

**Minutes of the
North Carolina Charter School Advisory Board
Education Building
301 N. Wilmington Street
Raleigh, NC 27601-2825
April 7, 2014**

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

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

After extending a welcome to all participants, Chair Helen Nance called the April 7, 2014 session of the Charter Advisory Board meeting to order. Ms. Nance led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance and student cadets from Paul R. Brown Leadership Academy posted colors. Immediately following she read the Ethics Statement. Ms. Tammi Sutton and Mr. Alex Quigley recused themselves from any discussion related to KIPP Durham. Mr. Maimone recused himself from discussions related to the Excelsior and Shining Rock applications.

Mr. Joe Maimone and Mr. Steven Walker acknowledged amendments that were emailed to Ms. Lisa Swinson. Mr. Maimone made a motion to accept the March minutes with the aforementioned amendments. Mr. Steven Walker seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

STUDENT FIRST UPDATE

Ms. Nance informed the Board that Student First would not be making a presentation because they would be relinquishing their charter on April 15, 2014.

PEFORMANCE FRAMEWORK

Ms. Robin Kendall presented information related to the development and implementation of a Performance Framework for NC charter schools.

- Mr. Eric Guckian stated that he and the governor believed in the highest quality charter schools for all children. He thanked the CSAB for the hard work that they were doing. He stated that NC being identified as average, based on CREDO data, was not good enough. High standards had to start with academic excellence for all students.
- Mr. Hawkes asked where the idea of the Performance Framework was coming from. Ms. Kendall stated the SBE had put it in their goals for OCS. Mr. McLaughlin added that the SBE's Strategic Plan was listed on their website. Mr. Maimone asked why the Compliance Framework was not being used because it was complete and wondered why the board would reinvent the wheel. Mr. Hawkes asked if the district schools would have to have a Performance Framework. Mr. Guckian stated that this instrument was specific for charters. There was a lot of accountable in LEAs.
- Ms. Kendall concluded her presentation by asking the Board to read and review the financial section of the Performance Framework by April 25, 2015 and provide feedback to herself, Mr. Alex Quigley or Ms. Helen Nance.

EVALUATION TEAM REPORTS

- Mr. Maimone made a motion to accept Youngsville Academy for an interview. Mr. Walker seconded. The motion carried 6-3 with Ms. Taylor, Ms. Sutton and Ms. Turner dissenting.
- Ms. Nance made a motion not to forward Unity Charter for an interview. Ms. Taylor seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Sanchez made a motion not to forward Southpoint Academy for an interview. Ms. Taylor seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Quigley abstained.
- Mr. Hawkes stated that the Queen's Grant application was connected with Queen's Grant Community School and it was a NHA School. Queen's Grant High School would like to run autonomous. Ms. Laura Crumpler stated that the school would have to start from scratch and students would not get automatic admission. Dr. Miller clarified that the applicants did not state that they would funnel students from their current school. They applied as a replication of their current high school model. Ms. Nance asked if the application needed to be tabled in an effort to analyze the law. Ms. Crumpler stated if the school understood that those students may or may not be automatically enrolled in the new school then there wasn't a problem. **Mr. Sanchez made a motion to forward Queen's Grant High School for an interview. Ms. Sutton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**
- Mr. Quigley made a motion not to forward Wilson Community School for Technology for an interview. Ms. Turner seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- Mr. Quigley made a motion not to forward Wisdom Academy for an interview. Mr. Sanchez seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Quigley stated that Shining Rock was tabled last month. He made a motion to forward Shining Rock for an interview. Mr. Walker seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Maimone abstained.

APPLICATION INTERVIEWS

Ms. Nance read the application interview protocol in which she reminded everyone that applicants would be asked questions for thirty minutes and then a fifteen minute discussion would follow, in which CSAB would make a recommendation to the SBE.

- Excelsior Classical Academy
 - Ms. Nance asked how Team CFA would be a resource to the school. Ms. Joan Lane replied that Team CFA was an organization that provided a no fee based service in 10 different areas. The founders have dedicated their estate to helping families and children. The school would receive \$100,000 to be forgiven over the years.
 - Ms. Nance asked if the board would have no less than seven members on the board. Ms. Lane replied that she, the CFA member, would roll off. The teacher and parent representative would be nonvoting. The governance committee would train two board members. CFA was trying to find someone who would be local to the board. By 2015, two more NC board members who have been with Team CFA would have been trained. There were currently twelve CFA schools and in August there would be fourteen. They were located in Arizona, North Carolina, and Indiana.
 - Ms. Nance asked how EC student needs would be addressed. The applicants responded that the needs of all students would be addressed. Inclusion was in the model and the IEP would be followed. NWEA-MAP testing would occur three times per year and the school would have a certified EC teacher who would be well versed in EC law.
 - Mr. McLaughlin stated that the school was not planning to have a school lunch program. The applicants replied that there was a plan in the application for a school lunch program but they would not be doing the Federal Lunch program. There was a plan for \$22,000. The school went to Costco to price out lunches for \$2.00 per child.
 - Mr. Quigley inquired about the plans to insure that the school was diverse. The applicants responded that if the school targets the people that live in the area of the proposed location, there would be a diverse population. The board discussed having a diverse population of one-third, black, Caucasian, and Hispanic. Mr. Quigley replied that no one has been able to do that in Durham. The applicants explained that the proposed curriculum was the answer to closing the achievement gap.
 - Ms. Nance stated that a lot of schools get in trouble with finances. She asked how the money was used wisely. The applicants stated that the budget would be

constantly monitored. The goal was to keep the expenditures at ninety percent of the income.

- **CSAB Discussion:** Ms. Nance stated that she was impressed with the person who would be leading the school. The application was well written and explained things very clearly. There was a variety of expertise on the Board. Mr. Walker added that the Board was able to answer the questions well. Ms. Turner appreciated the commitment to diversity and the board was going to have to work at it. **Ms. Nance made a motion to recommend Excelsior Classical Academy for the initial approval to begin the Ready to open process. Mr. Walker seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

- KIPP Durham College Preparatory

- Ms. Nance stated that the application was a replication of KIPP Gaston. Mr. Sanchez recused himself. Three board members sent in letters to explain their absence.
- Ms. Nance stated that ninety students in the first year was a good start up. The applicants replied that KIPP Durham wanted to serve the eastern part of Durham. The leader and the staff would go door-to-door to recruit families. KIPP has wait lists in the current school.
- Ms. Nance stated there was concern that one member was from Durham and the board was planning to serve three schools. The applicants explained that the board has agreed to expand to 12 members. As the location has been finalized, the board would like to incorporate people from Durham. The Board was presently recruiting board members.
- Ms. Nance noted that the finance plan had a short fall the first year. The applicants replied that the board anticipated a break even the first year. The enrollment factor was critical. The board recently was granted \$3.7 million from a donor from Colorado. Five hundred thousand dollars would be released in the first school year.
- Mr. Quigley asked about the accomplishments of Gaston. Applicants explained that one hundred percent of students had been accepted to college. The last thirteen years students had outperformed their counterparts in the local LEA in reading, math and ACT scores.
- Mr. Walker asked for an explanation for why the school would start at grade five. The applicants stated that building slowly allowed the school's culture to be created. KIPP Gaston started the same way.
- Ms. Taylor stated that she was concerned about the finances and asked for additional information about the grant. The applicants responded that the grant was for the growth of the school and it came with the understanding that there would be overhead expenses that needed to be taken care of. Most of the grant would be applied to management and professional training. The process of obtaining the grant was rigorous. In addition to the grant, the Board had been granted a two hundred thousand dollar line of credit with a low interest rate. Mr. Quigley replied that the process of the charter school growth fund was rigorous.

- Ms. Turner asked if the Board was considering itself a CMO. The applicants replied that that the Board was a regional CMO and they would not be receiving any compensation.
- **CSAB Discussion:** Mr. Quigley stated that KIPP had a proven track record. Ms. Turner stated that CSAB needed to discuss how many schools the Board could effectively run. Mr. Maimone stated that he looked forward to KIPP's model being a model for a successful board that has local replications. Mr. McLaughlin stated that there should be a stipulation that four board member are from Durham. **Ms. Nance made a motion to recommend KIPP Durham for the initial approval to begin the Ready to Open process with stipulations added that at least three out of twelve board members must be from Durham County. Ms. Turner seconded.** Mr. Hawkes stated that CSAB was setting precedence with stating the number of members that must be represented from a certain area. Ms. Crumpler explained that the statutes allow CSAB to impose stipulations based on circumstances. Mr. Walker confirmed, from the applicants, that they would definantly be receiving the grant. **The motion passed unanimously.**
- Fern Leaf Community Charter School
 - The vice-chair explained that the board chair was not able to make the interview and presented a letter to explain his absence.
 - Mr. Quigley asked for clarification on the mastery checklist. Applicants replied that the mastery checklist was a working document that each child would have. Teachers would use it as a checklist to note what skills the student had mastered. Students would be assessed using a variety of measures such as NWEA-MAP testing.
 - Mr. Quigley asked for the evidence of need for the school. The applicants explained that Henderson County does well for their students. There was a need for students who were not that successful in large settings. The school was created to recognize those individuals. There was one charter school about fifteen miles from the proposed location. There was a need for parents to have choices.
 - Mr. Quigley asked about a rationale for not offering benefits. The applicants explained that they took the base salary and added the amount that LEAs were asked to pay for insurance and state retirement. This was done because not all employees need the same benefits. There was no financial impact either way.
 - Mr. Quigley asked for clarification on the lottery process because the application stated that priority would be given to accepted students. The applicants replied that it should have stated that it would be for students who were enrolled the previous year. Mr. Quigley asked about the process of amending information in the application. Dr. Miller replied that the amendments would be submitted to OCS.
 - Ms. Nance noted that the break even budget was six students and there were many schools in the area. With that in mind, it may be difficult to get students at the school. She asked about the school's contingency plan. The applicants replied that the budget had contingency money. The contingency was to reduce expenditures. Teaching staff would have to be reduced. Ms. Taylor asked what expenses would be reduced. Applicants replied that the school was looking for

modular units. Ms. Taylor stated that furniture line item was low. The applicants replied that the creativity and drive of the board was going to get the furniture and resources.

- Mr. Quigley asked if the Board surveyed families. The applicants responded that an online survey was completed with eighty families and the board lives in the community and had been communicating with various people. Mountain Community has wait lists in K-2.

CSAB Discussion: Ms. Turner stated that she had concerns about budget. Mr. Walker stated that the area that they want to start the school was a fast growing area and even if they got every student that they want they were going to have a tight budget. Mr. Hawkes stated that there was a demand in the area and there would not be an issue in enrollment. Mr. Sanchez stated that it was not easy to get a loan as a first year charter. Ms. Nance commented that the Board does not have a good handle on how much it is going to cost to run a school. The educational component was well done. **Ms. Nance made a motion not to recommend Fern Leaf Charter School for the initial approval to begin the Ready to open process. Ms. Taylor seconded.** Mr. Walker stated that the subcommittee voted unanimously to forward the application. Mr. Maimone concurred. Mr. Hawkes stated that the area needs the school. Ms. Taylor stated that the application was well written and the area needs the school but the budget showed that they are not ready right now. Ms. Turner stated that the evaluation team did have concerns with the application. Ms. Turner stated that they stated they were going to provide lunch and they only have two thousand dollars budgeted. **The motion carried 6-3** with Mr. Hawkes, Mr. Walker and Mr. Maimone dissenting.

- Piedmont Classical:

- Mr. Quigley asked about the need for a high school in Guilford County. The applicants replied that they had 300 signatures from Facebook and petitions. There were several K-8 charter schools that would feed into the school.
- Mr. Quigley stated that there was no budget for ELL and students with special needs and would like an explanation for how they were going to serve at-risk students. The applicants replied that there were several types of special needs. There would be 1 ½ special education teachers and they expect approximately 10% because Cornerstone has around 10% and Greensboro Academy had less than that. By the time students reached high school, they are not in the same situation as the lower ELL program. Every student had study hall and these needs would be met at that time.
- Mr. Quigley inquired about the plans to diversify the school. The applicants responded that they plan to reach every child by going out to market all places of worship in Guilford County to show the opportunity that this education would offer them. Mailings were a big part of the marketing strategy. Although it was not a requirement, the board would like for students to be ready for Algebra I in 9th grade.
- Ms. Nance noted that the budget was based on one hundred sixty students. She added that it costs more to operate a high school versus a K-8. The applicants

replied that there were no loans set up and they were confident to come up with the funds. Banks and loan companies had been contacted and they have indicated that they would be willing to discuss loans with the Board.

Mr. Quigley asked about the conflict of interest of a board member's daughter, Mary Catherine Sower, being the interim principal. The applicants replied that her primary role would be the consultant to the Board. The Board did not feel like that was a conflict of interest. The Board wanted her name to be affiliated with the school because people knew her. The consultant would be working with the school for two years and be paid. She would report to the Board with her mother's abstention and she would not have the power to overrule the principal. Her experience was going to be invaluable for a successful school because she started a successful charter school. Mr. Quigley asked if she was currently on the board there. She left that school to come and help this board. Ms. Crumpler stated that there were plenty of conflicts of interest. This person would be paid no more than \$84,000 contingent upon opening. Ms. Nance asked Ms. Nance if she would be willing to step off the board while her daughter was employed and being paid. At Cornerstone, she was the go to person who was more familiar with NC Charter School Law. She works for the Public Charter School Association.

- Mr. Quigley stated that he would be more inclined to believe that the school was trying to create a diverse population if there was more money in transportation, EC, and lunch.
- Mr. Hawkes stated that he had received phone calls from Imagine Schools and Norman George was told that Ms. Nance caused havoc in the classroom at the school. She left without leaving notice and Imagine Schools left the State and no longer wanted to be involved with schools in NC because of her behavior. He would be in favor of voting for the school to open if the Board Chair were not affiliated with the school. Ms. Crumpler stated that this could be a stipulation. Mr. Quigley stated that his main issue was solidifying a school for students with wealthier needs. It sounds like a good model and the application was well written. Ms. Turner stated that there was a conflict of interest with her daughter and Ms. Nance did not need to be on the board while her daughter was a paid employee.
- **CSAB Discussion:** Ms. Nance made a motion to recommend Piedmont Classical High School for initial approval for the Ready to open process with the stipulation that any member of board who has an immediate family member employed, child or spouse, not be on the board. Mr. Hawkes stated that he would not be able to vote. Mr. Walker stated that the board must have a conflict of interest policy. Ms. Turner seconded. Ms. Nance retracted her motion. **Mr. Hawkes made a motion to defer a decision until an investigation could be completed by OCS as to whether the allegations were true. Mr. Walker seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Walker made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Maimone seconded. The meeting adjourned.

**Minutes of the
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April 8, 2014**

Attendance/NCCSAB	Alan Hawkes Joseph Maimone Baker Mitchell (absent) Helen Nance Paul Norcross Mike McLaughlin	Alex Quigley Eric Sanchez Tammi Sutton Becky Taylor Cheryl Turner Steven Walker
Attendance/SBE/DPI	<i>Office of Charter Schools</i> Joel Medley, Director (absent) Thomas Miller, Consultant Lisa Swinson, Consultant Deanna Smith, Consultant Robin Kendall, NACSA Fellow Cande Honeycutt, Consultant Shannon Sellers, Consultant Kebbler Williams, Consultant	<i>SBE</i> Martez Hill <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 April 8, 2014 session of the Charter Advisory Board meeting to order. Ms. Nance led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance and immediately following she read the Ethics Statement.

APPLICATION INTERVIEWS

Ms. Nance read the application interview protocol in which she reminded everyone that applicants would be asked questions for thirty minutes and then a fifteen minute discussion would follow, in which CSAB would make a recommendation to the SBE.

VERITAS Community School

- Mr. Sanchez asked for an overview of the Peaceful People Curriculum. The applicants responded that the goal was to create peace within and without through reading stories and practicing. It was a curriculum with lesson plans.
- Mr. Sanchez asked for a quick overview of the target population. The applicants answered that they were targeting 5 neighborhoods in east Charlotte where there was a thirty-seven point achievement gap. The board's goal was to create an integrated school with different cultures coming together. The three pillars are: targeted academics, health and wellness program and peaceful classroom.

- Ms. Taylor asked for clarification on assessments. MAP testing and common assessments at grade levels based on the standards would be used to assess students. The first year there would be a full time EC teacher for push-in working with the regular education teacher. In addition, a literacy interventionist would be dual-certified with AIG. It was not the board's intention that every kindergarten student would be tested with the WISC.
- Mr. Sanchez asked how many members would be rolling off the board and working at the school. The applicants replied that 3 members would be rolling off the board and working at the school. They deliberately established a "founding" board that was small. The board was currently looking for new board members.
- Mr. Sanchez asked about the relationship of the director versus the principal. The applicants replied that the school director would be focused on operations and the principal would be in charge of curriculum and would interact with parents. The director would manage the principal and it would be a collegial relationship. The review process of the principal had not been established.
- Mr. Sanchez inquired about the Expeditionary Learning in relation to funding. The applicants responded that they would not be a partner with Expeditionary Learning School. The company would provide a trainer for the school for four hundred dollars per day. They also plan to offer professional development the first five days of school, along with, online modules. They would be taking a marathon approach that would be most impactful to students and each Friday would be a professional development half day.
- Mr. Sanchez asked about the applicants' contingency plan. The applicants responded that the first thing was to look at staffing and then operating expenses. Mr. Quigley asked for clarification of the budget for transportation. The applicants explained that they would like to use a walking school bus for the 1 mile radius of the school which would affect twenty-five to thirty percent of the student population. Outside of the 1 mile radius the plan was to have outside agencies volunteer transportation services. The applicants assumed that CMS would lease them a building.
- CSAB Discussion: Mr. McLaughlin stated that he was impressed with the people on the board. Some of the costs issues could be related to the area. Ms. Taylor stated that she was concerned that three of the board members would be rolling off. Ms. Taylor added that the EC section needed to be tweaked. Ms. Nance stated that she liked that they were approaching education from a different angle. Ms. Turner added that they should replace the three new board members at the beginning of the planning year. **Ms. Nance made a motion to recommend VERITAS for the initial approval to begin the Ready to Open process. Mr. Quigley seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

Queen City Stem

- The Board Chair explained that there had been a newly appointed member that was not in the application that was present at the meeting. Ms. Nance made a motion to allow the new member to speak during the interview. It was seconded by Mr. Norcross. The motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Sanchez stated that the Board had two schools in operation and there were two applications in the current round. The applicants explained that 3 members of the board were the same as the boards of the two existing schools and the board was replicating those two schools. With the existing schools, the location of the Board meetings changed and they have video and teleconference at each meeting. Ms. Turner asked how many were from Mecklenburg and

Cabarrus. The applicants responded that one was from Mecklenburg and there was no one from Cabarrus.

- Mr. Sanchez asked if the schools would be sharing resources. The applicants responded that they were trying to replicate the two models that were currently in operation. There would not be any financial sharing.
- Mr. Sanchez noted that the transportation plan lacked specifics and there was no budget for lunch. The applicants responded that transportation would be offset by the parents.
- Ms. Taylor asked for clarification on the budget. She further noted that the break-even for the budget was nine students. Applicants explained that the budget was created similar to the existing schools and through the success of the other schools it was proven to work. Ms. Turner noted that the current salaries were low.
- **Mr. Maimone made a motion to recommend Queen City STEM for the initial approval to begin the Ready to Open process. Mr. Norcross seconded. The motion passed unanimously.** Mr. Hawkes noted that the group did not care about demographics but on giving parents choice. Mr. Sanchez stated that his concern was that the board may be biting off more than they can chew. Ms. Taylor added that everything sounded good and they have a proven track record. Mr. Hawkes stated that as their group grows they need to improve retirement and salaries because the employees must be compensated.

Asheville Math and Science Academy

- Mr. Maimone asked if there were any relationships between the board and the board from Queen City STEM School. The applicants responded that there was only a friendship between the two. Mr. Maimone explained that there was not a unanimous decision to move the application forward because of the number of mistakes that were found throughout the application. Applicants responded that it was a joint effort in writing the application. Mr. Maimone inquired about the two mission statements that were included in the application. The applicants responded that it was a mistake that was overlooked.
- Mr. Maimone questioned the NEED curriculum. The applicants responded that NEED is relevant to the National Energy – non-profit organization. It's a curriculum aligned to the common core.
- Mr. Maimone asked about the number of science credits students needed to graduate and the out dated testing information. The applicants responded students would be required to take elective courses that were STEM related. Applicants responded that they were aware of the new EOC's and that they would follow the State's plan. They were planning to use traditional assessments of homework, projects, and tests. MAP testing would also be used to measure progress.
- Mr. Maimone asked about transportation and lunch plan. Applicants responded that since they would be close to the City Center, public transportation could be utilized. If there was a need for transportation, there was a surplus in their budget. Mr. Walker added that the school was under budget.
- Mr. Quigley asked about contingency in the budget. The applicants responded that there was contingency in the budget and the plan would depend on parent needs. The applicants were not concerned about getting the number of students for the school.
- Ms. Sutton explained that the application had over thirty mistakes. The applicants responded that the board could be trusted to run a school, even though there were several mistakes in the application because they would commit themselves to the school.

- CSAB Discussion: Mr. Walker stated that the applicants received an interview because there was a need for the school in Asheville. He added that he still did not understand the budget and would recommend that the Board apply the following year. **Mr. Maimone made a motion not to recommend Asheville Math and Science Academy for the initial approval to begin the Ready to Open process. Ms. Sutton seconded. The motion passed 9 to 1 with Mr. Hawkes dissenting.**

Gateway Charter

- Mr. Maimone asked if the Board came together because NHA found them and created a Board. Applicants responded that it was a collaborative effort with NHA because East Greensboro needed a school of choice.
- Mr. Maimone asked board members if there were any concerns about NHA's budget. A Board member stated that the commitment from NHA to spend 10 million dollars was huge. The board approved the budget and then NHA had to work in the confines of the budget. The board planned to hold them accountable. Mr. Maimone asked what would happen if the Board decided to separate from NHA and had no money left because NHA would take the surplus. The applicants replied that the money goes with the children and the board would continue to move the school forward. The money would be carefully monitored, so that ultimately the children and the families of the community win.
- Ms. Turner asked for information about schools in NC that NHA was serving that had similar demographics to the school they were planning to govern. Applicants responded that there were two: Research Triangle and PreEminent. They explained that the testing data showed that both schools have had improvements in their test scores. Mr. Maimone asked if the board had reached out to any other NHA school board particularly regarding student performance. The applicants responded that they had not reached out to the other NHA schools.
- Mr. Quigley then stated that it seemed like they were starting with a lot of students. Applicants responded that five hundred- twenty was going to be a low estimate and they expect to have a wait list.
- Mr. Quigley asked about transportation and car pool systems. Applicants responded that they would use Ride Along. Transportation money was in the budget if needed. The hope was the school would be built where the majority of the students could walk to school.
- Mrs. Turner asked what would give the group confidence that the NHA model would work for the population that they want to serve. The applicants responded that nationally NHA had been successful.
- Mr. Maimone asked what the board was going to do to ensure that the students were meeting expectations. The applicants responded that they would meet monthly to see that the educational program was being implemented and students were achieving based on the assessments that were being used. Each month they would review the data from the assessments.
- CSAB Discussion: Mr. Hawkes commented that he did not understand why NHA was struggling at PreEminent. He also stated that in east Greensboro the results were dismal that Guilford County was scared that this school would succeed. The other two schools in Greensboro were successful and were willing to work with Gateway to make it successful. Mr. Maimone stated that this was a very committed group of board members and would hold NHA and director responsible for their actions. Mrs. Turner added that she was also impressed by the board, but was concerned about NHA. Mr. Walker commented that there was a desperate need for a school of choice in this area. **Mr. Walker made a motion to recommend Gateway**

Academy for the initial approval to begin the Ready to Open process. Mr. Maimone seconded. Mr. Quigley shared that NHA scores were about fifty percent EDS with the two schools in NC affiliated with NHA. **The motion failed 3-5 with Mr. Sanchez, Mr. Quigley, Ms. Sutton, Ms. Turner and Ms. Taylor dissenting. Mr. Hawkes and Mr. Norcross abstained.**

Cabarrus STEM

- Mr. Sanchez asked the Board about their target population for the proposed school. The applicants responded that the population would be affluent which there would be low free and reduced students. The proposed school would mirror Triangle Math and Science Academy.
- Mr. Sanchez noted that there were no board members from Cabarrus. The applicants responded that the statement was true but was not problematic because that area was located in Greater Charlotte. They were looking for new members who had familiarity with the area. The board member whose specialty on the board was real estate stated that the board's goal was to offer a better education to students. There were a number of magnet schools in the area but they all had prerequisites for enrollment.
- Mr. Sanchez asked what the Board's metric goals were. The applicants responded EOG test, staff turnover, and climate surveys. The Board expects one hundred percent of their current staff to be retained (Triad Math and Science Academy).
- Ms. Taylor noted that the Board was trying to grow too fast and was concerned that they were attempting to open two new schools in the same school year. The applicants replied that it was just a matter of identifying the right people and making sure that the necessary training was provided. They were replicating the Triangle model for Cabarrus and Triad for Queen Stem. The members of the community expressed a need for both of the proposed schools.
- Mr. McLaughlin stated that it appeared that the board did not know Cabarrus well. Enrollment projections show that half of the students would come from Mecklenburg. With his knowledge of the area, he noted that would be difficult to do.
- Ms. Taylor noted that the Board had a good track record but it did not seem as if they had fine-tuned it and they had the potential to be growing too fast. The applicants responded that they could recruit Board members prior to SBE approval.
- Mr. Walker asked if there was going to be any partnership with the race industry in Cabarrus. The applicants responded that there were no plans with such a partnership. He added that in Greensboro there were partnerships with Honda and a local university. Triangle has a partnership with Sysco.
- Mr. Quigley inquired about the resume of one of one of board members. The applicants responded that the sole purpose of Charlotte Education Foundation was to replicate the schools. The principal of Triad Math and Science was on the board.
- Ms. Sutton asked the applicants to identify the biggest areas that needed improvement in the existing schools. The applicants responded that in the Triangle school, which is mainly affluent, the Board asked them to go beyond their achievement. In Triad there were more at risk students and they are trying to improve the program. The test scores were not as high at Triad, as compared to Triangle.
- Mr. Sanchez noted that the survey showed that parents did not want their children to attend the school. The questionnaire did not prove that there was a need for the school.
- **CSAB Discussion:** Mr. Quigley explained that the board was smart and they had a good sense of what they were doing. He added that he would like to have a better sense of what had worked

well at Triad. Mr. Sanchez was concerned about the Board biting off more than they could chew. Mr. McLaughlin stated that there were some possibilities in that area for STEM but, there had not been any evidence of any knowledge of the area. **Ms. Taylor made a motion not to recommend Cabarrus STEM for the initial approval to begin the Ready to Open process. Ms. Turner seconded. The motion passed 8-2 with Mr. Walker and Mr. Hawkes dissenting.**

Addie C Morris

- Ms. Nance made a motion to amend the agenda so that the Addie C. Morris application could be reviewed after lunch instead of before. Mr. Walker seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Sanchez asked for clarification on the school's target population. The applicants responded that they would be targeting at-risk, minority students that reside in the vicinity of the school. The proposed location would be in conjunction with the Housing Authority in east Winston-Salem.
- Mr. Sanchez asked for an overview of the school's specific goals. The applicants explained that the goals were to accomplish a high level of education for all students and to address some of the statistical evidence that was behind the achievement gap such as attendance and discipline issues. They stated that they would utilize formative assessment and Response to Instruction. One hundred percent of the students would pass or exceed state and local standards. Additionally, they would increase attendance from previous attendance and measure achievement through standardized testing.
- Ms. Nance asked about the school's facility. The board explained that the Winston-Salem Housing Authority had a vacant building that had been offered to the Board. The Housing Authority's Choice Neighborhood program's goals align with the schools' goals. The board presented a letter from the Housing Authority that showed that Addie C Morris was a part of their master plan.
- The applicants stated that they had not selected a leader but had created a job description for the position.
- Ms. Taylor highlighted the school's exceptional children's plan and requested clarification on the local LEA's role. The applicant responded that the school would be operating a tiered plan in which students would be monitored starting on the first day. The exceptional children would be the Tier 3 students who would be assessed. He added that cooperation from the local LEA was needed to help address the needs of students.
- The applicants explained that fourth grade was not included the first year so that they could prepare for a middle school. There was an error in calculation on the enrollment chart that was submitted in the application in which it showed that enrollment would decrease the second school year.

Mr. Sanchez highlighted concerns that the application did not provide specific information in the education plan. The applicants responded that students would be pre-tested and looking at the intervention model the students would be provided intervention. Formative assessments such as DIBELS, on-line assessments in math, Learn 3000 and other assessments would be used. Ms. Taylor noted that several items in the budget were questionable such as child nutrition, the cost of the lease, and transportation, There was a lot of concern about the viability of meeting the expenses. The applicants responded that one of the reasons the board would like to partner with the Housing Authority was to leverage some resources to meet the budget needs. The board expressed a desire to be able to redo the budget because they acknowledge that they made errors.

Mr. Walker noted additional concerns with the budget related to teacher salaries and benefits. The applicants responded that they spoke to a human relations firm that would offer a bundle health care program.

- **CSAB Discussion:** Mr. Sanchez noted that the board had passion and energy but the capacity of the board had not been improved since the previous two times that the application was submitted. The subcommittee's feedback was posted on-line and the applicants did not seem prepared to answer the questions. **Ms. Taylor made a motion not to recommend Addie C. Morris for the initial approval to begin the Ready to Open process. Mr. Hawkes seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

Matthews-Mint Hill

- The Board chair explained that 5 of 8 members of the Board were not able to attend because of the time change of the interview. Ms. Deanna-Townsend Smith explained to the CSAB that applicants were notified three weeks prior to the interview of the new time.
- Ms. Nance asked for clarification on the relationship with the Board and NHA. The applicants responded that NHA would handle the actual operation of the school and Board would govern them. If the Board were to terminate the contract, the building would be able to be leased for a year and money would still flow to the school.
- Ms. Nance inquired about the proposed location of the school. The applicant responded that the proposed location would be near Queen's Grant. Queen's Grant has a waiting list of over 1250 students and there was demand for another school in the area.
- Ms. Nance noted that the class sizes were large and asked about the classroom management. The applicants responded that there were 2.6 teacher assistants budgeted and they would be used where they were needed. Parents would be involved for individual tutoring and be used for other classroom needs. This model had been used at NHA schools and it has been very successful because the teacher assistants were well trained.
- Ms. Nance asked how the board decided that they wanted a school and why they chose NHA. A member of the North Carolina Charter Association approached members of the board and informed them that NHA was looking for a board to start-up a school that would be similar to Queen's Grant. NHA had been successful in the way that they run schools and was the reason why he was on the Board. NHA will handle all of the school operations but the Board would hire and fire staff.
- Ms. Nance noted that there was not a big difference in the K-5 and 6-8 education plan. The applicants responded that the middle school students would have their own wing and they would have choices in designing their schedules. The school would address the needs of every student and students would be grouped accordingly.
- Ms. Nance asked how the school would measure the performance of the goals. The applicants responded that the school would administer NWEA-MAP to gauge progress. The goal would be that the students are performing at a sixty-five percentile. EVAAS would be used and accountability goals would be to meet or exceed state goals.
- Ms. Sutton noted Queen's Grant performance with students of color and students with IEPs and wanted to know what the board would do differently to address these two groups. The applicants responded that the board would meet once per month to make sure that those groups were moving up. Although the Board was trying to replicate that school, students would be identified and interventions would be put in place.

- Ms. Sutton asked what the Board would do differently. The applicants responded that the Board had allocated monies for specialists to work with students to ensure that they are on grade level. Students who are economically disadvantaged bring on different challenges and the Board would work on meeting their needs. More teacher assistants would be hired and parents would be encouraged to be more involved in their child's education.
- Mr. Sanchez noted that the enrollment numbers were driven by NHA and seemed to be high. The applicant responded that Queen's Grant opened with similar numbers and had been very successful. The Board feels positive about the number and NHA did provide those numbers to the Board. NHA would provide a facility for the students and everything that is needed for the students. The money is not a loan and it is completely debt free.
- Mr. Walker noted that Mint-Hill was not the average of Mecklenburg County because of academics and socio-economic statuses. The board responded that the Board authored the application under the direction of NHA. Mr. Maimone responded that the application was similar to other NHA applications.
- **CSAB Discussion:** Ms. Nance suggested that the Board keep a handle on the school's academics and make sure that the needs of all students are met. Mr. McLaughlin added that the Board needed to make sure that the school performed at a high level because the schools in that area do so. Mr. Maimone noted that the application was identical to a previous application that was not forwarded for an interview. Additionally, several of the Board members were absent. Ms. Nance noted that the subcommittee did not have a lot of concerns. She added that she was disheartened that the majority of the Board was not present and it could not be prevented. Mr. Maimone made a motion that Matthews-Hill be forwarded, as well as, Gateway Charter, for the Ready to Open process. Mr. Hawkes seconded. Mr. Maimone withdrew his motion. **Ms. Nance made a motion to recommend Matthews-Mint Hill for the initial approval to begin the Ready to Open process. Mr. Walker seconded. The motion failed 3-7 with Ms. Turner, Ms. Taylor, Mr. Quigley, Mr. Sanchez, Ms. Sutton, Mr. Norcross, and Mr. Maimone.**

CHARTER APPLICATION FEE

Mr. Walker made a motion that the charter application fee be raised from five hundred dollars to one thousand dollars. Mr. Norcross seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned.