts Rules – says that the chair could vote.

CT -

JM – resend

To bring it back for a vote

JM – yes HN yes PN yes AQ – BT – yes CT – yes SW – yes BM – yes

Dillard

SW – move to come in

BT – 2nd

AH – JM 0 no HN – yes PN – AQ – yes BT - yes CT – no SW – yes BM – no
Motion passed 4 to 3, Dillard will come in for an interview.

Meeting Date

We have 8 renewals. There is one school that needs to come in front of you for board and legal wants to share information.

CT – sounds at least like 1 day and a ½

BM – Did we decide on format. Total of 30 minutes (5 minutes OCS, 5 minutes, 20 interview)

HN - Is there much discussion? It varies with each school. I don't want to be unfair to any school, but I want to use my best judgement.

JM – if the decision is to go a day and a half. We could do 4 interviews per day. If we did do a full day we could start at 8:30. CT we could just leave if we finish early.

JM – start on 10AM on Monday and precede to Tuesday.

CT – 2nd

Motion passed unanimously.

December 9th at 10 OClock we will start.