

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

Attendance – CSAB Members	
Jamey Falkenbury (non-voting) Rita Haire John Eldridge Cheryl Turner Hilda Parlér Shelly Bullard (remote – arrived 9:05)	Eric Sanchez Terry Stoops Bruce Friend Lynn Kroeger Todd Godbey
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 Jay Whalen, NC ACCESS Barbara O’Neal, NC ACCESS Davida Robinson, NC ACCESS	<i>Attorney General</i> Stephanie Lloyd – absent Forrest Fallanca <i>SBE Attorney</i> Allison Schafer – absent

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 Johnson; John Eldridge from Central Carolina; and Cheryl Turner from Movement School SW.

Motion: Motion to approve the agenda.

Motion: Bruce Friend

Second: Hilda Parlér

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

Motion: Motion to approve the April 27th meeting minutes.

Motion: Bruce Friend

Second: Eric Sanchez

Recused: Hilda Parlér

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

Motion: Motion to approve the regular April meeting minutes.

Motion: Rita Haire

Second: Bruce Friend

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

- CSAB reviewed committee assignments and Ms. Turner explained that Dr. Eldridge will fill the vacant committee chair seat following Lynn Kroeger's resignation.
- Mr. Dave Machado, Office of Charter Schools (OCS) Director, introduced Ms. Jenna Cook as the newest OCS staff member. Ms. Cook spoke about her background in education and introduced herself to CSAB.

RECONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS

- Ms. Ashley Baquero, OCS Consultant, explained that if the State Board of Education (SBE) believes a charter school application recommended for approval by CSAB may not be approved by SBE, it sends it back to CSAB for reconsideration, per SBE policy.

Wayne STEM

- Ms. Baquero explained that a question arose regarding a contract with the developer, Legacy, which allowed Legacy to replace board members. She stated that was the main concern and the contract has since been revised.
- Mr. Bruce Friend asked what the previous vote was for this application. Ms. Baquero stated the both this application and the next one, were unanimous votes on behalf of CSAB.
- Ms. Lisa Gordan Stella, Attorney, introduced herself as counsel for the board of directors for Wayne STEM. She stated the contract has been modified and submitted with board minutes showing the modification. She also explained that the contract was unexecuted but included in the application as an example of the board having a developer willing to work with them. She stated it had not been reviewed by counsel or executed and any contract to be executed would be reviewed by counsel.
- Ms. Turner stated that the issue was that the contract existed at all and so there was no way for anyone to know if it would be executed as presented. Ms. Stella stated she understands that and the new agreement has no clause allowing the developer control of the board.
- Dr. Rita Haire asked if anything else has changed in the template. Ms. Stella stated that no, just the clause that was problematic. Ms. Stella confirmed the contract is still not executed.

Motion: Motion to approve Wayne STEM to move forward to Ready to Open status.

Motion: Bruce Friend

Second: John Eldridge

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

Greenville Preparatory Academy

- Ms. Baquero explained that there were some concerns among SBE members familiar with the area that the diversity goals were accurate given the location of the school and whether the targeted students would be within a distance reasonable to attend. Mr. Machado suggested the applicant speak to the location of the school in relationship to the student residences and to the transportation plan.
- The Board Chair, Mr. George O’Garro, gave an update on the school. He stated the school is in the final phases of design and traffic impact study has been forwarded to the Department of Transportation for review and approval. Mr. O’Garro gave a construction update and presented posters of the architectural designs.
- Mr. Kevin Walker, Board Member, spoke regarding minority representation. He stated he believes it would be very difficult for the school not to have their goal of 60% minority based on the Pitt County demographics near the school. He stated they started this school to assist economically disadvantaged students (EDS).
- Ms. Turner stated one of the SBE members is concerned with the distance between the population center of EDS kids and the school. Mr. Walker stated that 80% of the survey respondents lived within ten miles of the school. He stated the transportation will be important and they believe at least 50% of students will need transportation first year and they will add more if needed.
- Mr. Walker replied that they will lease buses initially and then plan to purchase at year three. He stated they anticipate about 75% of students needing lunch and they want to have that in place. He stated that if they do not need that much, the money will go back into programming.
- Ms. Turner asked how long the students would be riding buses. Mr. Walker stated the core of students are within ten miles so maybe fifteen to twenty minutes.
- Mr. Friend asked for more information about the school’s location.
- Mr. Antonio Bunn, board member, the school is about five to ten minutes from the airport. Ms. Parlér asked about from East Carolina University. Mr. Bunn stated about the same amount of distance.
- Mr. Friend stated there was a former charter school that enrolled a large number of minority students, and they did not provide busing. Ms. Turner stated they still managed to get those students enrolled. Mr. Friend stated this school will be near that former school’s location.
- Dr. Haire asked if there is a revised budget to account for the transportation costs. Mr. O’Garro stated yes. Mr. O’Garro stated that the radius around the school is minority majority and they have no concerns about meeting their diversity goals.
- Ms. Turner asked about the recruitment process. Mr. O’Garro stated they have started mainly with local churches. He stated the support has been overwhelming, especially in regard to the intergenerational component. Mr. Bunn spoke about monthly recruitment and community meetings.

- Mr. Terry Stoops stated they could conceptually meet the diversity goals with students from surrounding counties as well. He asked if that was an understanding of the SBE. Ms. Turner stated the concern was regarding whether there were students near the school that would be the target population. Mr. Stoops stated he sees this as not just a Pitt County school, but a regional school that could draw students from multiple counties. Mr. O’Garro stated there will be open enrollment marketing as they get closer to opening and will extend beyond Pitt County. He stated they believe they’ve budgeted to allow for all of that to happen.
- Ms. Turner asked if there was additional representation on the board. Mr. O’Garro stated they have some open seats and they will work to fill those with members representing diverse groups of people.
- Ms. Parlér asked if they had an estimate of attendees at the informational sessions. He stated around 25-30 at each session.
- Ms. Parlér asked the rationale for not wanting staggered bells. Mr. O’Garro stated that in keeping with same schedule, the intergenerational component allows for more community events.
- Ms. Parlér asked about how that will impact traffic. Mr. O’Garro stated there was a conflict regarding a requested traffic light that the school requested, but the local officials did not believe that was cost effective. He stated they have overcome that with the traffic routing.
- Dr. Haire asked about traffic routes. Mr. O’Garro explained the traffic routes using a large poster brought to the board room. Ms. Turner asked how many they expect to be bussed at top. Mr. O’Garro stated around 75%. Ms. Turner stated that shouldn’t be a huge problem given the routing.
- Dr. Eldridge and Ms. Turner suggested the board reach out to local law enforcement for traffic assistance.

Motion: Motion to approve Greenville Preparatory Academy to move forward to Ready to Open status.

Motion: Hilda Parlér

Second: Terry Stoops

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

RTO PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Ms. Claire Porter, OCS Consultant, gave the Ready to Open Enrollment and Facility Report #3. She explained that OCS will review RTO2 submissions starting May 20th and schools will submit Enrollment and Facility Report #4. After that time, CSAB will hear updates on each school at the June meeting and then make final recommendations for SBE. She explained that the recommendations today were for preliminary recommendations so that the item can get to SBE for discussion in June.
- Ms. Porter explained the minimum opening requirements including facility, budget, enrollment, and RTO report.
- She explained that five of the eight schools do not have enrollment or facility concerns. She reviewed ALA Johnson, Central Carolina, Oak Hill, Wake Preparatory Academy, and TMSA Apex.

- Ms. Porter spoke about Movement School SW. She stated they are currently at 27% enrollment with more enrollments coming in. She explained a glitch in the application software may have caused problems. Mr. Tim Hurley with Movement explained that have added 54 enrollments in the past week. He spoke about enrollment and recruitment efforts. Dr. Haire clarified if they have 48% enrollment. Mr. Hurley stated yes. He stated they have 121 enrolled and another 40 to be added. Mr. Todd Godbey asked the rate per day of enrollment. Mr. Hurley stated he would need to look, but they get a lot after weekend canvassing, and they need to enroll an average of three per day to meet goal. Mr. Friend reminded Mr. Hurley of the requirements and hard work ahead. Mr. Hurley stated yes, they understand and have learned a lot and there is no substitute for canvassing. Dr. Haire stated the school should look into technology/IT glitches, so it doesn't happen in the future. Ms. Maria Mills gave recommendations related to recruitment and preschool centers.
- Ms. Porter explained the current RTO status of the School of Arts for Boys Academy (SABA) with 45% enrollment and she invited the SABA representatives to speak to the facility. Ms. Valencia Toomer, SABA, stated that they completed a walkthrough of the facility which is a church with 10k square feet and requires no upfit or modifications. She stated inspections are planned for this week. She stated the inability to announce a facility has impacted enrollment and they are excited about moving forward with the church facility.
- Mr. Friend asked how often the board meets. She stated frequently to handle the facility issues and they will continue to have so they can open. She stated that in the event the numbers are not trending positive by June 1st, they will need to make a decision regarding opening. Dr. Haire expressed concerns about enrollment numbers at this point. Ms. Toomer stated she understands and they don't want to open unless on a solid foundation.
- Ms. Porter explained the current status of Revitalize Charter School. She stated the enrollment is at about 32% and the board is here to discuss facility. Dr. Church Williams stated the facility, Garner Community Center, previously the contingency location, is ready but they are working on inspections and have a zoning request in with the city. She stated they are also working on a second contingency. She stated they have a commitment to the students and staff from Torchlight, which is in the same zip code. She stated they have about 2-3 applications per day and that is being sped up. She stated they are in active communication with Torchlight leadership. She asked the CSAB to continue to have faith in the school's ability to get off the ground.
- Ms. Turner asked about zoning. Dr. Church Williams stated it appears to be just a paperwork issue. Ms. Turner expressed concerns. Ms. Ansel Caseres stated that in Raleigh there are three tiers and they are at tier two and that should be approved within 15 days of submission. Dr. Haire asked what facility is being advertised. Ms. Caseres stated the Garner Center location. Mr. Friend asked about a backup facility. Ms. Caseres stated they are working on that and hope to have one by June 1st. Mr. Friend stated if the ECO is not obtained by the next meeting, he suggests getting a letter from the county or something similar giving a timeline.
- Ms. Turner reminded all accelerated applicants that a delay is not a possibility with acceleration and she wants all accelerated applicants to understand that. Ms. Church Williams asked if they could request grade level changes if there is demand. Ms. Turner stated its not really about whether they would consider, but it is too late in the process to consider because it must get SBE approval.

Motion: Motion to preliminarily recommend Oak Hill and Triangle Math and Science Academy of Apex move forward in the ready to open process.

Motion: Bruce Friend

Second: Hilda Parlér

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

Motion: Motion to preliminarily recommend ALA Johnson and Wake Preparatory Academy move forward in the ready to open process.

Motion: Bruce Friend

Second: John Eldridge

Recused: Hilda Parlér

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

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

Motion: Eric Sanchez

Second: Terry Stoops

Recused: John Eldridge

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

Motion: Motion to preliminarily recommend SABA and Revitalize move forward in the ready to open process subject to meeting all requirements of the accelerated timeline.

Motion: Rita Haire

Second: John Eldridge

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

Motion: Motion to preliminarily recommend Movement School SW move forward in the ready to open process subject to meeting all requirements of the accelerated timeline.

Motion: Rita Haire

Second: John Eldridge

Recused: Cheryl Turner

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

AMENDMENTS

Shining Rock Classical Academy

- Ms. Baquero explained the school's request to revise its original mission statement.
- Mr. Friend asked if the school was still affiliated with CFA. Ms. Melanie Norman, Board Chair, stated they are no longer affiliated with CFA and have changed the name with the Secretary of State. Ms. Baquero asked her to reach out so they can change the name officially within DPI as well.

Motion: Motion to approve Shining Rock Classical Academy's amendment request.

Motion: Rita Haire
Second: Hilda Parlér
Vote: Unanimous
Passed

Failed

SECU SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

- Dr. Darian Jones explained the SECU scholarship available to charter high school seniors to attend a NC system school. He stated there were 34 nominated students.
- He announced the three winners and spoke about their achievements: Ashley Smith of Research Triangle HS, Anna Hartis from Greensboro Academy, and Brittney Senior from Union Academy.

NC ACCESS – EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

- Dr. Barbara O’Neal and Mr. Jay Whalen spoke about the new NC ACCESS subgrant Executive Leadership Program. Mr. Whalen spoke about continued implementation of the grant program, and the leadership development component of the NC ACCESS program plan. He stated that in collaboration with OCS, low-performing school leaders will be invited to this program with the goal of moving schools out of low-performing status.
- Mr. Whalen gave an overview of the program’s funding model and no less than 7% can go towards technical assistance including this type of development and training. He stated that with this funding, they can create a cohort for this program.
- Dr. O’Neal stated she has wanted to work on developing the low-performing school leaders and the focus will be on dramatically accelerating leadership capacity and academic achievement. She spoke about the program’s collaboration with the former CSAB Chair Mr. Alex Quigley. She spoke about how the program will be designed and what leaders will receive. Mr. Machado stated that low-performing schools are strongly recommended to participate in this program and have been notified that this will be considered when coming before CSAB for renewals. Ms. Turner echoed this statement and explained that the training is phenomenal and normally costs 20k per participant. She stated if implemented with fidelity, you will see improvement. She stated that she understands that when you are low-performing, you have a lot to handle, but this must be a priority because it will make everything else work.
- Dr. O’Neal spoke about the selection process and the timeline for the program.

2022 CHARTER APPLICATION UPDATE

- Ms. Melanie Rackley, OCS Consultant, gave an overview of the 2022 charter applications received after the submission period closed at the end of April. She stated there were twenty submitted applications. The application names, county, and type were presented to the board on screen.
- Ms. Rackley explained that the completeness checks will take place, acceleration information is being reviewed, and then calendars will be drafted for interviews.

- Ms. Rackley reviewed the timeline for review: June, applications released to CSAB for evaluation; external evaluators provide feedback by August 15; September interviews begin; December interviews would conclude. She stated that accelerated applicants are heard first, per the normal process. She stated that recommendations for acceleration would go to SBE in November and standard recommendations in January.
- She reiterated that this is a bit different because board members have more time during the summer to review all applications.
- Mr. Friend requested information regarding repeat applications.
- Ms. Turner reminded the board that the summer is critical for reviewing applications because once interviews begin, it gets very busy. She stated the applications are hundreds of pages and although it makes sense we could miss things, we can't afford to miss anything important. She would like committee leads to assign specific areas to specific sections so we have experts on each portion of the application, even though all board members will read the entire application. She stated there is not a lot of time to do all this, so asked that board members be diligent over the summer.
- Ms. Parlér asked about adding another option for meets standard but without clarification. Ms. Rackley stated she would speak to the Edlusion developers about this. Ms. Rackley also stated that the ability to write evaluations in Edlusion has been disabled for CSAB members because it was not consistent. Ms. Turner asked about ratings. Ms. Rackley stated you do not need to rate, you are simply reading in the platform and then taking notes in whichever way you choose.

PATHWAYS TO EXCELLENCE LICENSURE UPDATE

- Dr. Tom Tomberlin, NCDPI, gave a presentation regarding the draft Pathways to Excellence Licensure model. He stated this is a draft model that is being composed by PEPSC subcommittees. He stated PEPSC advises the SBE on matters related to education preparation and licensure.
- Dr. Tomberlin stated that the Human Capital Roundtable presented recommendations to the SBE and remanded that work to PEPSC for formal policy recommendations. He stated the presentation today will update the board on where those PEPSC subcommittees are currently. He wanted to be clear this is not a final model.
- Dr. Tomberlin explained each step of the draft model to CSAB. Dr. Eldridge stated he loves the thought that has gone into this model and allows teachers to level up in the profession. Ms. Turner stated the constant professional development is self-motivated. Dr. Tomberlin stated yes, teachers could decide to stay at a specific level without moving up if they choose to.
- Mr. Sanchez asked if there is any talk about revising NCEES. Mr. Falkenbury stated that there are a lot of conversations going on, but the short session will go very fast, so probably down the road.
- Dr. Tomberlin stated the research will tell you it is not the tool, but a commitment to evaluation that matters. He stated that what we ask principals to do, evaluation 60, 70 teachers per year, is not possible.

He wonders if the problem is NCEES or expectations that are unrealistic. He stated they need to understand whether it is the instrument or capacity.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATES

- Mr. Machado gave an overview of recent SBE action. He stated SBE upheld the decision to close Torchlight at the end of the year. He commended Ms. Baquero for a great Annual Report presentation. He explained which items received action and which were discussed at the May meeting.
- He stated there are forty renewal visits this year and they are almost complete. He spoke about the transportation grant, fifty schools received 2.5M dollars.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Parlér made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:41PM. Dr. Eldridge seconded and the meeting adjourned unanimously.