

**Minutes of the  
North Carolina Charter School Advisory Board  
State Board Room 755, Department of Public Instruction  
June 7, 2022  
9AM**

Attendance – CSAB Members	
Jamey Falkenbury (non-voting) Rita Haire John Eldridge Cheryl Turner Hilda Parlér Shelly Bullard – remote	Eric Sanchez - remote Terry Stoops Bruce Friend Todd Godbey – remote
Attendance – Other	
<i>Office of Charter Schools</i>  Dave Machado, Director Ashley Baquero, Consultant Claire Porter, Consultant Melanie Rackley, Consultant Joseph Letterio, Consultant Jenna Cook, Consultant Darian Jones, Consultant – remote Jay Whalen, NC ACCESS Barbara O’Neal, NC ACCESS Davida Robinson, NC ACCESS Lakisha Robbins, NC ACCESS	<i>Attorney General</i> Stephanie Lloyd – absent Forrest Fallanca  <i>SBE Attorney</i> Allison Schafer

**CALL TO ORDER**

- The North Carolina Charter School Advisory Board (CSAB) meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by Chair Turner who read the Ethics Statement and CSAB Mission Statement. Ms. Hilda Parlér led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Hilda Parlér recused from discussion and voting on Wake Preparatory Academy and ALA Johnston; John Eldridge from Central Carolina; and Cheryl Turner from Movement School SW.

**Motion: Motion to approve the May regular meeting minutes.**

**Motion: Bruce Friend**

**Second: Rita Haire**

**Vote: Unanimous**

Passed

Failed

**Motion: Motion to approve the agenda.**

**Motion: Hilda Parlér**

**Second: Terry Stoops**  
**Vote: Unanimous**  
Passed                      Failed

**Motion: Motion to approve the May 26 special called meeting minutes.**  
**Motion: Rita Haire**  
**Second: John Eldridge**  
**Vote: Unanimous**  
Passed                      Failed

**Motion: Motion to go into closed session pursuant to NC General Statute section 143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with our attorneys in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorneys and the public body. 9:02AM**

**Motion: John Eldridge**  
**Second: Hilda Parlér**  
**Vote: Unanimous**  
Passed                      Failed

**Motion: Motion to go adjourn closed session. 9:45AM**

**Motion: John Eldridge**  
**Second: Hilda Parlér**  
**Vote: Unanimous**  
Passed                      Failed

**Motion: Motion to go enter open/public session. 9:57AM**

**Motion: Hilda Parlér**  
**Second: John Eldridge**  
**Vote: Unanimous**  
Passed                      Failed

**AMENDMENTS**

- Ms. Ashley Baquero, Office of Charter Schools Consultant, presented his month's amendment requests.

*Central Carolina NSLP Request*

- Ms. Baquero explained that Central Carolina is scheduled to open this August in Lee County and will serve grades 6-10 with a projected ADM of 282 students. She stated the school originally planned on using lunch vendors. The school is a replication of Chatham Charter which has a successful relationship with the School Nutrition Services of Chatham County and was recently approved for National School Lunch Program (NSLP) participation. Chatham County has agreed to also serve lunches to Central Carolina and therefore the school is seeking approval to participate in NSLP.

**Motion: Motion to approve Central Carolina Academy's request to implement the National School Lunch Program.**

**Motion: Eric Sanchez**  
**Second: Bruce Friend**  
**Recused: John Eldridge**  
**Vote: Unanimous**

Passed

Failed

ArtSpace Charter School

- Ms. Baquero explained that the school is seeking to implement a weighted lottery. She stated the school serves K-8 in Buncombe County and is Title I designated. She explained that the current economically disadvantaged (EDS) population at ArtSpace is 38% and Buncombe County enrolls 41% EDS. The school has set a goal to enroll 55% EDS through the weighted lottery implementation.
- She explained the school has a thorough wrap around program including improved recruiting, additional support staff, transportation, and improved student school nutrition.

**Motion: Motion to approve ArtSpace Charter School's request to implement a weighted lottery.**

**Motion: Hilda Parlér**

**Second: Terry Stoops**

**Vote: Unanimous**

Passed

Failed

**2022 CHARTER APPLICATION UPDATE**

- Ms. Melanie Rackley, OCS Consultant, reviewed the monthly interview schedule beginning in September. She explained OCS received twenty applications for consideration including four accelerated applications which will be heard first in September. She reviewed the monthly calendar from September to December when interviews should conclude. She stated that there is a new educational management organization (EMO) that applied for Charlotte school and due diligence will take place with that organization. She also stated that some applications had unexecuted management company contracts because the applicant stated they needed approval to do that. Ms. Turner stated that would need to be looked at carefully.
- Ms. Rackley emphasized the importance of reading applications this summer and stated the platform is open and should be available to all members.
- Ms. Turner reminded the CSAB that you must read the applications over the summer otherwise the board will be drowning when it comes to meetings with seven interviews with applications at several hundred pages a piece. Ms. Rackley stated that evaluators have been instructed to carefully review management contracts and any contractual clauses at all for any language that may be problematic. Ms. Turner asked for the new EMO. Ms. Rackley stated Educational Management Services.
- Mr. Bruce Friend reiterated that accelerated applicants know the rules of acceleration. Ms. Rackley stated those applicants have been instructed thoroughly on the acceleration rules and that Mr. Dave Machado, OCS Director, has visits planned to facilities.

**CHARTER AGREEMENT REVISIONS**

- Ms. Allison Schafer, counsel for CSAB and SBE, stated that legal is reviewing and recommending some changes to the Charter Agreement. She stated they are mainly technical revisions to align with law. She stated that there also needs to be revisions to allow an independent hearing officer to hear appeals of closure schools. She stated that will come back to CSAB.
- Ms. Schafer stated that the Charter Agreement does not have to go to rules because it is a contract.

### **RTO PRESENTATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Ms. Claire Porter, OCS Consultant, gave the Ready to Open (RTO) Enrollment and Facility Report #4. She stated that CSAB made preliminary recommendations for RTO schools last month and this month the board will make final recommendations. She stated the options are that schools move forward to RTO, do not move forward to RTO, or move forward with stipulations.
- Ms. Porter explained the minimum opening requirements including facility, budget, enrollment, and RTO report. She stated the CSAB uses the progress report and guidelines to make a determination as to whether a school is prepared to open. She stated that if schools do not meet guidelines, they may seek a delay, or not move forward at all. She stated DPI staff is in attendance to speak to any child nutrition or exceptional children questions.
- Ms. Porter explained which schools have requested delays and which schools are NC ACCESS grant schools.
- Ms. Porter reviewed all the materials posted on Eboard for CSAB review.

#### ALA Johnston

- Ms. Porter reviewed the school's enrollment and facility progress. She stated they are approved for 1525 ADM and has no areas of insufficiency and are over 100% year one ADM with a robust waiting list. She stated the educational certificate of occupancy (ECO) and construction completion is on target. She stated the key staff hiring is over the 75% requirement and over 50% certified teachers. She stated transportation reflects the purchase of four buses and cluster stops. There are no transportation or lunch concerns following RTO submissions.
- Ms. Turner asked who follow ups with any remaining items. Ms. Porter states that OCS staff reviews all July submissions and schools must bring all items to Quality on the RTO rubric.
- Dr. Haire asked when the first day of school was planned. Ms. Porter stated the building ECO is planned for August 3, 2022 and the first day of school is August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Dr. Haire asked for the contingency plan. Ms. Porter stated the contingency plan includes a delay to the start of the school year.
- Mr. Raymond Turley, with ALA Johnston, stated that all construction is on schedule, and they do not anticipate needing a late start to the calendar.
- Ms. Turner asked how the ECO is handled when received. Ms. Porter stated that starting on July 1<sup>st</sup>, OCS will begin updates to Financial Business Services at DPI regarding ECOs as schools cannot get funding drops until the ECO is on file with OCS.

**Motion: Motion to recommend that ALA Johnston move forward in the ready to open process.**

**Motion: Bruce Friend**

**Second: Rita Haire**

**Recused: Hilda Parlér**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**

**Failed**

Central Carolina Academy

- Ms. Porter reviewed the school's enrollment and facility progress. She stated they are approved for 282 ADM, grades 6-10 in year one, and has no areas of insufficiency. She stated they are an NC ACCESS recipient with a weighted lottery. She stated the opening date is September 7, 2022. She stated they are at 100% year one ADM. She stated the educational certificate of occupancy (ECO) for the permanent facility is anticipated between August 1<sup>st</sup> and September 1<sup>st</sup>. She stated they have ECOs for contingency locations if needed. She stated the key staff hiring is over the 75% requirement and over 50% certified teachers. She stated transportation will include bus purchase and partnership with COLTS service. There are no transportation or lunch concerns following RTO submissions.
- Ms. Turner wondered if the ADM was low for 6-10 grades. Central Carolina Academy's Principal spoke about the enrollment figures including small, personalized learning environment that will grow slowly to build a strong program. He stated that the enrollment is going really well and they look forward to meeting targets this year and beyond.

**Motion: Motion to recommend that Central Carolina Academy move forward in the ready to open process.**

**Motion: Terry Stoops**

**Second: Hilda Parlér**

**Recused: John Eldridge**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**

**Failed**

Movement Schools Southwest

- Ms. Porter reviewed the school's enrollment and facility progress. She stated they are approved for 250 ADM, grades K-1 in year one, and has no areas of insufficiency. She stated enrollment is at 98%. She stated the opening date is August 24, 2022. She stated the educational certificate of occupancy (ECO) for the permanent facility is anticipated by the end of July once the building construction is complete. The school has submitted evidence that construction is on schedule. She stated they have a contingency location if needed. She stated the key staff hiring is over the 75% requirement and at least 50% certified teachers. There are no transportation concerns following RTO submissions. She stated the school was delayed in contacting the DPI school nutrition division, so they have a contract with a vendor until the NSLP can get up and running. She stated the handbook needs to be in final form, but that is an area of emerging like other schools may have on rubrics for resubmission in July.
- Dr. Haire stated they have done a great job increasing enrollment over the last month.
- Mr. Friend asked if there need to be stipulations with schools that have items to resubmit. Ms. Porter stated each RTO school has some items of resubmission to get to Quality on every category of the

rubric. Ms. Baquero clarified that CSAB usually only adds stipulations for very specific areas of insufficiency as the requirement to meet Quality is part of the RTO process for all schools with a deadline of July 1<sup>st</sup>.

- Dr. Haire confirmed the contingency is another Movement School location.

**Motion: Motion to recommend that Movement School Southwest move forward in the ready to open process.**

**Motion: Eric Sanchez**

**Second: John Eldridge**

**Recused: Cheryl Turner**

**Vote: Unanimous**

Passed

Failed

*Oak Hill Charter School*

- Ms. Porter reviewed the school's enrollment and facility progress. She stated they are approved for 216 ADM, grades K-7 in year one, and has no areas of insufficiency. She stated they have meet enrollment requirements. She stated the educational certificate of occupancy (ECO) is obtained for all three buildings covering 45,000 square feet. She stated the key staff hiring is over the 75% requirement and over 50% certified teachers. She stated transportation will include bus purchases and OCS has asked for further detail in the July submission. She stated they have an independent vendor for lunch services.

**Motion: Motion to recommend Oak Hill Charter move forward in the ready to open process.**

**Motion: John Eldridge**

**Second: Hilda Parlér**

**Vote: Unanimous**

Passed

Failed

*Revitalize Charter School*

- Ms. Porter reminded the CSAB that this school had requested an enrollment decrease and a delay, both of which were denied by CSAB because the school was an accelerated application. Ms. Porter clarified there has been no formal request by the school to withdrawal from the Ready to Open process.
- Ms. Ansel Caceres stated they would like to request to withdraw its application.
- Ms. Turner stated that is a good move on the school's part since they plan to reapply. Dr. Haire stated they had a great application, and she encourages them to reapply and make it happen.

**Motion: Motion to accept Revitalize Charter School's request to withdrawal its application.**

**Motion: Rita Haire**

**Second: John Eldridge**

**Vote: Unanimous**

Passed

Failed

The Triangle Math and Science Academy of Apex

- Ms. Porter reviewed the school's enrollment and facility progress. She stated they are approved for 600 ADM, grades K-5 in year one, and has no areas of insufficiency. The opening date is August 8, 2022. She stated they have meet enrollment requirements. She stated the ECO is not received as the new construction is undergoing. She stated the contingency plan is modulars. The school is an NC ACCESS school. She reviewed items that need resubmissions. She stated that the lunch plan is making progress but will need more detail. She stated that the lunch plan needs to be more robust and specific to the Apex campus. She stated they have made contact with the DPI School Nutrition division but have not submitted substantial evidence of progress. She stated the transportation plan was insufficient. She reviewed the details that OCS has requested in relation to these items. Ms. Porter stated that the two areas of insufficiency are Exceptional Children and Transportation.
- Ms. Turner asked about the transportation requirements of NC ACCESS subgrantees. Mr. Jay Whalen, NC ACCESS Program Administrator, stated that they would follow-up and require those plans be provided and meet requirements. Dr. Eldridge asked what the plan was in the grant application. Mr. Whalen stated it was a vendor contract plan.
- Ms. Porter clarified the school has listed the transportation vendor, but no other information.
- Ms. Turner expressed her disappointment given they were recently approved for their central office model and already have existing schools so should have sufficient plans in place.
- Ms. Michelle Hamm, DPI Exceptional Children's (EC) Division, stated that there was documentation completely missing or inadequate coverage of policy such as discipline policies regarding exceptional children. Ms. Hamm discussed areas of the EC rubric that were missing or not adequate including Child Find and Maintenance of Effort.
- Mr. Ben Karaduman, Superintendent of TMSA schools, stated he was surprised by the rubric results as well. He stated that they have been in compliance and all items are in place for the TMSA EC program. Ms. Turner stated that they may need to update policies to reflect what they are actually doing. Mr. Karaduman stated they are in the process of revising all policies. He stated that the board has a plan to have all items corrected by June 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Ms. Turner stated that lunch and transportation are requirements of NC ACCESS and they must make sure those are adequate.
- Mr. Friend asked about the contingency plan. Mr. Karaduman stated they will already have eight modulars in place for high school, and they do not believe the construction will be delayed, but if so, they will add modulars or start the calendar a few weeks later than originally planned. He stated that the Town of Apex has approved the modulars and the modular company is on alert and ready to provide those modulars. He stated they can be ready by the second week of July. He stated the campus is on 27 acres.
- Ms. Turner stated that this one must go forward with stipulations given the insufficiencies. Ms. Porter stated that the school needs to remedy its insufficiencies as to transportation and EC programming. Mr. Alden, Principal, stated the transportation would be similar to the Cary campus with different routes. Ms. Porter stated that needs to be explained well. Mr. Machado stated they need to meet NC ACCESS requirements or the funding will not go forward, and they have not received any funding at this point. Dr. Haire stated they are opening earlier than some schools, with a robust enrollment and waitlist, so

she would think this would be better prepared. Ms. Turner stated that it is concerning that this is the school that was recently approved for a central office model, so they need to sit down and get things in order. She stated its probably a matter of writing policies, but it has to happen.

**Motion: Motion to recommend that The Triangle Math and Science Academy of Apex move forward in Ready to Open with the following stipulations: all outstanding insufficiencies are addressed and remedied by July 1, 2022.**

**Motion: Bruce Friend**

**Second: John Eldridge**

**Vote: Unanimous**

Passed

Failed

- Ms. Turner reminded TMSA that CSAB went to the SBE in support of your central office plan, so they need to ensure they get this right.

Wake Preparatory Academy

- Ms. Porter discussed the Wake Preparatory Academy RTO rubric. She stated it is slated to open August 16, 2022 in Franklin County and in a two-year delay. She stated that delay stipulations require a July 1<sup>st</sup> ECO, but they have no areas of sufficiency and have very robust enrollment. She stated the ECO should be in place by July 16<sup>th</sup>. She stated there is an affidavit from the construction company regarding the timeline.
- Ms. Porter stated there has been evidence submitted of bus purchases and there are no transportation concerns. She stated their lunch plan is marked Quality and no concerns there either.
- Ms. Turner asked for clarification on the July 1<sup>st</sup> date. Mr. Machado confirmed that the July 1<sup>st</sup> stipulation is just a requirement that the school provide an update and evidence of ECO status/timeline. He stated they don't have to have the ECO in hand by July 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Machado stated it is very common for new schools to get ECOs very close to the start of school. This stipulation is just a way to make sure we have an evidenced timeline of receipt.
- Mr. Kyle Shrauger, Board Vice President, for Wake Preparatory Academy, stated that the board has provided a signed affidavit from the construction firm and they will provide an update on July 1 as well. He clarified that the building is simply undergoing renovations, so there is a previous certificate of occupancy, and they are just working on things like painting. He stated they have a contingency facility plan which would be a one or two week delay of the school calendar.
- Dr. Haire stated the rubric looks great.

**Motion: Motion to recommend Wake Preparatory Academy move forward in the ready to open process.**

**Motion: Bruce Friend**

**Second: John Eldridge**

**Recused: Hilda Parlér**

**Vote: Unanimous**

Passed

Failed

### **ASPIRING MINORITY SCHOOL LEADERS PROGRAM**

- Dr. Barbara O’Neal, NC ACCESS, stated we are here today to recognize the accomplishments of some amazing people. She stated she is so excited about this program. She stated that three years ago, former CSAB Chair Alex Quigley, made a comment that there needed to be a cohort of aspiring minority leaders. Dr. O’Neal and Mr. Whalen thought that would be a great program for NC ACCESS. Dr. O’Neal stated she reached out to Appalachian State and the program started with twenty and finished with twelve leaders who made it through the program.
- Dr. Precious Mudiwa, Program Director at Appalachian State, stated that for the first time, Appalachian State saw a major increase in minorities attending the school leadership program. She stated there was a broadening of experiences for everyone involved and they persevered and did excellent work through the difficulty of the pandemic.
- She thanked Dr. O’Neal for believing in Appalachian State and creating this program. The program graduates introduced themselves to the CSAB and spoke about their current roles at NC charter schools.
- Dr. O’Neal invited the CSAB members and OCS staff to join the program graduates for lunch today. Mr. Friend stated that he is a proud Appalachian State dad and appreciates this great program.
- Mr. Whalen thanked Dr. O’Neal for her hard work on this program. Mr. Whalen thanked the graduates for their hard work and perseverance through this program while also working in schools through a pandemic.

### **DIRECTOR’S UPDATES**

- Mr. Machado reviewed recent SBE action from the SBE’s June meeting. He stated the RTO New Leaders’ Institute takes place this week. He commended the NC ACCESS team for their work and programming. He stated there have been two bond hearings this month and that the forty renewal visits have been completed. He stated he attended the Principals of the Year award ceremony. He stated Ms. Davida Robinson is celebrating a birthday today.
- He stated he is leaving the Office of Charter Schools at the end of the month and this will be his last CSAB meeting. He stated he is leaving DPI for another opportunity and looks forward to that. He stated that he is happy to announce that the Superintendent has appointed Ms. Baquero as Interim Director. He thanked the CSAB and staff for their work and friendship.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Ms. Parlér made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:39AM. Dr. Eldridge seconded and the meeting adjourned unanimously.**