

**Minutes of the
North Carolina Charter School Advisory Board
Education Building
301 N. Wilmington Street
Raleigh, NC 27601-2825
May 12, 2014**

Attendance/NCCSAB	Alan Hawkes Joseph Maimone Baker Mitchell 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 Darrell Johnson, 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 May 12, 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. Mr. Sanchez recused himself from voting on the Pave application. Mr. Maimone recused himself from the Shining Rock application.

Mr. Maimone made a motion to recommend the minutes with the necessary corrections. Ms. Taylor seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Medley introduced new members of the Office of Charter Schools who had been added since March: Ms. Kebbler Williams, Mr. Darrel Johnson and Ms. Shannon Sellers.

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.

PAVE Southeast Raleigh Charter

- Mr. Sanchez asked the applicants to explain the schools assessment plan. The applicants responded that there would be a strong literacy and strong math focus. Lots of focus on critical

thinking, data driven instruction. The school in Red Hook had been implementing rigorous assessments. If you walked in to a classroom you would see groups of children in four or more. The ration would be 15:1 or fewer.

- The Board chair explained that there had been a new Board member that had been added since the application, Mr. Dexter Hubert.
- Ms. Nance asked for an explanation of how marketing would be addressed. The applicants responded that parents would be informed of what a charter school is as the board would be going to homes door-to-door to educate parents. There is a good connection with YMCA and the Boys and Girls Club and they would also assist with marketing efforts.
- Ms. Nance stated that there were two members on the Board who were a part of the CMO. The applicants responded that as a replication, the Board felt strongly about having the two members and it was important to the board because they want all the systems and values from Red Hook to be in Southeast Raleigh. Mr. Walker asked if Southeast Raleigh would be paying any money to CMO. The applicants responded that the CMO would not be getting any compensation.
- Mr. Maimone asked for clarification for the 27% of the budget that would go to administrative fees. The applicant guided the CSAB to a slide that explained the different services that the CMO would provide. The public funds support the school. The monies that would be used for outreach will be funded through the CMO.
- Ms. Nance stated that there were some concerns about the finances. It appeared that the budget was based on New York numbers instead of North Carolina. The applicants responded that because of the commitments from external funding, the Board would take a look at the student population and make adjustments. There is a plan to utilize Title money, as well as, several students would be eligible for Free/Reduced funds. The school has raised \$600,000 from a growth grant. At the time of application the applicants could not submit that information because it had not been approved. The Board feels very comfortable that they will be financially stable. All students would be provided meals, including snacks, and transportation.
- Ms. Maimone stated that the budget shows \$0 for facilities. The applicants responded that the Board will be able to rent a facility for fifteen dollars per square foot. This is based on estimates provided by Self Help.
- Mr. Sanchez asked if there would be a relationship with the school here and the school in Brooklyn. The applicants responded that the expectation was to build collaboration between the two schools, as well as, with the local LEA such as professional development. The schools number one priority is to launch a successful school in southeast Raleigh. The goal is to grow in North Carolina, as well as, in Brooklyn in the next 6-8 years.
- Mr. McLaughlin asked what the plans were to expand, other than the new board members. Applicants responded that the new Board member brings strong connections to the community. The Board is interested in adding more minority members to the Board.
- Mr. Hawkes stated that there had been a precedence set by CSAB for members of the CMO that no members of the CMO could sit on the Board. Applicants responded that there is zero dollar management fee and there is no money going to the CMO at all. Mr. Hawkes asked if the Board was prepared to be nonvoting on the Board. The applicants responded that they would be willing be non-voting members. Mr. Mitchell stated that there needed to be clarification because the agreement stated otherwise. Applicants explained that the Board had a conflict of interest policy in the application. If there was a perceived conflict, the conflict would be investigated. The board of trustees would decide if the member needed to recuse.

- Mr. McLaughlin asked how the CMO could provide the services with no fee. The Board stated that they have three million dollars that will come from philanthropy.
- **CSAB Discussion: Mr. Sanchez made a motion to move PAVE to Ready to Open process. Ms. Turner seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

Bastiat Classical School

- Ms. Nance asked what makes the school innovative. The applicant responded that the school would be utilizing the new classical model which included new curricular. In the proposed location that we are proposing, there are no charter schools.
- Ms. Nance stated that there was a lot of concern about the governance and many members do not live in Mecklenburg. There was some reference about being recruited by North Charter School Association. The applicants responded that Bastiat began with a conversation with Mr. Eddie Goodall. After the conversation it was clear that there was a need for another charter school. Individual board members explained why they wanted to be on the Board.
- Mr. Walker asked if Ms. Mary Catherine Sauer was related to Ms. Sauer, who was the Board chair of another application. Ms. Sauer stated that she was Ms. Sauer's daughter. He asked her to explain how her service on that board would impact her involvement. The difference is coming to Charlotte a couple of times per month versus Piedmont she would be doing day-to-day tasks.
- Mr. Walker asked for clarification on why a CSAB member voted inadequate on governance. Ms. Nance stated that the subcommittee was torn and wanted to give the Board an opportunity to explain.
- Ms. Turner asked what the Board's association was with the Charter Association. The applicants responded that they were using the Association for support to start the school. Mr. Norcross asked about the fees associated with the Association. The applicants responded that the Association has been providing services up until the day of the interview. The Board would not be relying on the Association anymore. Applicant responded that the majority of the members on the Board do reside in the community. It was a strength that there are additional members who have been added who does not reside in the community.
- Ms. Nance asked about the student enrollment projections. The applicants responded that the Board could sufficiently run the school with 200 students if the 400 students do not enroll.
- Mr. Quigley asked for clarification on the transportation plan that was presented. Applicants explained that carpool would be utilized. The Board will assist parents with carpooling. The Board will ensure different levels. Worst case scenario the Board would supply public transportation if needed and offer incentives such as gas cards, as a stipend to parents who would assist with carpooling. Mr. Norcross asked if a school is paying a parent to transport a student if there were liability issues. The Board responded that parents were not being paid but there would be incentives.
- Mr. Sanchez stated that the school was basing their data on Union Academy and there is no data for the at-risk students and it seemed that the Board did not have a plan for the needs of diverse students related to EC and transportation. The applicants explained that there was a mistake in the application for the 1.5 EC teachers. There will be 2 teachers. Applicants stated that the school would reach out to all groups. This school would be located in an urban location and would target minority and free/reduced lunch students.
- Mr. Walker stated that in the application the lease would be backed by a financial backer. A member of the Board concurred. Mr. Walker asked if there was a conflict of interest with Ms.

Sauer being employed with the Association and the Board. Ms. Sauer stated that she sees a potential conflict and has recused herself from any discussion dealing with the Association.

- Mr. Sanchez asked for clarification on students with high need. The applicant responded that there percentage from the area is 40%. The Board predicts 20%.
 - **CSAB Discussion:** Mr. Quigley asked if the Board has addressed the issues on the rubric in governance and finance. Mr. Maimone stated that he was a big fan for Core Knowledge and the board is diverse. Ms. Nance stated that the Board's organization chart, EC plan, and transportation were concerns of the evaluation team. Mr. McLaughlin stated that his concern was whether there was a need for the school but the applicants answered those questions. **Mr. Maimone made a motion to recommend Bastiat for the initial approval to begin the Ready to Open process. Mr. Hawkes seconded.** Mr. Sanchez stated that he was concerned about looking at the school lunch plan and transportation plan and there wasn't much thought to addressing the needs of at-risk students. Mr. Hawkes stated that the Board would not know what the numbers of student needs would be and the Board is strong and would be able to address those needs because they were receiving some good consulting. Ms. Turner stated that without a plan a parent is not going to want to go to the school if there is not a plan. Mr. Sanchez stated that the application was the opportunity to show due diligence but proactively he was not sold. Mr. Maimone stated that the curriculum was going to draw people to the school. **The motion failed 4-5 with Mr. Norcross, Mr. Mitchell Mr. Quigley, Mr. Sanchez, and Ms. Taylor dissenting. Ms. Turner abstained.**

CLOSED SESSION

Ms. Turner made a motion for the CSAB to go into closed session to discuss an attorney-client matter. Mr. Walker seconded.

Mr. Quigley made a motion to come out of closed session. Mr. Maimone seconded.

Patriot Charter Academy

- Ms. Tammi Sutton joined the meeting at 1:25 pm
- Mr. Maimone asked whose decision it was to go with NHA and who wrote the application. Mr. Gay said the decision to go with NHA came from conversations with others regarding the NHA model and those involved with schools associated with NHA. Mr. Gay stated that they've leaned on NHA for some aspects of the application.
- Mr. Maimone asked Ms. Johnsons to step to podium to answer why as a parent she liked NHA model. Ms. Johnson stated that she liked the three testing times with MAP and the dean aspect where the dean would go into classrooms weekly and would talk with teachers.
- Mr. Maimone asked about the budget and expectations from NHA. Mr. Gay stated that the school would have control of the day to day finances. Other than day to day they would stay in close contact.
- Mr. Maimone asked about facilities and NHA. Mr. Gay stated that NHA would build the school that way the board can focus on moving the school along. NHA would fund the school for the first couple of years. The board would lease the facility from NHA.

- Mr. Maimone asked about the handbook. Ms. Johnson stated that they were reviewing handbooks from other NHA schools and they would adapt one to fit the schools need. Mr. Maimone asked why one hundred fifty families were surveyed but the applicants were expecting five hundred students and what the board has done to reach out to the community. Mr. Moore stated they were going to partner out with ECU, and will have to meet with parents in the community and explain charter schools and Patriot Charter Academy. ECU would partner with them for recruitment of teachers.
- Mr. Maimone asked about budgeting fifty thousand dollars a year for marketing. The applicants responded that a portion of the money would go toward the salary of an admissions counselor. Beyond that they intend to have a broad marketing plan to share the story of what charter schools bring to the community and how they benefit the community.
- Mr. Maimone asked about the large fees that go back to the EMO and what the Board's understanding of the break down line by line that covers administrative fees. Mr. Gay said their lease is the largest item at \$1 million a year. NHA is building the school and having to pay some of the operational aspects of the school. There is some overlap NHA leases the technology that goes into the school. The advantage is they will get current technology. He went on to say that if the Board decided to terminate they would finish the school year in the building. Ms. Turner asked if there was any way where the board could purchase the school from NHA. Mr. Gay stated that he didn't foresee the board wanting to purchase the building.
- Mr. Sanchez asked for more information regarding the Tier approach. Ms. Johnson said tier one would be addressed by teachers and 2 and 3 would be addressed by teacher and support teachers. Students would be identified through the schools initial testing and information gathered during enrollment.
- Mr. Sanchez then asked to be walked through timeline beginning day 1 through the year from how you identify, etc. Ms. Johnson stated they would do the MAP testing to help identify those students below goal of 65 percentile and placed on tiers then mid-year they would be tested to see improvement. There is also time built in for remediation to form groups outside of core time.
- Mr. Sanchez asked would a schedule be in place for pull-outs. Ms. Johnson responded yes. If a student comes in below the proficient level are you expecting significant numbers of students to fall below this number initially? Ms. Johnson stated no because of statistics from other public schools in the area. Mr. Sanchez asked if she had this. She stated yes and she shared the schools they had looked at and their growth index. Two fall in state average and 3 fell below state average of growth. They also compared to other NHA schools. Mr. Sanchez asked if 30% of those students came in below do you have the infer structure to handle this? Ms. Johnson stated yes with the dean, the teacher, the teacher aides, etc. they would be able to use the tier system.
- Mr. Maimone asked the applicants if they had analyzed what NHA was going to give them and if the 1 million dollars for the lease was an appropriate number. Mr. Gay stated that they have looked at this closely. He stated that through NHA they will be able to get a much better facility and education for the children. NHA will be there for the school should something happen. They have never walked away from a school. Mr. Mitchell said you never show a surplus; how

do you reconcile that as a treasurer with a 0 balance. Mr. Gay went back to NHA being their financial back support, so they are ok with a 0 balance.

Board Discussion- Mr. Walker made a motion to recommend Patriot Charter Academy for the initial approval to begin the Ready to Open status. Ms. Nance seconded. Mr. Maimone stated that he felt that the board was very strong. Mr. Sanchez asked about the 0 fund balance. Mr. Mitchell said generally you want a two month supply in the bank. Mr. Walker replied that this was the NHA model but many NHA schools come in at time of renewal with money in the bank. Mr. Hawkes said it was a different model and you don't necessarily carry a fund balance. Mr. Sanchez said the personnel were not there to fulfill the tier model. He also stated that there is a passionate board, but you have to judge what's on paper. Mrs. Nance said we talk about salaries, but forget a lot of people are willing to take a lower schedule. **The motion carried 7-3 with Mr. Maimone, Ms. Sanchez and Mr. Norcross dissenting. Ms. Sutton abstained.**

Youngsville Academy

- Mr. Maimone asked how student success would be measured the first school year. The applicants responded that each student would take the California Achievement Test during the first three weeks of school. They would also be given assessments through direct instruction and daily assessments. The test will be compared to the nationally normed tests. Students in K-2 would be determined by classroom assessments.
- Ms. Turner asked if Direct Instruction was aligned with Common Core. The applicant stated that it is aligned. Ms. Sutton asked why California Achievement Test. The applicant stated that CAT was better than IOWA because CAT had the same benchmarks and would allow the school monitors growth. The board's goal is for their students to outperform other students in the area. Ms. Sutton asked how you use CAT to compare when no one else uses this. Mr. Hinson stated that they would have to wait until 3rd grade. Ms. Sutton followed with asking what the Board sees as successful. The applicants stated that they would look for students above the 50th % and it was the board's goal to get students where they are supposed to be.
- Mr. Maimone stated that the application was heavy in administrator overhead cost. The applicants responded that they did not know what teachers would be needed, so they put an assistant principal salary in the budget to cover teacher cost.
- Mr. Maimone asked about check and balances because it was a low budget. The applicant responded that the budget would be dictated by contracts and the board would keep it honest.
- Ms. Taylor asked Mr. Hinson about being Head Master at VERITAS. Mr. Hinson explained that he had helped open several schools and he would be the principal at Youngsville and is currently the principal of a private school in Virginia.
- Ms. Sutton asked about transportation. The applicants responded that they would help parents set up car pools, but would not share liability. Ms. Sutton asked if the Board had any concerns with getting a diverse population if they did not offer transportation. The Board was planning to offer transportation in three years.
- Ms. Sutton asked about contracted services for EC services. Dr. Warren stated that a retired psychologist has volunteered to do testing. Mr. Maimone asked about speech therapist, occupational therapist, etc. Dr. Warren said the line item with the other salary.

- Mr. Sanchez asked how they derived the child nutrition numbers. Mr. Allen stated that they mapped out areas around them and they plan to reach out to at-risk students.
- Ms. Turner then asked the Mr. Allen if he was going to be on the board of this school and be the principal of a school in Virginia at the same time. He responded yes and he would be an ex-officio member of the Board. He added that he was planning to stay with the school after it opened.
- Ms. Sutton asked how the Board was going to attract an at-risk population. Mr. Allen stated that you have to be in the community to help the at-risk students. She then asked if the Board had concerns that they do not represent the population that they wanted to serve. The Board stated that they were not concerned.
- **CSAB Discussion-Mr. Walker made a motion to recommend Youngsville Academy for the initial Ready to Open status. Mr. Norcross seconded.** Mr. Mitchell stated there was concern about finances but they will work out. Mr. Sanchez had concerns about the Head Master and the stability of the organization if he is hopping around two schools. Ms. Taylor agreed with Mr. Sanchez. Mr. Sanchez stated that the transportation issues with the target population the numbers don't go together. Ms. Sutton agreed. **The motion carried 6-5 with Ms. Turner, Ms. Taylor, Ms. Sutton, Mr. Quigley and Mr. Sanchez dissenting.**

Shining Rock Classical Academy:CFA

- Mr. Quigley asked for clarification on the Board's at-risk and enrichment program. The applicants responded that after students are accessed through MAP, they would be provided with the help that they need. For students who are at-risk they will be required to stay for tutoring after school. Teachers will be compensated for staying after school. There will also be enrichment programs after school. The Board did not realize that they needed to budget for ELL because there is no demand in the area. Although a student has an IEP, it will not be impossible for a child to participant successfully in the rigorous program. There will be attrition. Teachers will be trained in how to use MAP scores.
- Mr. Quigley asked if teachers would be required to stay after school to provide student services. Applicants replied that teachers would be required to stay one day per week.
- Mr. Quigley asked how the Board was put together and how they chose Team CFA. The Board chair stated that she was drafted as the Board chair. The area is underserved as far as school options. One of the Board members explained that she was using the Core Knowledge series as a home school and found that charter schools used Team CFA.
- Mr. Quigley asked how the Board felt about having a mandatory Team CFA on the Board. The applicants stated that they felt good about it because they have expertise. Team CFA would be providing grants which would be a loan to grant after six years. There was no interest paid or no management fee.
- Mr. Quigley asked about the vision for transportation and lunch because the three thousand dollars in the budget was concerning. Applicants responded that they were planning to purchase two used buses. There would be a number of students who would be bringing their own lunch. The Board had talked with area restaurants to prepare for students who need lunches.
- Mr. Quigley asked how the Board would choose a principal. The applicants responded that Team CFA selects someone from their Fellows Program. The principal has been selected and was present at the meeting.

- Mr. Quigley asked if this would be a replicated of Thomas Jefferson. The Board replied that they have looked at it as a model. They would use MAP testing and the amount of money students gets for college to gauge success.
- **CSAB Discussion:** Ms. Nance stated that the after school tutoring sessions sound beneficial. Mr. Quigley explained that he liked that all of the Board members were able to answer questions. **Mr. Norcross made a motion recommend Shining Rock Classical Academy to the Ready to Open Process. Ms. Turner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Mr. Maimone abstaining.**

Queen's Grant High School

Mr. Sanchez stated that the application was a replication for Queen's Grant Community School, which is a K-12. The K-8 was with NHA and this would separate 9-12 from K-8 but both schools would have the same Board. Ms. Crumpler stated that there was one Board with one charter and they operate the school that is K-12. A portion of the school is contracted with NHA for management functions. It is currently one school with one Board. Dr. Medley explained that going through the expansion, the K-8 would run NHA and they would have another management group that would run 9-12. This would be a brand new school in which when the school opens all students must reapply and will not get automatic enrollment.

- Mr. Sanchez asked the Board why their request was to separate the school. The applicants responded that NHA was reluctant to embrace 9-12 grades. The community demand for a high school grew and the Board tried to do that for the community. The applicants started with a small management company called Creative School Developments. The Board is no longer using that group. The Board has been managing the school themselves. Applicants replied that they would like for the finances to be separated because they now have to receive monies from NHA.
- Mr. Norcross asked if all of the students were in the same building. The applicants replied that the K-8 students were not in the same building as 9-12. Applicants would like to continue to work with NHA for K-8 and have a complete divorce for the high school. Ms. Turner stated that she did not understand what receiving a 9-12 charter would do that is different from what is currently happening. The applicant responded that there would be two sets of reports sent to Raleigh. NHA is currently running K-8 and reports their performance.
- Ms. Taylor stated that this was a replication of itself and asked how the school looked as far as finances. The applicants replied that the Board is having difficulty with finances. The management group that was running the high school made some bad financial decisions. Once this was resolved the school would be in good standing. There has been one vendor that has put the school in noncompliance financial status. The school currently had a negative fund balance.
- Mr. Mitchell asked how long the charter had been in business. The Board replied that they were open for 13 years. The school has had a steady enrollment. The applicant did not have the school's fund balance.
- Mr. Maimone asked how important the K-8 feeding into the high school was. The Board responded that they did not see it as being cut off. The campus is designed to be able to accommodate all of the students who were currently enrolled
- Mr. Sanchez asked if the charter school was serving all exceptional students. The Board explained that there was some paper work. The Board has planned to double exceptional

children's staff for the upcoming school year. There are approximately sixty exceptional students.

- Ms. Deanna Townsend Smith stated that there were significant exceptional children's concerns. There were 60 students who had not been receiving services. The school was receiving funds for these services that students were not receiving. The exceptional children's department would be visiting the school to discover the compensatory services. The Board replied that the information they received depends on what the principal has informed them about the EC program and they were not aware of the issues.
- Ms. Alexis Schauss explained that the Board was put on Cautionary Status because of a negative fund balance of six thousand dollars. The Board explained that the negative fund balance would be resolved by the end of the school year. The K-8 population had been stable but in the high school there had been instability with enrollment.
- Mr. Walker asked if the CSAB voted not to grant this charter would the school continue to run. The applicants responded yes.
- Mr. Sanchez asked what the biggest benefit would be to get a charter. The Board replied that they want to separate and manage their finances. Queen's Grant is doing a good job running K-8 and Board took the responsibility. The Board will be able to separate the reporting such as EC.
- **Ms. Nance made a motion not to forward Queen's Grant to the Ready to Open process. Ms. Taylor seconded. The motion carried 10-1 with Mr. Hawkes abstaining.**

PIEDMONT CLASSICAL DISCUSSION

Ms. Nance stated that at the last meeting the decision for Piedmont Classical was tabled. **Mr. Walker made a motion to forward Piedmont Classical High School for the Ready to Open Status. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Sanchez abstained**

Mr. Norcross made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Walker seconded.

The meeting adjourned.

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CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

After extending a welcome to all participants, Chair Helen Nance called the May 13, 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

North Carolina Connections Academy

- Mr. Maimone asked if all board members were present. There were four board members present but, the board chair was not present. Mr. Maimone asked if the board chair could call in during the meeting because he authored the application. The board chair could not be reached.
- Mr. Maimone stated that one of the biggest issues the subcommittee had was with the funding and asked someone to explain it. The applicants stated that the school was requesting full funding based on NC law. NC Connections would be a full-time on-line school that would have a graduation at the end. They were not asking for more funding than others just equal funding. They added that they could not be successful without the additional monies.
- Mr. Maimone reminded the applicants that they needed to convince CSAB why they needed equal funding if they are not going to have a building, lunches, etc. The applicants responded that they would maintain certain facilities because teachers would need a place to meet and hold sessions. There were also transportation issues for testing, field trips, broadband costs and the school would have to mail

materials to the students and also provide internet access for students who qualify for free/reduce lunch.

- Mr. Walker asked why the applicants chose Guilford, Wake, and Charlotte-Mecklenburg counties. The applicants replied that the budget was very conservative. They chose those counties specifically because they believed this is where the majority of students would come from. Mr. Norcross responded that he thought the decision was out of CSAB's pay grade.
- Mr. Maimone noted that there was a model that exists that cost thirty-five hundred dollars a student but the applicant's model cost six thousand dollars a student. The applicants stated that they would offer the entire school model: field trips, community service, clubs, special education, and graduation.
- Mr. Maimone asked why the application was not submitted as a replication since a school like it already exists. Applicants replied that the board chair, who was not in attendance, could answer the question better. However, another board member stated that a NC school like this doesn't exist and they wanted something specific to NC and would serve all of NC because of the diversity.
- Mr. Norcross stated that what the applicant group was trying to do did not fit in the current application. The applicants stated that the application did not work for an on-line school but as they were filling out the application their school concept worked in every category. This school would function as a school.
- Mr. Maimone stated that there was concern regarding the waiver to be allowed to have a drop rate of more than thirty percent but the statute is fifteen percent. The applicants believed that the students that they would serve would transition back to the regular school. The applicants responded that they would be willing to return money to the state if enrollment dropped.
- Ms. Nance asked if they would be interested in being a pilot program like the legislature is looking to begin. The applicants stated they were willing to look at anything.
- **CSAB discussion Ms.** Nance stated that there would still have to be a cap on the turnover rate of twenty percent. Mr. Quigley asked if other Connection schools receive local funding. The applicants responded that Georgia receives state and local funding. Mr. Norcross asked if the CSAB was stepping over boundaries because the State Board did a study presented to the legislatures. Mr. Maimone responded that SBE and legislatures are looking for something, guidance from this Board, and we could help. Ms. Taylor noted that if SBE was going to judge the application as it was written there were problems with the teacher student ratio and funding. Mr. Maimone believes that the Advisory Board should make a recommendation with some contingency. If we are concerned about a high withdrawal and turnover rate, we should recommend two contingencies: 1) adjust state funding after PMR 1 and 2 if enrollment varies more than 10%; and 2) eliminate the local funding. Mr. Norcross asked how the Office of Charter School would administer and perform their job with this school. Dr. Medley responded that there would have to be a facility and the application states there would be a facility. It is a little bit different, but they could hold them accountable. The question goes back to the financial piece. Mr. Walker commented that the school had a great education plan and they can work the funding out. South Carolina has 6 or 7 and NC is supposed to be leading the way and we have zero. Mr. Quigley noted that the applicants stated that they would not be able to run the school without State funding. Mr. Maimone made the motion to move North Carolina Connections Academy to Ready the to Open status. Mr. Steven Walker seconded. Ms. Taylor stated that she doesn't feel comfortable moving them to ready to open but to a pilot. Mr. Quigley stated that he thought he read that virtual charter schools

would only be granted 3 year charter no more than 5. Mr. Quigley believes that the subcommittee did their job and if they feel it is a good application he could support the school.

Mr. Norcross stated that the SBE may have something in place by the time they open. Mr. Sanchez asked if there is something in place for schools that go against the norm. Dr. Medley read the law with four more requirements. The statute doesn't really discuss virtual charter. Ms. Turner stated that the application goes along with 3 of the four things that Dr. Medley just read. The fifteen percent withdrawal rate was the issue. The motion failed 6 to 5 with Mr. Sanchez, Ms. Turner, Ms. Taylor, Ms. Nance and Ms. Sutton. **Mr. Maimone made a motion that The NC Connections move forward to the Ready to Open status with 2 recommended contingencies: If enrollment drops or increase by 10% after the first month their state funding be adjusted accordingly and 2. SBE create a plan to comply with law regarding local funding .** Ms. Nance doesn't understand why we are making a recommendation to the SBE with contingency for the SBE to push through. This interview has pinpointed many questions. Moving them forward without answer to questions is confusing. We could make recommendations to SBE and Legislature without moving this school forward. **The motion passed 7-4 with Ms. Nance, Ms. Sutton, Ms. Turner and Mr. Sanchez dissenting.**

Charlotte Lab School

- Mr. Sanchez commented that there was a lot of due diligence and work done with the application and it set the bar high. The applicants responded that they all participated in authoring the application.
- Mr. Sanchez asked the applicants how they would compensate for Summer loss because their Summer break was lengthy. The applicants responded that they would provide through Summer activities for the students.
- Mr. Sanchez stated that the student achievement goal did not seem to be rigorous. The applicants responded that they were thinking about recent assessment results. They will have a rigorous program and expect all students to grow at least a year.
- Mr. Walker asked the Board to explain Mastery Tracking. The applicants replied that the State standards and the school's curriculum would be aligned. Students would be taught on their individual levels and teaching would be skilled based. The board has been granted a Generation Learning Grant for \$100,000 to work on program development.
- Mr. Sanchez stated that the school would be offering a variety of foreign languages and inquired about the number of staff that would be hired for this. The Board will be looking at dual-certification to cover the. Each grade level will be in teams and the core teachers will be dual-certified. The make-up of the class will be contingent on the needs of the students. Foreign language decisions will be made during enrollment. The Board anticipates that the Spanish instruction will be the choice. This will be done in an immersion approach.
- Ms. Taylor noted that the application relies heavily on inclusion. The Board stated that they would make adjustments based upon the need of the students. The goal is to have a dual-certified EC teacher for each grade level and a school-wide EC teacher in the case that there would need to be a self-contained classroom.
- Mr. Sanchez asked Dr. Moss if she had seen the school's model played out. She replied that she was the principal of a school that successful ran a similar program. Recruiting is going to be a big feat but it is possible.

- Mr. Sanchez asked for an explanation of the reason for not adding retirement for teachers. The applicants replied that there was room to be able to offer this for the teachers. After looking at the budget, it is possible.
- Ms. Taylor suggested that the Board consider holding off hiring an assistant head of school and focus on the teachers and there is already a number of support staff.
- Mr. Sanchez added that the school would not be offering transportation and child nutrition. However, the plan is well written. The Board presented a plan that explained their transportation plan.
- CSAB Discussion: Mr. Maimone made a motion to recommend the school to the Ready to Open process. Mr. Walker seconded. Mr. Baker Mitchell asked how the school's set up is going to be aligned with Power School. The applicant responded that they are currently working on this. The motion passed unanimously.

READY TO OPEN REPORT

Dr. Thomas Miller explained that two schools have submitted waivers to

Mr. Quigley asked if the information is the number of applications or the number enrolled. Dr. Miller explained that the numbers are supposed to reflect the number of enrolled. Ms. Turner noted that the schools get in trouble when the allotment is based on projected enrollment and they have to pay money back. Dr. Miller stated that there are five schools who have reduced their planning allotment. Mr. Mitchell asked if schools could receive monies above the projected enrollment. Dr. Miller stated that monies will be based upon the year 1 projections that is submitted by May 14.

Dr. Miller stated that the schools will be providing evidences of the information in the Ready to Open checklist. They will be asked to provide an action plan. OCS may be making site visit reports and CSAB members may be asked to accompany to ensure that one day they will be able to service all children.

Ms. Taylor inquired about Common Wealth. Dr. Miller responded that they may not know their population. They will be using a blended approach and will be focusing on drop-outs. They are relying on the school system to population their school. They are backed by an EMO. They are backed by the board as Stuart Creek.

CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION REVISION REPORT

Ms. Deanna Townsend-Smith explained that the information on the chart was provided by a number of stakeholders such as CSAB, external evaluators, and OCS. The changes in process will be discussed at a later time. The Board chair has some suggestions and there are some potential legislature changes that are forth coming. The changes that are on the sheet would take 3 ½ weeks and the changes would occur mid-June. The changes should be completed by June.

- Ms. Nance stated that she would like the changes to be completed by June 15. Ms. Townsend-Smith explained that the changes would not occur that soon. Mr. Walker asked if there was any money left over from the application fee. Ms. Townsend-Smith replied that there was no money remaining.
- Ms. Nance stated that the Board was being asked to do things in a short amount of time. She would like to figure out how the Board could be more efficient on the front end. She would like to propose that a recommendation to the SBE to do way with the Letter of Intent and change the application to be due the last Friday in September. This would allow two additional months for

OCS and the external evaluators to read the application and the applicants would have additional time to write the application.

- Mr. Norcross made a suggestion that the changes not be discussed today and a subcommittee make proposals to make changes. If it is not fixed now the legislature will. Ms. T Smith stated that significant changes would push back the timeline.
- Mr. Maimone responded that he liked the idea of subcommittee meeting. Mr. Walker volunteered to be a part of the committee because the process needed to be changed. Ms. Nance suggested that the subcommittee work swiftly to have the suggestions completed by June. Mr. Norcross volunteered to chair. Mr. Walker and Mr. Sanchez also volunteered.
- Mr. Hawkes explained that the replication committee met on yesterday and are close to having a definition. Mr. Quigley asked if the subcommittee was going to focus on the process or the application. Mr. Norcross replied that the application drives the process. Mr. Walker would like for the committee to make recommendations for the process and application. Mr. Norcross gave an example that there could be boiler plate by-laws and student handbooks could.
- Mr. Quigley noted that the aforementioned discussion is about process and is worried about doing an overhaul on the application. Moving up the timeline would allow CSAB more time. Mr. Norcross noted that there will be significant number of members who would fall off the board if the application process is the same. Ms. Townsend-Smith informed CSAB that the changes were from them.
- Mr. Hawkes suggested that applicants be able to speak during the interview. Ms. Nance asked for suggestions from OCS. Dr. Medley replied that the CSAB has not been in operation for a full year. The process that was used had to be used to information the conversations that are being had now. The application fee was increased to \$1,000 for external evaluators. He added that the process was the key and pieces of the application can be fixed. If the Board could make recommendations in June, SBE could approve in July. Changes have to be done through a subcommittee. OCS could present what other states are doing to present to the subcommittee.
- Ms. Nance stated that she did not mind doing a subcommittee for process between now and the next meeting and a separate one for application changes, if there are not many. Mr. Quigley, Mr. Walker, Ms. Nance, Mr. Sanchez, Mr. Baker, and Mr. Walker volunteered to be on the subcommittee. Ms. Nance suggested that they meet on May 22nd.

The CSAB adjourned into subcommittees at 11:05 am.

CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION RECONSIDERATION DECISIONS

Ms. Nance read the protocol for the application reconsideration. Each subcommittee made recommendations for the full CSAB.

Subcommittee A:

- Mr. Walker made a motion not to forward Cardinal Charter at North Raleigh for an interview with the full CSAB. The motion passed 8-2 with Mr. Walker and Mr. Hawkes dissenting.
- Mr. Walker made a motion not to forward Cardinal Charter at Knightdale for an interview with the full CSAB. The motion passed 8-2 with Mr. Walker and Mr. Hawkes dissenting.
- Mr. Walker made a motion not to forward Kerr-Vance Charter Academy for an interview with the full CSAB. The motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Walker made a motion not to forward Mecklenburg Charter at Lake Norman for an interview with the full CSAB. The motion passed 8-2 with Mr. Walker and Mr. Hawkes dissenting.

- Mr. Walker made a motion not to forward Mooresville Charter for an interview with the full CSAB. The motion passed 8-2 with Mr. Walker and Mr. Hawkes dissenting.
- Mr. Walker made a motion not to forward NC Virtual Academy for an interview with the full CSAB. The motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Walker made a motion not to forward Robert J. Brown Leadership for an interview with the full CSAB. The motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Walker made a motion not to forward Lake Academy for an interview with the full CSAB. The motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Walker made a motion not to forward Lee Scholars for an interview with the full CSAB. The motion passed 8-2 with Mr. Walker and Mr. Hawkes dissenting.
- Mr. Walker made a motion not to forward Appalachian Heritage for an interview with the full CSAB. The motion passed unanimously.

Subcommittee B:

- Ms. Nance made a motion not to forward Focus Charter for an interview with the full CSAB. The motion passed unanimously.
- Ms. Nance made a motion not to forward Heritage Learning Academy for an interview with the full CSAB. The motion passed unanimously.
- Ms. Nance made a motion not to forward new Hope Charter School for an interview with the full CSAB. The motion passed unanimously.
- Ms. Nance made a motion not to forward River Pointe Preparatory for an interview with the full CSAB. The motion passed unanimously.
- Ms. Nance made a motion not to forward Unity Charter School for an interview with the full CSAB. The motion passed unanimously.

Subcommittee C:

- Mr. Sanchez made a motion not to forward Felix A. Penn School for an interview with the full CSAB. The motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Sanchez made a motion not to forward Kannapolis Charter for an interview with the full CSAB. The motion passed 8-2 with Mr. Walker and Mr. Hawkes dissenting.
- Mr. Sanchez made a motion not to forward Mallard Creek STEM for an interview with the full CSAB. The motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Sanchez made a motion not to forward Matthews Academy for an interview with the full CSAB. The motion passed 9-1 with Mr. Walker dissenting.
- Mr. Sanchez made a motion not to forward Meek Charter at McAlpine for an interview with the full CSAB. The motion passed 7-3 with Mr. Walker, Mr. Hawkes, and Ms. Turner dissenting.
- Mr. Sanchez made a motion not to forward A. Michael Dixon for an interview with the full CSAB. The motion passed unanimously.

Subcommittee D:

- Mr. Quigley made a motion not to forward Ballencrest for an interview with the full CSAB. Ms. Nance seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Quigley made a motion not to forward Capital City for an interview with the full CSAB. Ms. Taylor seconded. The motion passed 8-2 with Mr. Hawkes and Mr. Walker dissenting.
- Mr. Quigley made a motion not to forward Central Wake Charter for an interview with the full CSAB. Ms. Taylor seconded. The motion passed 8-2 with Mr. Hawkes and Mr. Walker dissenting.

- Mr. Quigley made a motion not to forward Davidson Charter for an interview with the full CSAB. Ms. Turner seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Quigley made a motion not to forward Frontier Academy for an interview with the full CSAB. Ms. Taylor seconded. The motion passed 9-1 with Mr. Hawkes dissenting.
- Mr. Quigley made a motion to forward Ignite for an interview with the full CSAB. The concerns were the ability to describe the Blended Learning Model. The Board was strong and they were receptive to feedback. There were some issues with Scope and Sequence and Governance. These were addressed in the appeal. Mr. Walker replied that the school was interesting and innovative. Ms. Turner added that she would like to hear more to an interview because there are still questions about the Education Plan. Mr. Quigley added that the applicants were rated inadequate in some sections but they were addressed in the appeals. Ms. Turner seconded. The motion passed Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Maimone dissented and Ms. Sutton abstained.
- Mr. Quigley made a motion not to forward Town Center Charter for an interview with the full CSAB. Ms. Nance seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Quigley made a motion not to forward Union Preparatory for an interview with the full CSAB. Ms. Nance seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Quigley made a motion not to forward Wisdom Academy for an interview with the full CSAB. Ms. Turner seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Taylor made a motion to reconsider the Boards decision for Matthews-Mint Hill and Gateway Academy. Ms. Nance explained that the schools be looked at their individual merit. They are both NHA schools and it may appear that they were discussed as NHA schools rather than individual schools. Ms. Taylor made a motion to reconsider the Boards decision for Gateway Academy. Mr. Walker seconded. Mr. Sanchez asked for clarification. Mr. Maimone commented that if the Board reopens the discussion it will discredit the process. The motion failed 4-5 Quigley, Maimone, Turner, Sutton, and Sanchez. Mr. Mitchell abstained.

The next meeting will be held on June 16-17. Ms. Taylor stated that she would not be able to attend the meeting on the 16th.

Mr. Walker made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Quigley seconded. The meeting adjourned at 2:55 pm.