

**Minutes of the North Carolina Charter Schools Review Board**

**Virtual Meeting, Department of Public Instruction**

**June 11, 2024**

**9 AM**

Attendance – CSRБ Members	
Alex Granados (nonvoting) Dr. Rita Haire Dr. John Eldridge Alex Quigley- Absent Hilda Parlér- Absent Dr. Shelly Shope	Eric Sanchez Bruce Friend Dave Machado Todd Godbey Dr. Bartley Danielsen- Absent Stephen Gay
Attendance – Other	
<i>Office of Charter Schools</i> Ashley Baquero, Director Joseph Letterio, Consultant Melanie Rackley, Consultant Jenna Cook, Consultant Dr. Brandi Gill, Consultant Dr. Natasha Norins, Consultant Nicky Niewinski, Consultant Megan Carter, Consultant Julie Whetzel, Consultant	<i>Attorney</i> Steven Walker  <i>SBE Attorney</i> Allison Schafer- Absent  <i>Teacher/Principal of Year</i> William Storrs- Absent Maria Mills- Absent TJ Worrell- Absent Ryan Henderson- Absent

June 2024 Recording:

[NC Charter Schools Review Board Meeting, Part 1 - June 11, 2024 \(youtube.com\)](#)

[NC Charter Schools Review Board Meeting, Part 2 - June 11, 2024 \(youtube.com\)](#)

**Call To Order**

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Mr. Bruce Friend

**Mission and Ethics Statement:**

- Mission and Ethics Statement read by Mr. Bruce Friend
  - Mr. Friend and Mr. Machado recused from Pine Springs Prep discussion.

**Approval of the Agenda and Minutes**

**Motion:** Dr. Rita Haire moved to approve agenda for the June Meeting.

Second: Mr. Stephen Gay

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

**Motion: Mr. Stephen Gay moved to approve May 2024 minutes**

Second: Dr. Shelly Shope

Discussion:

- Dr. Haire noted that she made a few technical corrections last night.

Vote: Unanimous

Passed  Failed

**Motion: Dr. John Eldridge moved to approve May 31, 2024 Special Called minutes**

Second: Mr. Bruce Friend

Vote: Unanimous

Passed  Failed

**June Charter Schools Review Board Meeting**

**Teacher Working Conditions Survey:** Dr. Jeni Corn, Director of Research and Evaluation, NC DPI

- Ms. Baquero introduced Dr. Corn and her presentation. She mentioned that this data was charter specific and went over an outline of the presentation.
  - o Dr. Corn mentioned how the survey has changed over the years and noted that charter schools have had a significantly larger participation rate recently than other years.
  - o She then transitioned into the bigger results from this data and noted how they've prioritized getting the data in front of legislators/the public as quickly as possible; and using it more often to impact decisions.
  - o Timeline of release.
    - First phase of data would be released late April of 2024.
    - The second phase of data would be released in the summer of 2024 and would have results broken down by educator and school characteristics (among various subcategories). She said that in this data, they'll be able to compare responses over time and see if there are any impacts on other areas of teacher working conditions because of another area.
    - She then touched on the statewide response rates from charter schools only and expressed excitement that many gave optional demographic information and allowed them to splice the data even more.
    - Citing personal examples, she then encouraged/challenged leaders to share this data with the teachers, school improvement teams, and more so that leaders can create/foster a positive work environment for all.
      - She then gave some helpful links that teachers have used / can use to leverage best practices from that survey.
- Mr. Friend thanked Ms. Corn for her presentation.

**Performance Framework / Charter Agreement Revisions:** Ms. Ashley Baquero, OCS Director

- Ms. Baquero introduced the revised charter agreement after conversations with the State Board and discussion in previous meetings.

- o One section that had discussion and went over that discussion – citing General Statute and previous State Board Meetings/policy.
- o She asked for a vote of approval so that renewal schools can get their charter agreements approved by their boards and the superintendent can sign it.

Questions from the CSRБ

- Mr. Friend asked if Mr. Walker had agreed to it / looked it over. Mr. Walker noted that it really was just a language change and that he did indeed look it over.

**Motion: Dr. John Eldridge moved to approve the revised Charter Agreement**

Second: Mr. Stephen Gay

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

- Passed  Failed

Discussion on the Performance Framework from Ashley Baquero

- Ms. Baquero went over the history of the performance framework and noted that there was not any substantial change since initiated in 2014.
  - o Reviewed objectives, saying that they sought to align the framework to statute and create a transparent and focused accountability tool to measure charter school health. She said this would help OCS identify red-flags in schools.
  - o She continued by going over a timeline of the work to edit these frameworks and create best practice documents for schools and charter leadership with a goal to implement in the 2025 cycle.
- Ms. Baquero went over the next steps for the CSRБ regarding the framework.
- Ms. Baquero continued by going over the previous structure of the framework and noted differences.
  - o Operational:
    - Ms. Baquero noted items that were removed from this section, since they are redundant and time-consuming.
    - Ms. Baquero added they have combined previously collected metrics into one to help make things more clear, and that the only new items were based off of recent changes to statute – such as the Parents Bill of Rights.
  - o Governance:
    - Ms. Baquero noted this section was created to separate the sections that touched on governance from the sections that touched on operations.
  - o Financial:
    - No Changes
  - o Academic:
    - Ms. Baquero noted some minor changes that have occurred in this section, and noted what was removed.

- Ms. Baquero then showed the CSRБ the new performance framework and went through it section by section (noting what has changed vs. what stayed the same). She also pointed out that it was going to make it much easier for schools to understand what they were meeting/not meeting.

Questions from the CSRБ

- Dr. Haire commented how organized the document is and noted that she would love to see the size of the school (# of enrolled) at the top of the document.
- Mr. Friend noted that he would like to make sure schools are having their board meeting minutes posted.
  - Ms. Baquero said they were probably going to stick this in the best practices section since they couldn't point out any statute they could tie it to.
- Mr. Machado commented on how simple this was and complimented OCS on how it cut out any confusion/redundancy within the document. He then asked if there is a % of items that would make a school non-compliant?
  - Ms. Baquero noted that if a school is falling below 80% this internal document would help OCS direct resources and trainings to the school that is struggling.
- Ms. Baquero concluded her presentation saying this would be incredibly helpful for schools.

**Motion: Mr. Dave Machado moved to approve the revised Performance Framework.**

Second: Dr. Rita Haire

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

- Passed  Failed

**Amendment Requests:** Ms. Julie Whetzel, OCS Consultant

**Paul R. Brown Leadership Academy – Enrollment Increase CLP School**

- Ms. Whetzel introduced the amendment and gave a history of the school, location, and educational background of the school. She then went into details of the amendment and cited reasons why the school believes they should be approved – referencing a cover letter provided to OCS from school leadership.

Questions from the CSRБ

- Dr. Haire asked if Paul R. Brown is a CLP school and Ms. Whetzel said yes.
  - Dr. Haire added that she thought the school was also having enrollment issues and was surprised at this request. Ms. Whetzel gave data from School Business to support the request.
- Dr. Haire asked about the financial compliance issues and Ms. Baquero said they haven't heard back from school business on the status but the financial audit has been submitted by the school. She also added that the most recent data showed that they made a 'C' and 'Met' growth so hopefully they would get off CLP next year.
- Dr. Haire asked if they brought plans previously and Ms. Baquero said yes and noted that a school audit has been submitted.

- o Dr. Haire asked if there was a site visit a few months ago and if there were any findings from that? Ms. Baquero said that Ms. Niewinski has been out several times and noted positive improvements. Dr. Haire commented on their success and confirmed with Ms. Baquero that they are still 6-12.
- Mr. Friend asked when their renewal date and Ms. Baquero said 2026 (so they will be up for renewal next year).
- Dr. Eldridge added that the increased enrollment would really help the school and motioned.

**Motion: Dr. John Eldridge moved to approve Paul R. Brown Leadership Academy’s request to increase enrollment.**

Second: Mr. Todd Godbey

Discussion:

- Dr. Haire commented on how the school has improved in a lot of areas.

Vote: Unanimous

- Passed  Failed

### **Tillery Charter – CLP Grade Level Expansion**

- Ms. Whetzel introduced the amendment and gave a history of the school, location, and educational background of the school. She then went into the details of the amendment and cited reasons why the school believes they should be approved.

### **Questions from the CSRБ**

- Ms. Barber, school representative, thanked the board for the time and noted they are seeing data come in that is showing they need this expansion.
- Mr. Gay asked if they have enough 7<sup>th</sup> graders to expand? Ms. Barber said yes, and another school representative noted they have only 3 empty seats, accounting for applicants and those matriculating through.
- Dr. Haire asked if 2023 data had growth from an F to a D and from 6 LEAs. Several of the school’s board noted that it is expanding to 7 LEAs and Dr. Haire thanked them for their leadership.
- Mr. Sanchez asked for data they referenced, and a school representative noted that proficiency jumped from 35% to over 53% in 5<sup>th</sup> grade reading. They also noted a large jump in reading proficiency for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders.
  - o Mr. Sanchez asked what they’re attributing to the jumps. School representative said it was due to increased funding because of the CLP designation and added other staff and interventionists. Mr. Rodriguez – a consultant with the school – added other methods they plan to use and noted they hope to become a ‘C’ school this year.

**Motion: Dr. Rita Haire moved to approve Tillery Charter School’s request for grade level expansion.**

Second: Mr. Dave Machado

Discussion:

- Mr. Machado complemented the leadership of the school.

Vote: Unanimous

- Passed  Failed

**Movement Charter School – Mission Statement**

- Ms. Whetzel introduced the amendment and gave a history of the school, location, and educational background of the school. She then went into the details of the amendment and cited reasons why the school believes they should be approved. Ms. Whetzel also noted that the 4 schools referenced had separate mission statements and this request allows all Movement schools to operate under the same mission statement.
- Mr. Hurley gave an overall summary of the amendment request as well.

**Questions from the CSRБ**

- None

**Motion: Dr. Rita Haire moved to approve Movement Charter School’s request to amend their mission statement.**

Second: Dr. Shelly Shope

Discussion: None

Vote:

- Passed  Failed

**Movement West Charlotte – 2<sup>nd</sup> Delay**

- Ms. Whetzel introduced the amendment and gave a history of the school, location, and educational background of the school. She then went into the details of the amendment and cited reasons why the school believes they should be approved.

**Questions from the CSRБ**

- Dr. Haire asked what they attribute the expectation of increased enrollment to be if they open on a delayed plan. Mr. Hurley responded saying they feel they have a great ability to expand learning based on current enrollment trends. Dr. Haire asked if there are any enrollment / interest trends and Mr. Hurley said that looking at currently operating schools are what he’s basing most of it on and that he doesn’t have the exact interest information for that school in front of him since the school isn’t actively accepting applications.

**Motion: Dr. Rita Haire moved to approve Movement West Charlotte’s request for a 2<sup>nd</sup> Delay.**

Second: Todd Godbey

Discussion: None

Vote:

- Passed  Failed

### **Monroe Charter Academy – Relocation over 5-miles & Grade Level Increase LP School**

- Ms. Whetzel introduced the amendment and gave a history of the school, location, and educational background of the school. She then went into the details of the amendment and cited reasons why the school believes they should be approved.
- Ms. Whetzel noted that the first discussion was on the relocation.

### **Questions from the CSRБ**

- Mr. Friend asked to clarify that if this doesn't get approved the school has no other location and the school leader said that's correct.
- Mr. Friend asked what the students/parents have said about this possible move. The school leader stated they have had surveys and conversations with families and noted they are working to purchase a 4<sup>th</sup> bus to transport students back and forth.
- Mr. Friend asked if the new facility could serve in an educational capacity and the school leader said it hasn't received the certificate yet, but it has a certificate already and has classrooms set up.
- Mr. Machado asked what year they are in their renewal, and the school leader said the 1<sup>st</sup> of 3 years.
  - Mr. Machado asked how they expect to see an increase in enrollment and the school leader said they anticipate students following and more coming from the new area.
- Mr. Friend asked if a budget has been submitted for the new school location and the school leader said the board is working on a new budget and one would be submitted soon. She said that by the end of June they will have a \$230,000 surplus.
- Dr. Haire said the budget is good news. She also said that the distance of 12 miles with little information about the facility is concerning. The school leader stated it is a multipurpose section of a church with a separate entrance and they would be paying a rental fee.
- Mr. Friend asked again if it had an educational certificate of occupancy. The school leader said she is working to get that now. A school board member noted the county was coming out to do inspections and those who came out said they never heard of an educational certificate of occupancy.
- Dr. Eldridge asked if the church has a fire sprinkler system. The board member said he wasn't sure, and Dr. Eldridge recommended looking into that to get approved.
- Dr. Haire said that upon open they did plan to expand grade levels, and then asked if there were any comments on the financial status of the school. The school leader said that they are within their budget and that this year they plan to close with a surplus of \$230,000.
- Dr. Haire asked about the document submitted to the board regarding enrollment and the school leader mentioned that it was a typo and gave the actual enrollment numbers of 150.
- Mr. Friend asked if a DOT study had been done and the school leader did not believe one has been done. Mr. Friend then commented and said that an Educational CO and a traffic study will have to be done and it's the middle of June. Ms. Baquero confirmed that DPI would need the ECO to release funds and asked when the first day of school was. The school leader said August 14<sup>th</sup> is student's first day. Ms. Baquero stated they would have to have all this information prior to that day. She stressed that it had to say, 'school or educational use' on the CO.
- Dr. Eldridge noted that DOT reports sometimes take a while and to stress the timeline they are on. A board member added they did say this to the county, and they would be on a fast track.
- Dr. Haire asked if OCS has a record of the school having 153. Ms. Whetzel added that she cannot find anything, but Ms. Baquero said she was looking it up.
- Dr. Haire asked if there was any data pointing to willingness of families to move quite a distance away from where they are now. The school leader said they have some data and some verbal

approval saying families would move but nothing substantial. Families were waiting for a building.

- Mr. Friend asked for some more numbers/specifics. The school leader said that as of June 7th, approximately 130 current families will follow, and that an additional 6 new families will be following. She said that 80 new families have yet to be contacted.
- Mr. Machado stated he has a few concerns about the move, but that if they didn't approve the move the school would effectively be shut down.

**Motion: Mr. Dave Machado moved to approve Monroe Charter Academy's request to relocate over 5-miles.**

Second: Dr. John Eldridge

Discussion:

- Dr. Eldridge reiterated the concerns of Mr. Machado and Dr. Haire agreed and reiterated her concerns as well. She added they have made some improvements from last August.
- Ms. Baquero did confirm the 153 ADM number.
- Dr. Haire asked why the old facility didn't work. The Vice Chair of the Board said that the lease contract had expired and the church they were working with signed a lease with another school.
- Mr. Friend said he supports it but reiterated the concerns of his other members.
- Mr. Sanchez recused himself.

Vote: Unanimous

- Passed  Failed

Discussion / Introduction of the Grade Increase Amendment

- Dr. Haire agreed that they would need this grade increase to help kids come with them from their old school to the new school.

**Motion: Dr. Rita Haire moved to approve Monroe Charter Academy's request to add a grade level.**

Second: Dr. John Eldridge

Vote: Unanimous

- Passed  Failed

**Remote Academy Amendment Applications:** Ms. Julie Whetzel, OCS Consultant

**Pine Springs Prep**

- Ms. Whetzel introduced the amendment and gave a history of the school, location, and the educational background of the school. She then went into the details of the amendment and cited reasons why the school believes they should be approved. She also touched on the outline of how discussion would go for the 4 schools before the board today.

Opening Remarks from the School



- Mr. Friend recused himself as a CSRБ member as he is the school leader, and gave an introduction of the school and the board members present. He then touched on the locations of his schools and introduced the amendment to alter their virtual academy.
  - He went through the history of Pine Springs virtual academy and noted the high demand both the virtual academy and the blended model.
  - Additionally, he stressed that with their future plans to add a High School it would be important to have this in place. He also mentioned the projected enrollment numbers and noted it may be hard to pinpoint an exact amount.

#### Questions from the CSRБ

- Dr. Haire asked if Mr. Friend could speak to the budget/personnel.
  - Mr. Friend noted the blended academy staff is on the call and they are going to be working to create a new budget soon. He noted the positions on the budget given to the board are for all the employees they would need – both those who report to Mr. Friend and those who are hired out / learning companies in the community.
  - Dr. Haire asked if any are duplications from the blended academy and Mr. Friend said no. Mr. Friend clarified they are running a blended academy and are seeking to run a fully remote option. He said that he would transition the blended academy leader to be over all remote options.
- Dr. Eldridge asked where students would come from – and how things would be funded based on LEA.
  - Mr. Friend said that he chose one LEA and that he clicked statewide, so he had the option to serve kids from across the state. He again reiterated the difficulty of pinpointing a number of students.
  - Dr. Eldridge asked if kids wanted to go to the in-person option, could they? Mr. Friend said unfortunately not as they don't have any more physical space in their school. He stressed they would need to be very forward when talking to parents and mentioned that other schools might be able to get kids into their brick-and-mortar depending on how many seats they have left.
- Dr. Haire asked if this would launch in August and Mr. Friend said yes. Dr. Haire asked if 90% of staff is hired and Mr. Friend said no but they have staff ready to take those roles pending approval. Dr. Haire asked about the facility budget and Mr. Friend noted what happens with the blended model and said they would evaluate as things go on.

#### Closing Statement from the School

- Mr. Friend thanked the board for the opportunity. He stated that he believed his school is one of few that could pull something like this off and reiterated the demand and interest in this option.

#### Deliberation from the CSRБ

- Mr. Gay noted that overall – and personally – he is skeptical about virtual academies; but said that based on what he's seeing in Mr. Friend / Pine Spring's application he feels comfortable supporting this option.

**Motion: Mr. Stephan Gay moved to approve Pine Springs Prep's Remote Academy amendment request.**

Second: Dr. Rita Haire

Discussion:

- Dr. Haire said that overall, she agrees with the closing remarks and cited performance data and the recent 10-year renewal.

Vote: Unanimous

- Passed  Failed

**Uwharrie Charter School**

Opening Statement

- School leader introduced himself and the other school leadership that was on the call. He noted they already have a virtual academy in place, since 2022, and they saw the immense need for this since COVID caused some students to have to work full-time. He also said they plan to work with their career academy that works with the trades and other high-demand jobs in the area.
  - He noted that DPI did approve this prior to OCS having an application process and their target audience.
- Ms. Harris – a school leader – introduced herself and gave an overview on how parents felt about the virtual option. She then mentioned what other students – both in and outside of the school – have said about the opportunity.
- School leaders also noted they are not planning to rapidly expand and just ‘grab extra kids’. They gave data to back up their ability to get those numbers and noted that if demand is high than they will re-evaluate down the road.

Questions from the CSRБ

- Dr. Haire asked how they anticipate marketing this. School representative stated the amount is strictly targeted marketing. He also said they do a lot of word-of-mouth marketing.
- Mr. Machado asked if he separates the scores for virtual students and those that attend in-person.
  - Ms. Harris said they were separated, and overall English was good but math needed some help. She then touched on some ways they plan to improve that to increase support for all their students.
  - Ms. Harris said it was great to have the resources of other schools supporting the virtual academy due to the fact they don’t currently have a lot of staff for their virtual academy.
- Mr. Machado asked if the students in the virtual academy would have access to extracurriculars and the school said yes.
- Dr. Haire asked what the enrollment was in their blended academy. The school representative gave the enrollment numbers and stated the majority of those students only came on campus for testing.

Closing Statement

- The school leader thanked the board for their time and gave additional closing remarks.

Discussion from the CSRБ

- Mr. Friend applauded the school for the information provided and thanked them for the detail.

**Motion: Mr. Bruce Friend moved to approve Uwharrie Charter School’s Remote Academy amendment request.**

Second: Dr. Rita Haire

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

- Passed  Failed

### **Carolina Charter Academy**

#### Opening Statement from the School

- Ms. Mills introduced herself and those online with her. She then yielded the presentation to her soon to be virtual academy director who gave a presentation about their plans for a virtual academy.
  - A board member began the presentation by going over the mission of the blended academy and a brief introduction of the school itself. She also gave the enrollment information and growth charts since they opened in 2019.
  - Another board member went over the projected enrollment with the blended academy and touched on what grades they plan to serve with the academy. Ms. Mills added they were taking it slow since they don't like to bite off more than they can chew. She said that there is interest in the area based on conversations with parents in the community and interest surveys.
    - Ms. Mills also explained why they decided to start with 4<sup>th</sup> grade.
  - School representative then went into why they decided to create this program and cited a few core values that COVID and other things inspired in them.

#### Questions from the CSRБ

- Dr. Eldridge asked if they are blending current staff into this program. Ms. Mills said yes and stated the plan they have for that first cohort.
- Mr. Friend asked what the weekly schedule looks like for blended students. School representative gave an overview of the schedule and noted that students would be able to stay for lunch, attend extracurriculars and feel a part of the 4<sup>th</sup> grade class.
  - Ms. Mills said they talked with the remote coordinator at Pine Springs, and they have worked with others across NC to create a strong program similar to others across the statewide.
- Dr. Haire asked how many 4<sup>th</sup> graders were part of the brick and mortar enrollment. School representative said 100 and noted that they plan to pull a bit from the current 100, from the waitlist, and from the general public. She noted that they would be starting slow enough to address concerns as needed and the board / Dr. Haire commented that the budget is strong, and stuff could be moved around to work things out.

#### Closing Statement

- Ms. Ross concluded her presentation by noting their continued desire to serve the community.

#### Discussion from the CSRБ

- Mr. Friend liked the idea that it was a 'R/D' approach and Dr. Haire agreed.

**Motion: Mr. Bruce Friend moved to approve Carolina Charter Academy's Remote Academy amendment request.**

Second: Dr. Rita Haire

Vote: Unanimous

- Passed  Failed

### **Longleaf School of the Arts**

#### Opening Statement from the School

- Ms. Williams introduced herself and stated how grateful they were to be before the board today. She also introduced the other staff representatives and board members that were present online.
  - She began her presentation by going over the mission of the school and the need for a remote academy in their community and current population. She then touched on the past remote experience as an art school and cited a WRAL article in which they were featured during COVID.
  - She shared their plan to handle doing art and other programs virtually and how they plan to hold students accountable. They also said that they have data from parents and others from COVID that showed that it is possible to hold students accountable.
  - She then explained again the plan for enrollment and the grades they will serve and how the application process was going to work. She stated they already have the software and hardware in place and the staff to take care of students. She then touched on the schedule and proposed curriculum for the students.
  - She continued her presentation by noting the possible challenges that might occur with this remote academy.

#### Questions from the CSRБ

- Dr. Haire commented that each day they have the opportunity to interact with students and that it's a different model than others. She also asked what the \$100,000 facility budget was going to be used for.
  - Ms. Williams noted that was for teachers who were going to be in the classroom and also technology that is in the building. The board treasurer noted that they always present a \$0 expense budget.
- Dr. Haire asked what their direct marketing strategy was, and Ms. Williams stated that was based off what Niche – the group they are working with – suggested.
- Dr. Haire asked what the 'Core Supplemental Sections' were, and Ms. Williams noted that those are teachers giving up plan time to get paid the \$5,000 and teach each of those 16 sections.
- Dr. Eldridge asked what happens if someone wants to transfer over to the in-person during the year. Ms. Williams went over the only circumstances that would require a transfer to in-person and noted it is on the application and all materials shared with families.
- Dr. Haire asked if they could share the success during COVID as an art program. Ms. Williams mentioned that the teachers are the main reason and touched on some other events that gave skills to teachers that occurred during COVID.

#### Closing Statement

- Ms. Williams thanked the board for their time and noted that the arts are needed across the state. She reiterated that they are excited to provide an opportunity for students across the state to get access to the arts.

#### Discussion from the CSRБ

- Dr. Haire thanked the board for all being online and thanked them for their presentation.

**Motion: Dr. Rita Haire moved to approve Longleaf School of the Arts’s Remote Academy amendment request.**

Second: Mr. Dave Machado

Discussion:

- Mr. Machado reiterated what Dr. Haire said earlier and noted his support for the application.

Vote: Unanimous

- Passed  Failed

**RTO Cohort 2024 Update:** Dr. Natasha Norins, OCS Consultant

- Dr. Norins gave the final RTO update and went over the minimum qualifications needed to get approved and opened. She stated that these schools have completed RTO 1, 2, and 3 and that DPI staff had also assisted in this completion.
  - Dr. Norins then gave recommendations that OCS and other DPI staff had for the new schools.

**ALA Monroe:**

- Dr. Norins gave an update on ALA Monroe with information on enrollment numbers, inspection results, and breakeven numbers.
- Mr. Machado asked when they took over the building and if they saw an uptick in enrollment afterwards. A representative from ALA came on and said they did see an uptick once they took over the building and noted that they are ready to open. She and Dr. Haire noted that the enrollment has jumped significantly from April.
- Dr. Haire asked if they are seeing lower enrollment in certain grades and the representative gave a few grades that were experiencing higher enrollment and a few that were experiencing lower enrollment.
- Mr. Friend asked if any Monroe Charter students have come over to their school due to the location change and the school representative said yes. Mr. Friend asked what contingencies would be in place should the projected enrollment not get met (such as the budget).
  - Mr. Sindors responded that the fee wouldn’t be taken if the money wasn’t available, and they would also work with the landlord – who in the past has waived certain rents – to renegotiate the rent based on the number of students. Another board member came on and said that the numbers are higher today and are around 64% of ADM.
- Mr. Friend commended both schools for getting to where they are today.

**Riverside Leadership Academy**

- Dr. Norins gave an update on Riverside Leadership Academy with information on enrollment numbers, inspection results, and breakeven numbers. She also touched on the contingency plan they had in place.
- Mr. Machado asked if they recently went through a leadership change and Ms. Baquero said that they did, and that the old leader is stepping away from the school. A member of the school’s leadership came on and explained that she was a founding member of the board and would be taking over.

- Mr. Godbey asked if OCS has flexibility with the 75% but wasn't sure if it was in statute. Ms. Baquero noted that the only statute was the minimum ADM of 80 students.

**Motion: Dr. John Eldridge moved that the Charter Schools Review Board approve the opening of Riverside Leadership Academy and ALA Monroe with the charter agreement beginning July 1, 2024.**

Second: Dr. Rita Haire

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

- **Passed**                       **Failed**

**Director's Update:** Ms. Ashley Baquero, Director, Office of Charter Schools

- Ms. Baquero went over the future RTO cohorts. Dr. Eldridge asked if they could send updates weekly and Dr. Norins noted that they already are required to send a report in July and August. Dr. Eldridge and Ms. Baquero agreed to have those reports sent weekly.
- Ms. Baquero noted that they had a break in July and August so CSRБ members can review applications.
  - Dr. Eldridge asked if the platform was the same to read the applications and Ms. Baquero said yes.

**Motion to Adjourn:** Mr. Bruce Friend

Second: Dr. Rita Haire

Unanimous

2:04 pm.