

**Minutes of the  
North Carolina Charter School Advisory Board  
Via Cisco Webex Remote Meeting  
March 8, 2021  
9:00 am**

Attendance/NCCSAB	Jamey Falkenbury (non-voting) Joel Ford Rita Haire Sherry Reeves Cheryl Turner Lynn Kroeger	Alex Quigley Terry Stoops Hilda Parlér Heather Vuncannon Bruce Friend
Attendance/SBE/DPI	<i>Office of Charter Schools</i>  Dave Machado, Director Ashley Baquero, Consultant Claire Porter, Consultant Joseph Letterio, Consultant Shaunda Cooper, Consultant Darian Jones, Consultant Melanie Rackley, Consultant Jay Whalen, NC ACCESS Davida Robinson, NC ACCESS Barbara O’Neal, NC ACCESS Lakisha Robbins, NC ACCESS	<i>Attorney General</i> Tiffany Lucas Stephanie Lloyd  <i>State Board of Education</i> Allison Schafer - absent  <i>Charter School Teacher of the Year Advisory</i> Ashley Bailey

**CALL TO ORDER**

- The North Carolina Charter School Advisory Board (CSAB) meeting was called to order at 9:03 am by Mr. Alex Quigley. Mr. Quigley led the CSAB in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Quigley read the Ethics Statement and CSAB Mission Statement.
- Ms. Ashley Baquero, Office of Charter Schools (OCS) Consultant, took roll call and a quorum was established.

**Motion: Approve the March 2021 agenda.**

**Motion: Bruce Friend**

**Second: Heather Vuncannon**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Opposed: None**

**Passed**

**Failed**

**Motion: Approve the February 2021 minutes.**

**Motion: Lynn Kroeger**

**Second: Rita Haire**

**Vote: Joel Ford; Alex Quigley; Bruce Friend; Lynn Kroeger; Sherry Reeves; Terry Stoops; Cheryl Turner; Heather Vuncannon; Rita Haire**

**Opposed: None**

**Abstention: Hilda Parlér (did not attend the February 2021 meeting)**

**Passed**       **Failed**

### **2020 COHORT UPDATE**

- Ms. Claire Porter, OCS Consultant, provided an updated of Cohort 2020; 14 schools were approved and seven schools opened. Of 14 schools, six schools requested delay; Wake Prep and NRCA are now in Cohort 2022. All but two schools are in temporary facilities.
- Ms. Porter presented survey results including enrollment data, instructional plans during the pandemic, teacher recruitment, board updates, lottery data, and marketing practices.
- Schools also provided OCS survey process feedback to improve processes. Schools have asked for additional collaboration with fellow cohort members.
- Board members thanked Ms. Porter for her continued efforts and commitment to quality.

### **DRIVER EDUCATION UPDATE**

- Mr. Karl Logan, NC DPI Section Chief for Driver Education, updated CSAB on the Driver Education program. He stated the program is approaching 100 years and that students see Driver Education as a rite of passage.
- Mr. Logan stated that the Behind the Wheel Program allows students to begin the driving process as a life skill. He explained the program's mission statement which allows students to safely operate motor vehicles on the highway.
- Mr. Logan stated that Driver Education has a strategic plan that includes teacher credentialing in collaboration with NCDPI Licensure and aligning with national standards. He explained that local boards of education are required to provide access to charter school students who wish to enroll in driver education courses/programs. He explained that driver eligibility certificates are available on DPI website.
- Mr. Logan also stated that the advisory board on driver education is looking to fill a soon to be vacant advisory board seat with a charter school member.
- He spoke about the SADLS system and that schools can request access. He stated that COVID-19 created significant backlog for road testing due to social distancing constraints and that the General Assembly is exploring solutions.

- He explained that Driver Education area can be added-on to existing license through completion of in-house coursework. Educators should contact NCDPI division for further information. Mr. Logan stated that Senate Bill 69 is looking at third party road testing. Other bills in GA include S37; H82; and S20 Hands Free Act.
- Mr. Terry Stoops and Chair Quigley reported that the program seems to be operating smoothly from the ground level based on their children's participation.
- Ms. Sherry Reeves asked Mr. Logan about any policy change. No policy has been changed amidst COVID; DRIVE 004 addresses hardship exemptions. Mr. Logan encouraged stakeholders to review language in this policy.
- Mr. Dave Machado, OCS Director, echoed success of program and collaboration. Dr. Rita Haire asked clarification question about restart in Washington County. Mr. Logan stated that the driving phase has restarted but not sure on status of classroom phase. Mr. Logan will follow up with an update.

### **LICENSURE PRESENTATION**

- Dr. Thomas Tomberlin, NC DPI, delivered presentation *Transforming the Teaching Profession in North Carolina*. He explained the history of the roundtable organized to create solutions for the human capital pipeline for educators. He spoke about licensure process improvement to keep great teachers and attract new talent.
- Dr. Tomberlin explained the roundtable looked for ways to broaden the entrance into the profession; currently a narrow entryway. He stated ideas include clear exit ramps and greater attention to effectiveness while encouraging retention.
- Dr. Tomberlin stated that licensure exams should not be the sole indicator of effectiveness; but classroom practice and other measures should be considered. He explained a proposal of a tiered licensure system; shifting from initial and continuing license dichotomy; proposal would provide content and pedagogy options to include competency-based micro-credentialing.
- Chair Quigley asked for the timeline for these proposals. Dr. Tomberlin clarified that the proposal would allow for additional effectiveness beyond licensure exams.
- Dr. Haire asked for clarification on EPP and standardization on the way principals use evaluations. Dr. Tomberlin echoed the concern and is in support of evolving the data to better measure high- and low-quality instruction.
- Dr. Haire expressed concerns about the exit ramp criteria. Dr. Tomberlin clarified the distinction between licensure vs. employment requirements. There is a distinction that must be recognized.

### **TESTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

- Dr. Tammy Howard, NCDPI Accountability Director, presented on US Department of Education waivers and test administrations data. She explained the distinction between waiver and added flexibility. She explained that a waiver from the 95% participation requirement is in place, but testing has not been waived.
- She stated fall 2022 is the next time we will have standard data, from the 2021-2022 school year. Dr. Howard explained that states must report by subgroup the percentage of students not assessed. This is to meet transparency and public reporting. States must report chronic absenteeism and student access to technology.
- She explained that the DOE did not waive tests but have offered flexibilities to keep students safe while administering maximum assessments including 1) Extending the test window (July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021) and 2) Extending window for English language proficiency (extended by three weeks).
- She stated that the DOE is still working through waiver template. NC is waiting to hear if the submitted NC template could be used or if DOE will require the new template. Dr. Howard stated that the School Performance Grade (SPG) requirement is in state statute.
- She explained that fall 2020 testing windows were expanded but there was not an optimal number of students assessed. BOG 3 variability was discussed; subgroup size (n size) varied making comparisons and conclusions less confident. On March 12<sup>th</sup> the BOG 3 window will close. She explained that Accountability does not use Fall EOC data and that solely spring EOC data is always considered for accountability.
- Dr. Howard presented EOC data for Fall 20-21 by SBE region and statewide overall and assessment by subgroup.
- Ms. Cheryl Turner asked for clarification on testing window extension. Dr. Howard answered that up until July 5<sup>th</sup> testing can be administered. Testing coordinators at school level know which waivers and paperwork must be submitted for tests completed during extended window.
- Ms. Reeves asked how soon can testing begin. Dr. Howard said EOG will be available in mid-April and EOC is already available to be administered.
- Mr. Quigley asked for clarification on school-level data, growth scores, SPG. Dr. Howard said SPG may not be calculated if General Assembly gives the waiver since it is in state statute. Percent of non-participating students will be calculated and reported as mentioned previously. Validity and reliability for growth will continue to be evaluated culminating in the summer to determine what analyses are possible.

## AMENDMENTS

- Ms. Ashley Baquero, OCS Consultant, explained that there are two amendment requests this month.

### Telra Institute Enrollment

- Ms. Baquero explained the Year One request of thirty students. Year One enrollment requests are not typical. Ms. Baquero provided historical data for two schools that were previously granted enrollment increase in Year One. Neither school met their increased projections. Telra Institute is asking for a modest request of thirty students. Telra reports 391 active applications, serving Educationally Disadvantaged students, weighted lottery data and self-funding capabilities.
- Ms. Cecilia Armour and Mr. Ronak Bhatt of Telra Institute were present. Ms. Turner spoke to policy adherence and start-up numbers. Ms. Reeves echoed the self-funding option. Chair Quigley confirmed they would receive local funding, but not state funding.
- Dr. Haire emphasized policy and precedent and wanting to be clear about how the CSAB handles enrollment modification requests prior to opening the school. She also recognized the school's strength and quality materials.
- Mr. Bruce Friend emphasized precedent and a slippery slope if the CSAB starts improving Year One enrollment requests. He reminded the Board that a large wait list is not always a strong determinant of which families will actually enroll.
- Chair Quigley emphasized the need to be disciplined in what items are taken to SBE. He stated he does not believe this meets the standard and expressed that what schools place in their application is what will become the charter agreement.
- Dr. Haire clarified if OCS will have policy in place to prevent enrollment increase in Year One. Mr. Machado clarified that this would be procedure rather than policy.

**Motion: Not approve the Telra Institute enrollment increase amendment request.**

**Motion: Sherry Reeves**

**Second: Hilda Parlér**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Opposed: None**

Passed

Failed

KIPP ENC Merger

- Ms. Baquero explained the KIPP operation in NC. Gaston, Halifax, Durham (KIPP ENC) and Charlotte. The schools are requesting to merge under a central organization (KIPP NC) to serve as board of KIPP ENC and KIPP Charlotte.
- Mr. Stoops asked if this model has been duplicated in other states. Mr. Tim Saintsing, KIPP NC, communicated support from the KIPP national organization and stated that this model is similar in other states.
- Ms. Turner asked how Charlotte families would have access to the board if located in the RDU area? Mr. Saintsing stated that the board would have residents from all counties served. Recruitment of local representation has been made a priority so that all geographic areas would be represented.
- Chair Quigley expressed his support and knowledge of Mr. Saintsing’s leadership and KIPP’s operations and resources.
- Mr. Ford asked to clarify oversight of geographical representation of board. Mr. Saintsing offered to provide outreach recruitment efforts and who would be recommended for board seats. Mr. Ford asked for clarification on the consolidation making sure stakeholders are adequately represented. Mr. Saintsing responded that five potential board members are from eastern NC and three from Charlotte and they want to increase Durham and Charlotte representation on the board.

**Motion: Approve the KIPP ENC Merger amendment request.**

**Motion: Terry Stoops**

**Second: Joel Ford**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Opposed: None**

Passed

Failed

**LOW PERFORMING SCHOOLS UPDATE**

- Ms. Baquero explained that 2020 session law continued the low-performing (LP) and continually low-performing designations for schools given the gap in academic data resulting from the pandemic.

- She explained that three CLP schools closed since last report. She explained there are currently 35 CLP schools, with a total of 44 LP or CLP schools. She explained the requirements for LP schools including School Improvement Plans and OCS reporting. She stated that five of 41 schools did not submit required reporting to OCS and 12 of 44 did not submit required School Improvement Plans.
- Ms. Baquero asked CSAB if they wanted schools to present to CSAB this year.
- Ms. Turner stated that schools that have not met compliance requirements for low performing schools need to appear before the CSAB. Ms. Hilda Parlér agreed with Ms. Turner. Dr. Haire asked for any correlations between CLP and failure to report. Ms. Baquero stated that all five schools that did not report to OCS are CLP and she believes the majority that did not submit to NC Star are also CLP.
- Ms. Baquero will ask schools who did not meet reporting requirements to present to CSAB over the next few months.

### **2021 CHARTER APPLICATION PROCESS DISCUSSION**

- Ms. Melanie Rackley, OCS Consultant, provided application process improvement proposals to CSAB members.
- Members discussed the need to refine instructions and parameters for submitting supplemental documentation. The Board agreed that only materials requested by the CSAB should be accepted. Mr. Friend stated that the applicants should still do an opening statement for the second round but be held to strict time limits. Board members expressed support for the proposals today and the application improvements.

### **NC ACCESS**

- Mr. Jay Whalen reported on the NC ACCESS Fellowship and professional development offerings.
- Ms. Davida Robinson provided subgrant application updates. She stated that 22 schools submitted subgrant applications. External evaluator trainings are complete and evaluations are underway for the 22 applications to receive the competitive award.

### **DIRECTOR'S UPDATE**

- Mr. Machado stated that OCS staff is working to move the application timeline up by six months.

- He stated the SBE voted to uphold revocation of charter for Essie Mae Kiser Foxx. He stated that SBE asked for a review of the charter school renewal process ahead of the September 2021 SBE meeting.
- Mr. Machado gave an overview of the March SBE's discussion and action on charter items. He stated that OCS has completed six renewal visits in the past week. He explained that the Charter School Principal of Year award process is underway with lead efforts by Dr. Darian Jones. He stated that the RTO Session IV was successful. He praised the NC ACCESS and CSP grant initiatives continued innovation.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

- Ms. Reeves made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:49 p.m. and Ms. Kroeger seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned via acclamation.