

Minutes of the North Carolina Charter School Review Board

Department of Public Instruction

March 10, 2025

9 AM

Attendance – CSRБ Members	
Jeremy Wall- (nonvoting) Dr. Rita Haire - (Virtual) Dr. John Eldridge Alex Quigley Hilda Parlér Dr. Shelly Shope (Virtual)	Eric Sanchez (Virtual, Absent after lunch) Bruce Friend Lindalyn Kakadelis Todd Godbey Dr. Bartley Danielsen (Virtual) Stephen Gay (Virtual)
Attendance – Other	
<i>Office of Charter Schools</i> Ashley Baquero, Director Joseph Letterio, Consultant (Virtual) Melanie Rackley, Consultant Jenna Cook, Consultant Dr. Natasha Norins, Consultant Dr. Brandi Gill, Consultant Nicky Niewinski, Asst. Director Julie Whetzel, Consultant Megan Carter, Consultant Tara Whitbread, Consultant	<i>CSRБ Attorney</i> Steven Walker <i>SBE Attorney</i> Allison Schafer - Absent <i>Teacher/Principal of Year</i> Lee Haywood – TOY - Absent Sarena Fuller – POY

[Recording of March 10 CSRБ Meeting](#)

Call To Order

Pledge of Allegiance & NC Flag Salute: Mr. Bruce Friend

Mission and Ethics Statement:

- Mission and Ethics Statement, Mr. Bruce Friend
 - o Ms. Hilda Parlér recused from PreEminent Charter School

Approval of the Agenda and Minutes

Motion: Dr. John Eldridge motioned to approve agenda for March Meeting

Second: Ms. Hilda Parlér

Vote: Unanimous

☒ Passed

☐ Failed

Motion: Mr. Alex Quigley motioned to approve February 2025 minutes.

Second: Dr. John Eldridge

Vote: Unanimous

☒ Passed

☐ Failed

March Charter Schools Review Board Meeting

- Mr. Friend welcomed the new members - Mrs. Lindalyn Kakadelis and Jeremy Wall. Mrs. Kakadelis thanked the board for welcoming her and expressed her excitement to be on the board.
- Mr. Friend also announced the retirement of Mr. Quigley and noted that Mr. Quigley has had the mission statement as his North Star and they as a board will miss them. Mr. Quigley thanked Mr. Friend for the kind words and for the knowledge he's gained in his nearly 10 years on the board (CSAB and CSRБ). He said that it's just time to step down and let some of the other really good folks across the state - of which he's sent 10 to the SBE - to fill his position. He reiterated that Charter Schools are in good hands with Ms. Baquero and the team she's put together at OCS. Mr. Friend and Dr. Eldridge reminisced on their experiences with Mr. Quigley both as an applicant and as a new CSAB member.

Renewal Voting and Discussion: Ms. Jenna Cook, OCS Consultant

- Jenna Cook presented information regarding the charter school renewal voting process. She noted comparability and CLP designations and noted the CSRБ voted to give this school a second chance to explain the financial concerns that were found. She listed any changes in compliance or in any other category at the school and noted that School Business was here as well.

61T Movement Charter School, 3 year placement

Opening Statement from the Movement board

- Mr. McNeil - interim board chair - Ms. 'KTT' - CEO - and other executives, board members, and leadership introduced themselves to the CSRБ.
- The Principal of the school re-introduced himself and highlighted the fact that over 97% of their population is minority. He asked the board to look at their achievements and noted particular changes in overall achievement from the 22-23 school year and 23-24 school year.
 - He presented comparability data from his school, CMS, and the state noting how their school is higher in certain demographics than both CMS and the state. He also noted they evaluate their K-1 students and they are improving academically as well.
- The Principal continued by noting there is great organizational health and they saw 91% teacher retention and 89% overall happiness among the staff. He broke down percentages on a survey sent out to staff.
- The Principal continued by noting professional development that teachers, and other staff participate in and how teachers are given real-time instructional coaching to support their teachers.
- The principal concluded they've improved their performance grade from a D to a C overall.
- The CEO and chief financial officer began discussing the 6 audit findings. The Chief Financial Officer gave her credentials and what she did before joining Movement.

- She continued sharing improvements Movement schools have made since she was hired and the people she's brought on board to make sure that every expense, and every receipt was examined. She noted the key processes that came about as a result of her work and explained individual aspects of their financial structure that she improved (such as payroll, and other things).
- She noted they can close the books at the end of the month in 5 days and their training and escalation plan has really helped them get a better picture of what their budget looks like every month.
- She continued noting the changes in the payroll log vs. HR system.
- The Chief Operating Officer introduced herself and gave her credentials. She noted other changes made, including a partnership with an HR platform and making sure the pay their teachers receive is in-line with what is in the system. She also noted they use docusign as well to keep all files in one central location so that accuracy is improved.
- Another board member continued by noting all of their teachers are working towards being certified and licensed, and all of their EC teachers are required to be licensed.
 - The Chief Operating Officer added that they have added a 'sign-up' bonus for EC teachers and they are implementing two different salary scales for 'certified' and 'uncertified' teachers that will help encourage teachers to become certified. The CFO noted their new hire of Ms. Jozwiakowki, and expressed excitement for her to join.
 - Mr. Friend clarified which vote they were discussing now and the CEO agreed that these changes were being made regardless if the CMO was approved. She went over a few of the audit findings such as the EC parent signature issue and additional training they have implemented. She also reiterated that any salary differences they saw were based on their goal to be competitive with CMS and the fact they had to change their schedule in the middle of the year due to when the data was published.
- Dr. Haire asked what the discrepancy was between one of the larger budgets they got vs. what they are seeing on the screen. She and the CFO discussed the details and the CFO said she would get back to Dr. Haire on her question. Mr. Friend clarified that DPI staff would be able to detail this more.
- Dr. Haire asked if it was K-8 and scaling back and the CEO confirmed it is currently K-8 and the plan is to scale back to K-5.
- Ms. Bennett, NC DPI School Business representative, applauded the board for making some very good measures and that progress overall is very promising. She noted they have reports and findings from EC staff and there are still remedies required by the school from NCDPI staff. She also stated they will be working with the school in the spring to make sure their new systems are able to be rectified. She again applauded the school on some other changes but noted that they were going to follow-up again separately on these findings.

Questions from the CSRБ

- Dr. Eldridge - noting discussions from past meetings - asked if there's only one board for all Movement Schools. The Board Chair confirmed that was the case and said they meet 8-10 times per year. Dr. Eldridge and the CEO discussed putting all the minutes on the website. Dr. Eldridge thanked them for their efforts of being transparent but said keep working to make sure everything is up on the website.

- Mr. Friend asked if any of the audit findings had not been addressed and the Board Chair said that all findings had been addressed. Mr. Friend and Ms. Cook confirmed why this school was placed in a 3-year category.
- Dr. Fuller applauded their 91% retention rate and asked if they see any possible changes on the horizon due to the new requirements that they are putting in place. The CEO stated staff understands and has helped her and her team address barriers to achieving those certifications. The Chief Operating Officer noted that some of their teachers had certifications upon hire but didn't realize that their certification had expired.
- Mr. Godbey asked what the actual percentage of certified teachers were in the school. A board member said at Movement they are currently at 40%. Mr. Godbey asked what their gameplan is to move teachers quickly from point A to point B (referencing getting them certified). A board member stated they are working with their connection in DPI to assist, and are looking at alternative pathways to get teachers certified and get the overall percentage to 50%.
- Mr. Friend asked if the required certified teachers - EC, Guidance, etc. - were certified at 100% and they said yes.
- Mr. Godbey asked if the finding that some EC teachers weren't certified was corrected and the board member said yes.

Motion: Dr. John Eldridge moved to grant Movement Charter School a 3-year renewal term starting July 1, 2025

Second: Ms. Hilda Parlér

Discussion:

- Dr. Eldridge said that most of what he's heard this morning is the school doing a lot to get support in place to improve on the findings from the state. He hopes that in the future they can come back and not have to go through all the extra steps.
- Mr. Sanchez asked why a 5-year renewal isn't on the table. Dr. Eldridge said that since the systems are just being implemented now they fit the 3-year guidelines, but that if they continue to implement and be successful then they will most likely be qualified for a 5 or 7-year renewal.
 - Mr. Sanchez noted past conversations on schools that could have had different decisions after a few months and said that he would like to see if there could be a contingency put in place that allowed the board to re-examine their decision. Dr. Eldridge agreed but reiterated again that until they have their systems in place they should be put in a 3-year renewal.
- Dr. Haire - citing their desire to change to a K-5 - asked how they will evaluate and how the school plans to eliminate those grades. The CEO of the school updated how they plan to eliminate those grades.
- Dr. Eldridge asked if they had any matriculation plans with other charter schools for their middle school kids and the CEO said yes, with Sugar Creek.

Vote: Unanimous

☒ Passed

☐ Failed

Amendments: Ms. Julie Whetzel, OCS Consultant

Movement Charter Schools CMO Addition

- Ms. Whetzel introduced the amendment and went over the reasoning/rationale behind their request.
- The CEO, Interim Chair and CFO of Movement introduced themselves again and gave their credentials. She went over her mission and the changes she implemented across the several schools during her time as a CEO.
 - She outlined 4 items that CMOs strive to do. She said they are in essence working like a CMO and gave an example of how a uniform policy on curriculum - for example - helps provide savings across the network of schools and makes training of staff easier.
 - She noted that they put a pause on their growth of schools to help build out their central office staff and then continue their growth.

Questions from the CSRБ

- Mr. Friend confirmed they are talking about adding this CMO to all of their schools. Mr. Friend asked the Board Chair why this amendment was good for the school. The Board member noted their goal is to build strong schools, and that through various partnerships they have learned what works, what doesn't work and where efficiencies can be created. He reiterated they have done this because they really want what's best for the students and think that the CMO will help provide more oversight; help in Marketing; help with hiring; etc.
- Dr. Eldridge asked who wrote the contract. Movement's legal counsel said that a Georgia firm wrote the contract and the legal counsel representing the school said they adjusted it to NC standards. Dr. Eldridge and the Legal Counsel discussed when this agreement would come to be and other details pertaining to their contract.
- Mr. Friend asked about the 15% fee listed and the CFO clarified how the fee would change based on models she intended to implement moving forward. She said that she sees the CMO not as a fixed cost and that it would change as more grades are added.
- Ms. Parlér asked if the CMO would handle facility needs and the CEO confirmed that is the case and the CMO would handle startup costs for new facilities.
- Mr. Quigley asked who is on the staff of the CMO and the CEO clarified all the staff and the board. He asked what the estimated number of students would be in 3 years and the CEO said it's hard to predict with the pause in growth. Mr. Quigley asked if they are planning to do one CMO to help with revenue and the CEO confirmed that was the case and noted only one school in both SC and Georgia.
- Mr. Quigley - citing financial documents - asked how much the CMO has invested in facility projects in the state, and the CFO listed how much each school cost. Mr. Quigley asked if that is a

loan or a grant that the school pays back overtime and the CFO confirmed the payment structure. Mr. Quigley and the CFO confirmed more information on the financial structure of the schools and how repayment/fee structures worked. Mr. Quigley said that he was excited to see a 'homegrown' CMO.

- Mr. Friend asked legal counsel if they've reviewed the contract and Mr. Walker said that he has and thinks it's a very good contract that checks all the boxes for NC law.
- Dr. Haire asked why Movement Schools NC is a Georgia nonprofit vs. a NC nonprofit. The CEO said the rules in Georgia were different so they had to have it completed sooner for GA. Thus, why it was set up in Georgia.
- Dr. Haire asked who receives the HR fee and the CFO listed the organization that would receive that fee. She and Dr. Haire confirmed it was a separate organization and the CMO would not be receiving that money.
- Dr. Eldridge asked if they have a contingency plan if the state doesn't approve their HR organization and the CFO said they'd have to find another one. The Legal counsel for the CMO clarified where the money would go and Dr. Eldridge and Mr. Walker clarified further that the money for the HR fee would go to the organization and not to or through the CMO itself.

Motion: Dr. John Eldridge motioned to approve Movement Charter School's CMO addition request.

Second: Mr. Todd Godbey

Vote: Unanimous

☒ Passed

☐ Failed

Socrates Academy Mission Statement

- Ms. Whetzel introduced the amendment and went over the reasoning/rationale behind their request. She also outlined the changes between the old mission statement and the new mission statement and noted any stakeholder input
- Before Ms. Whetzel's introduction, Mr. Friend introduced Mr. Jeremy Wall and he gave some brief remarks. Mr. Quigley noted that he hired Mr. Wall and is excited to see Mr. Wall's work from afar.

Questions from the CSRБ

- Dr. Haire asked a question about their Cover Letter and asked for clarification on the tagline being included in the mission statement. The school principal and Dr. Haire confirmed what the goal was.

- Mr. Friend, Ms. Whetzel, another school leader, and other CSRБ members tried to clarify what exactly was the new mission statement.
- Mr. Friend noted that it seems the second half of the mission statement is the definition of the socratic method of teaching. Ms. Parlér concurred and said it seems to be an explanation of what they want their mission statement to be. She also stressed the mission statement should be less than 35 words.
- The school leader stated this statement was an explanation to show what is going on in their school. Mr. Friend noted his concerns/question again.
- Dr. Eldridge said that when trying to explain it, it may confuse people but overall said he doesn't want to overstep the school's board. A school leader thanked them for their feedback.

Motion: Ms. Hilda Parlér motioned to not accept Socrates Academy's mission statement amendment request.

Second: None so motion failed

- Dr. Haire asked the school leader to re-read the mission statement they will be voting on.
- Dr. Haire asked again what is / is not a part of the mission statement. The Board's Vice President noted that some schools have a mission and vision statement combined. He said that the first few sentences could stand alone, the rest of the explanation is important to help outline what is done at the school.
- Dr. Haire said she doesn't think the school is clear thus making the board unclear on what the vision/mission statement is. Ms. Whetzel and Mr. Friend confirmed what they were given and what they will be going with.
- Dr. Fuller asked if they are considering any changes or if - based on the feedback from their community - they are planning to stick with what they've gotten. The school leader confirmed that they are planning to keep it based on what their stakeholders have determined.

Motion: Dr. Rita Haire motioned to accept Socrates Academy's mission statement amendment request.

Second: Mr. Alex Quigley

Discussion:

- Mr. Friend reiterated his concerns with the statement.

Vote: Approved (Ms. Parlér against)

☒ Passed

☐ Failed

Uwharrie Charter School Mission Statement

- Ms. Whetzel introduced the amendment and went over the reasoning/rationale behind their request. She also outlined the changes between the old mission statement and the new mission statement and noted any stakeholder input

Questions from the CSRБ

- None

Motion: Dr. John Eldridge motioned to approve Uwharrie Charter School’s mission statement amendment request.

Second: Ms. Hilda Parlér

Vote: Unanimous

☒ Passed

☐ Failed

Willow Oak Montessori Mission Statement

- Ms. Whetzel introduced the amendment and went over the reasoning/rationale behind their request. She also outlined the changes between the old mission statement and the new mission statement and noted any stakeholder input.

Questions from the CSRБ

- None

Motion: Ms. Hilda Parlér motioned to approve Willow Oak Montessori’s mission statement amendment request.

Second: Mr. Todd Godbey

Vote: Unanimous

☒ Passed

☐ Failed

Stipulation Schools Update: Ms. Jenna Cook, OCS Consultant

- Ms. Cook gave a recap of stipulation schools and when/who gave them. She went over the steps and other items needed during their 3-year renewal. She also went over details on their school improvement plan and any compliance issues. She went through each school individually and noted the schools that were in the 2026 renewal cohort.

ZECA

Presentation to the Board

- Mr. Friend began by summarizing the history of this school and how stipulations worked since this school got their stipulations during the CSAB era.
- Dr. Owens, Executive Director of the School, introduced herself and board members/school leaders present. She then introduced staff present in the board room.
- She continued her presentation by re-introducing their stipulations and how they have put programs in place to address those stipulations. She also added some data on proficiency and engagement and their focus on social-emotional support.
 - She noted changes that were implemented to assist with their math and reading scores, and how they are targeting students who need assistance to help them hit those thresholds.
 - She shared the professional development implemented and how they are on course to fulfill that requirement this year. She also noted their growth scores and other academic scores for the past two years (22-23 and 23-24).
 - She said there were no compliance issues that they knew about and touched on some community and national partnerships they are grateful for.

Deliberation or Questions from the CSRБ

- Dr. Eldridge asked what tool they're using for benchmarking and the ED said Propel. Dr. Eldridge asked how they work and if they match up with the curriculum. The ED said that it doesn't match up with the curriculum and they use something separate that matches with the curriculum that is similar/the newer 'NC Check-in'.
- Mr. Friend asked if the board members are the same since their last renewal and the school leader stated they lost one board member but gained an attorney on the board. Mr. Friend and the board members discussed the changes that they (as board members) have seen.
- Mr. Friend asked again for additional perspectives and the school leader noted that the staff is incredibly passionate about their work, and to see the children in that atmosphere and seeing the growth that is coming out of it is really important.
- Mr. Godbey asked about the compliance issues seen in the presentation and Ms. Cook explained what the accountability office shared. The ED of the school noted they had a change in Data Managers and that caused the gap.
- Dr. Eldridge noted they seem a lot more organized and they are continuing to meet their growth.
- Mr. Friend echoed those comments and these stipulations were almost like a wake-up call. He said he looks forward to seeing them back here again at the renewal presentation/vote and stressed all members be here during the renewal vote.

Next Generation

Presentation from the Board

- Mr. Miller - Board Chair - introduced himself and the other leaders present today.
- Another board member spoke on the financial piece and stated they've paid off over \$500,000 worth of debt. He also noted other changes to increase monitoring of receipts, and increase revenues (such as getting almost \$2 million in grants).
- Mr. Moore - Treasurer - went over the 2023 and 2024 audits and noted they had a positive cash balance and fund balance. He gave more exact numbers on each fund and noted there were no findings or material weaknesses in their audit.
- Mr. Florence went over the academic piece and how growth and proficiency scores have changed for each grade / subgroup. He also touched on some of the work they are doing with staff so they can help individual students with academic support and improve their compliance with standards set by the school.

Questions and Deliberation from the CSRБ

- Dr. Eldridge asked what they did to turn the finances around. Mr. Moore noted they changed the accounting and audit companies. He also said that the meetings around financial management were beginning to happen at their last presentation and now they are happening more consistently. He outlined some of the initial costs and how they strived to get as many grants as possible to assist with cost management.
- Dr. Eldridge asked if Prestige comes to board meetings and Mr. Moore said yes and that prior to board meetings, he and Prestige meet to discuss various items.
- Ms. Parlér asked if there are only 4 board members and the board chair stated they have 6 but are actively recruiting. The Board chair noted they resigned due to personal circumstances and there were no conflicts.

School Improvement Update and CLP School Presentations: Nicky Niewinski, OCS Asst. Director, Dr. Brandi Gill, OCS Consultant

- Ms. Niewinski went over the purpose and role OCS has to support low-performing charter schools. She went over the statute that outlined what a low-performing charter school and continually low-performing charter school is. She presented data on the number of low-performing and CLP charter schools and noted that 33% of schools are in this category. She overviewed the site visit process and what is done before, at, and after the visit, including feedback from OCS staff.
- She continued by going over some of the feedback that OCS received from schools such as implementing a virtual follow-up at the end of the year. She mentioned that Dr. Gill would be leading this program moving forward and overall what the office's plans were moving forward with this program.
- Dr. Haire asked if of the 20 schools they visited they only got 3 feedback forms. Ms. Niewinski confirmed and said that part of that was due to the form being sent out late while others were leaders changing, etc.
- Dr. Eldridge commented that he would like to see if there's a way to coordinate something that took less of the workload off OCS staff and make it so high performing leaders and schools could serve as a mentor.

- Mr. Gay noted that DPI has staff support for charter schools out in the eastern and western part of the state that could be utilized to focus on school improvement.
- Ms. Niewinski introduced the schools that were here today and the guidelines they were asked to follow.

Oak Hill:

- Ms. Eckard - principal - introduced herself and gave her journey to be a principal.
 - She began her presentation by going over their mission statement, the number of students and history of the school. She noted the first year of operation was a challenge academically and that years 2-3 have seen growth in both reading and math. She then went over the data as DPI sent it to her noting how they've improved from an F to a D school.
 - She shared overall successes for the first three years and noted that after year 1 they had a lot of turnover. Overall, she expressed excitement about meeting their enrollment growth for year 4 and how they've been able to use grant funds to bring on a guidance counselor and vice principal who handles behavior - allowing the principal to focus on running the school. She also touched on some of the other changes that they've implemented as well, especially after Hurricane Helene.
 - She concluded by thanking the board for their support.
 - Ms. Parlér commented that they did wonderful work after Helene.

Arapahoe Charter:

- Mr. Watson - CEO - introduced himself and the other members of leadership who were present at the meeting today.
 - He began his presentation by going over the history of the school, the school's mission statement and the demographics of their student population. He noted they are one of the original schools approved back in 1997. He added they are really striving to keep community members, staff, students, and others engaged in their school as they were a very important part of getting that school established and an important part of keeping their school afloat.
 - He gave an overview of his history at the school, how enrollment has changed, and how their school has grown to be a K-12 school today. He then noted how certain populations have grown recently and how they've become - in a sense - a regional school that services many counties.
- Mr. Edwards - Chief Academic Officer - introduced himself and went over academic and comparability data from before, during and after the pandemic. He also touched on enrollment data going back to 2018 and noted the change in % ED students. He explained how they got to where they are, and how they planned to move towards success. He touched on how they've changed cultural and academic strategies and went into detail on these strategies and goals.
 - He shared current comparability, proficiency and growth scores when looking at Pamlico county and the surrounding counties they serve. He noted they are looking to see

continued growth this year and shared some of the successes they've had within the school itself.

- Dr. Eldridge asked if there was no common curriculum before and thanked them for implementing one as it is showing great results.
- Dr. Haire concurred with what was previously said and noted they're making great strides. She commended the board for using the data and tracking the data to create a holistic student.

PreEminent Charter School:

- Ms. Getzoff introduced herself and apologized that the school leader couldn't be here today. She went over her credentials, why she is excited to work there, and how she got to PreEminent. Ms. Solomon - principal - introduced herself and noted that she has been with the school for 16 years (becoming principal in 2020).
 - Ms. Solomon went over the demographics of their school including the number of ED, EL and EC students. She noted their school has a much larger FRL population and therefore a bigger challenge. She went over academic data, including growth and proficiency scores. She highlighted areas that need to be addressed and some areas that are successful.
 - She continued by touching on the subgroup data and highlighted overall proficiency growth in 4 of the 5 subgroups from 2022-2023 to 2023-2024. She mentioned ways the school is implementing to expand student support. She also touched on methods and supports that were put in place to help staff and stressed they work with staff to look at the data and implement positive changes.
 - She continued by outlining current progress on proficiency, check-ins, growth and other things (suspensions, attendance, etc.) the school has put a lot of time and energy into. She stressed that almost 60% of students are close to proficiency in reading and/or math.
 - She concluded by highlighting other progress going on in the school. This included successes among EC students, feedback from DPI, and effective monthly MTSS meetings involving school psychologists.
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Mr. Walker swore in the two new members of the Review Board.

Remote Charter Academy Amendments: Ms. Julie Whetzel, OCS Consultant

ArtSpace Charter School

- Ms. Whetzel went over the guidelines for this section and interviews.

Opening Statement from the Board

- Dr. Fuller introduced herself and other members of her leadership team present. She thanked the board for renewing their school for 10 years last month and went over the reason behind the name 'Spark Learning Center'.

- She continued by mentioning the basics of the school. It would be a face-virtual, regional school for grades 6-8, with an enrollment of 75 students in year 1 and 105 students in year 3.
- She continued by sharing what SPARK stood for. The 'S' was for student-centered flexibility. She said that this is the big driver of their mission - citing past students that would have benefitted from this program.
- 'P' = purposeful program design. She said that this section allows for students to choose the program that best suits their needs. She said that because this is a separate-cohort model they would also have a separate teaching staff and students could choose between fully online, part-time online/in-person.
- The 'A' was for Arts Integration. As an art-school they use art to help guide students through their lessons. She showed an example on the screen.
- The 'R' was for Responsive support systems. She touched on the support that their students currently receive, and added that they plan to expand the staff during year 3 if the needs are there, and their current staff can't keep up.
- The 'K' is for Kinship and Community. Another school leader touched on the importance of this among children and noted they will continue to study the cultural and biological diversity of the region and incorporate that into their programs.
- Dr. Fuller concluded by giving a quote from an 'A+ network liaison' and noted they would hope to expand the innovation of charter schools to this region and to the students of Buncombe County.

Questions from the CSRБ

- Mr. Friend asked why 6-8 and if they'd expand to K-5. Dr. Fuller stated they would consider that and had the resources to do it, but they thought 6-8 is the best entry point to this model.
- Mr. Friend asked another question and asked if they have greater demand than what was mentioned, do they have the capacity to serve that from a faculty and facility standpoint. Dr. Fuller said yes, they could grow and re-evaluate their growth plan if the demand is present and that they have acquired an adjacent plot of land they could use and plan to develop for this purpose.
- Ms. Parlér asked if IT Support would be in-house and the IT Director said that yes it would be in-house and explained what his current role is.
- Mr. Friend asked if they have all the positions required by statute and Dr. Fuller explained that in their plan they have highlighted the staff and who would be filling those roles. Mr. Friend asked if the curriculum would be the same and Dr. Fuller said yes.
- Dr. Haire asked if they would have the facility open by 2026 and Dr. Fuller said that 2026 is the goal but they do have a Plan B in case there are delays in opening by then.
- Mr. Friend commented that in his personal experience waiting a year to plan is a very good step. He reiterated they need to mention to parents that this is still a public school that has requirements that need to be met.

Closing Statement from the Board

- Another school leader gave the closing statement. She said that the POY, TOY and CSTOY all came to visit the school and their beliefs on this school show they have a school that is ready and able to provide what students need. She concluded by saying that Artspace has a unique mission and total dedication to their mission from the experts and faculty they have. They added they strongly believe they can help target the very vulnerable population they plan to target and ask for approval.

Deliberation from the CSRБ

- Dr. Haire asked if there are other PACE schools in NC and asked how they can help with this endeavour.
 - Dr. Fuller stated they are very helpful.
- Mr. Friend outlined how the school would appear on financial codes/statements.
- Dr. Eldridge said that with how successful this school is it's hard to not approve this. Mr. Friend concurred.

Motion: Dr. John Eldridge motioned to approve ArtSpace Charter's remote academy amendment request.

Second: Dr. Rita Haire

Vote: Unanimous

☒ Passed

☐ Failed

Wilson Prep

- Mr. Woodard introduced himself and the other members of the board present. He began his presentation by going over the history of the school and touched on the accreditations they have received and noted how they've never been a 'low-performing' school. He also highlighted some of their students' academic and athletic successes.
 - He continued his presentation by highlighting why Wilson Prep needs a remote charter academy and the large demand present in the community. He went over the details of their school plan (such as the curriculum, model, and more). He then went into more detail on the free platforms and programs they use and touched on the enrollment projections for years 1-5 broken down by grade.
- Ms. Gill outlined the team that will be working on this RCA, their strengths, and some key highlights of the team including no compliance issues since inception.

- Another member of the leadership team noted that no findings were found on audits and highlighted the budget and surpluses that were present every year they've been open.

Questions from the CSRБ

- Ms. Parlér asked what the relationship is between the two Gill's present and she and Ms. Gill noted they were not on the board and just consulting for financial compliance.
- Mr. Friend cited the 100 students and asked how they are teaching 100 kids across 12 grades with 8 teachers. Mr. Woodard stated they are using existing teachers who have already been trained, plus hiring additional teachers to teach these kids.
- Mr. Friend gave a hypothetical, and he and Mr. Woodard discussed how the students would be brought in on synchronous lessons but allowed to be asynchronous.
- Mr. Friend asked why they went statewide, and Mr. Woodard stated there was demand statewide for their school and gave an example. Mr. Friend asked if they are marketing just to their students and / or their region and Mr. Woodard stated they are doing this to cover the demand for this program.
- Dr. Haire commented that she is concerned about the budget and gave a few examples. Mr. Woodard confirmed that some of the budget would already be in place since the infrastructure was already in place since they opened 11 years ago.
- Mr. Friend noted there isn't anything in the budget to give students chromebooks or the internet. Mr. Woodard noted they already have chromebooks in-house they could use and they have some funds allocated each year for any additional needs.
- Dr. Eldridge asked if there will be any face-to-face and Mr. Woodard said no there was a change and it will be fully virtual thus eliminating the need for a facility. Dr. Eldridge asked if these students would be able to participate in athletics and Mr. Woodard said yes.
- Mr. Friend asked how they plan to accommodate students that may be far away for things like state testing. Mr. Woodard said the statute requires them to come to the school and Mr. Friend concurred but said the school could also come to them. Mr. Friend stated they will have to build the bandwidth if they are successful to reach these kids that are far away. Mr. Woodard agreed but added they will stress the responsibilities of joining this RCA to all students regardless of where they are.
- Ms. Kakadelis asked if they are planning to stay in that enrollment projection or expand if demand is high. Mr. Woodard said that what they've learned is that the numbers would be pretty consistent. He said that overall he plans to keep it where it is.
- Mr. Friend asked for a walkthrough of the day for a virtual student. Mr. Woodard went into detail on what a kindergarten child would look like and compared that to what a senior might have.
- Mr. Friend asked what the role of the parent would be and how they've addressed that now. Mr. Woodard explained what they do currently, including zoom meetings.

Closing Statement from the Board

- Mr. Woodard thanked the board for their time and reiterated they are prepared and able to educate the students that choose this model.

Deliberation from the CSRБ

- Ms. Parlér stated she feels they have their plan in place and can carry it out.
- Dr. Eldridge wondered what a schedule looks like and noted that it would be important to look at what their schedule would be in an application. Mr. Godbey noted there was some draft schedules in the last section of their documents but it was not broken down by grade.
- Mr. Friend concurred with what was said and again mentioned there is a difference between parental involvement in the grades. He stated he's concerned the K-12 out of the gate is a big lift.
- Dr. Eldridge asked this year/last year how many kids were in the remote program and Mr. Woodard said that all of their current kids are a part of the program but not 100% remote.
- Mr. Friend - citing his own experience - expressed some additional concerns. Mr. Woodard noted that all hires are required to be literate in computers, are given training and he believes they would be qualified.
- Dr. Haire asked if they would be relying on current staff and Mr. Friend agreed that is common and most likely what would happen here. Mr. Friend commented that this is going to put more work on existing staff.
- Mr. Quigley asked what the ADM is at Wilson Prep and Mr. Woodard said 751. Mr. Quigley stated he's doing something right with athletics. He said that overall there should be some structured learning for RCAs and overall he thinks it's good that this is happening from an existing high-performing charter school.
- Dr. Eldridge concurred and stated the 'scratching of the heads' is the innovation and confirmed with Ms. Baquero that they have 5 years after the approval of an RCA before renewal of the RCA.
- Mr. Friend cited the need for accountability and reiterated his previous remarks. He said overall he is feeling a bit better after hearing what they had to say but still is concerned about the small class sizes for a K-12 online school in regards to staffing, etc.

Motion: Mr. Alex Quigley motioned to approve Wilson Prep's remote academy amendment request.

Second: Dr. John Eldridge

Discussion:

- Dr. Eldridge noted that there's still work to be done in regards to what those individual schedules would look like and some contingency plans for the families that choose this option.
- Mr. Friend concurred and stated the surveys he's done with the students who took the remote option at his own school all said it was a lot more rigorous than they initially assumed.

Vote: Passed

☒ Passed

☐ Failed

- Mr. Friend stated might be good to bring a cohort of the remote academies together to foster success. He said there's also a lot of discussion that needs to take place but that it's new and there's still time to discuss it.
- Dr. Haire commented on the growth and proficiency scores of Socrates from this morning.

Charter Application Review and Discussion: Ms. Melanie Rackley, OCS Consultant

- Ms. Rackley noted that some of this work began in the winter months and gave an overview of the new application for this new cohort. She went over sections 1-6 and noted that other sections would be discussed in future meetings. She went over individual questions that were added or removed in each section as well.
- Ms. Baquero and Ms. Rackley discussed the timeline for discussion.
- Ms. Parlér noted that she commented on two of them and she and Ms. Baquero discussed the process / how people in the public could comment.
- Mr. Friend thanked them for adding the comments on Q13 and noted that the law hasn't addressed whether RCA's can count towards the 80. He and Dr. Eldridge gave possible hypotheticals.
- Dr. Fuller stated that as of now they can't apply for a brick-and-mortar and RCA and Mr. Friend confirmed. He gave an example of what the statute requires and a school that didn't follow it.
- Dr. Eldridge and Ms. Parlér commented on some other questions they wanted to see changed.
- Mr. Friend asked if they needed to make it abundantly clear that the fee is non-refundable and Ms. Rackley confirmed that if an application is submitted then yes it's non-refundable. But if a school sends a check in advance and never submits they will refund the check.
- Mr. Friend asked if at the May meeting they would approve the document. Ms. Baquero stated March, April, and May CSRБ will review and comment on each section, and CSRБ will receive a final copy for approval at the June Meeting.
- Dr. Eldridge and Ms. Rackley discussed getting the materials to CSRБ members beforehand for more feedback. They also confirmed what part of the application houses important areas such as the budget, RCA designations / legislatively required positions, etc.
 - Dr. Eldridge noted that the budget is so different from year 1 that he is talking with others to get more information about new charter schools to compare what their planned enrollment is with similar schools to help them make their budget tighter.

Director's Updates: Ms. Ashley Baquero, OCS Director

- Ms. Baquero gave an update on the appeal of CSDVA and noted that it was recommended to be remanded back to the CSRБ.
- Ms. Baquero thanked the board for their dedication to their work and noted that she told members of the GA staff that CSRБ is an important and always working board. She also thanked the OCS staff for the level of work they've put into appeals, workflows, etc. She stressed they are going above and beyond to support up to 80 schools during this renewal period. She also noted that Wake County is the only district serving more students than Charter Schools currently and they have a central office. She gave some examples of calls that she's received in the last week and noted that no other team would work as hard to help kids succeed.
- She introduced Ms. Tara Whitbread as a new consultant.
- She continued by noting that CSP/NC ACCESS is officially concluded and the liquidation period ended Jan 30th. She added that OCS does not plan to apply for this grant again.
- She touched on the number of schools slated to open this upcoming fall and that RTO Reports will occur each meeting from now through June for all 10 schools.
- Dr. Norins introduced all the applicants in RTO and their breakeven number. She also touched on the schools that were / are in delay and the ones that have withdrawn from RTO.
- Mr. Friend concurred with the rest of the board that the work OCS does is essential and they couldn't do what they do without the hard work of Ms. Baquero and her team.

Motion to Adjourn at 2:51 pm:

Dr. John Eldridge, Ms. Hilda Parlér second