

**Minutes of the
North Carolina Charter School Advisory Board
State Board Room 755, Department of Public Instruction
September 13, 2021
9AM**

Attendance – CSAB Members	
Jamey Falkenbury (non-voting) Rita Haire – remote John Eldridge Cheryl Turner Hilda Parlér Shelly Bullard	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 Joseph Letterio, Consultant Darian Jones, Consultant Melanie Rackley, Consultant Jay Whalen, NC ACCESS	<i>Attorney General</i> Stephanie Lloyd <i>SBE Attorney</i> Brandon Walker

CALL TO ORDER

- The North Carolina Charter School Advisory Board (CSAB) meeting was called to order at 9:05 am by Vice Chair Ms. Cheryl Turner who read the Ethics Statement and CSAB Mission Statement. Mr. Eric Sanchez led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Ms. Hilda Parlér recused from discussion and voting on the matter of Johnston Prep Academy. Ms. Turner recused from discussion and voting on the matter of Movement Schools tomorrow.
- Ms. Turner asked new CSAB members to introduce themselves: Mr. Sanchez; Dr. Shelly Bullard and Dr. John Eldridge shared about their schools and their excitement to be serving on CSAB.

Motion: Motion to approve the September 13 & September 14, 2021 agenda.

Motion: Bruce Friend

Second: Lynn Kroeger

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

Motion: Approve the June 2021 and June 23, 2021 special called CSAB meeting with changes to minutes made as noted.

Motion: Bruce Friend

Second: Terry Stoops

Discussion: Ms. Parlér notes that we need to be precise about time when individuals entered and existed that meeting. For June 23rd, she would like record to show we adjourned at 10:24 a.m.

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

Motion: Motion to modify the September 13, 2021 CSAB agenda to add a closed session at 9:30 a.m., with no other amendments to the agenda for the day.

Motion: Terry Stoops

Second: Lynn Kroeger

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

FISCAL YEAR ADMINISTRATIVE TASKS

- Mr. Machado presented the fiscal year administrative tasks of voting for the CSAB Chair and Vice Chair, CSAB Committee Assignments, Strategic Calendar, and Meeting Calendar.
- Mr. Friend nominated Ms. Turner.

Motion: Motion that nominations be closed and that Ms. Turner be named the Chair of the Charter School Advisory Board by acclamation.

Motion: Mr. Friend nominated Ms. Turner

Second: John Eldridge

Vote: Nominations were closed and Ms. Turner was elected by acclamation.

Passed

Failed

- Ms. Turner stated her goal is to fill the shoes of outgoing CSAB Chair Mr. Alex Quigley and gave thanks to the remarkable OCS staff who serve over 200 schools and the challenge of that. She spoke to the quantity and quality of the work from OCS staff and thanked them for their dedication and service.

Motion: Motion to nominate Mr. Bruce Friend as CSAB Vice Chair.

Motion: Lynn Kroeger

Second: Hilda Parlér

Vote: Nomination was closed and Mr. Friend was elected by acclamation.

Passed

Failed

- Ms. Turner indicated Ms. Kroeger has agreed to serve as CSAB policy committee chair.
- Ms. Ashley Baquero, OCS Consultant, briefly reviewed and indicated committee assignments and explained performance v. policy and explained tasks and rationale for assignments. Ms. Baquero discussed the strategic calendar and indicated it is a guideline for annual tasks and noted the heavy fall and winter schedule.
- Mr. Machado discussed strategic calendar; there is one vacancy, and it is a Senate appointment.
- Ms. Baquero gave high level overview of strategic calendar. Ms. Kroeger asked about the calendar and the new application cycle and whether it would impact the calendar. Ms. Baquero indicated it will impact the calendar and it is subject to revision. She highlighted the earlier opening of next year in January and the effect of this. She suggested we approve this and look to revise based on 2021-2022 applications, which we won't know yet. Ms. Baquero reminded all of CSAB meetings, two days, sometimes three, and always coordinated with the SBE meeting in mind.

Motion: Motion to approve committee assignments, strategic calendar and meeting calendar.

Motion: Hilda Parlér

Second: Terry Stoops

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

2021 OPENING SCHOOL UPDATE

- Mrs. Claire Porter, OCS Consultant, provided an enrollment and facility update on the six charter schools that opened this fall. She reviewed current enrollment numbers, facilities, teacher recruitment and staffing, marketing, administrative and boards of director changes, budget adjustments, marketing strategies, weighted lotteries, and shared feedback on the Ready to Open process and what is working well or could use improvement.
- Mrs. Porter stated that schools reported many budgetary adjustments were made. All six RTO schools were NC ACCESS grant recipients, four of six reported implementations of weighted lottery. Marketing efforts relied heavily on virtual processes rather than in-person events. Mrs. Porter provided responses from RTO schools regarding what content is needed during the RTO process. Schools have asked for differentiation of RTO services based on variables like board expertise and other items.

AMENDMENTS

- Ms. Ashley Baquero, OCS Consultant, explained this month’s amendment requests.

Metrolina Regional Scholars Weighted Lottery Request

- Ms. Baquero verified the steps and requirements of the amendment process and explained the uptick in weighted lottery requests. The school is a NC ACCESS grant recipient, located in Charlotte, and a specialized school focusing on AIG students seeking a weighted lottery. Their economically disadvantaged (ED) goal is 15% of total population; currently 2% are ED and this will lead to a welcome change in the school as more will be able to access gifted education. She reviewed the materials in Eboard and explained the school will hold a separate weighted lottery to keep seats open. Ms. Baquero explained the way this would be implemented and the school’s plan for NC ACCESS grant, nutrition, and transportation.
- Ms. Turner asked about universal screener and stated it traditionally under identifies economically disadvantaged students; if the school is trying to target ED children, how this will solve problem?
- Ms. Ari Pieper, Director of Metrolina indicated research shows IQ and achievement tests misidentify children who might be gifted. She indicated there is no testing alternative which is objective. She stated another three groups test which is available to all students, and free to all. IQ test is also available. Emphasized that it is free and that the process is not wholly dependent on those test results. She indicated that there are also self-nomination forms, teacher nominations, parent nominations, and other ways for students to be considered.
- Mr. Friend asked about the current transportation plan and how that would need to be adjusted. Ms. Pieper indicated they just purchased a second bus with the NC ACCESS funding and have two bus routes. Intention is to continue to build fleet. This is in process.
- Ms. Kroeger asked how they intend to market that this free testing is available? How will you get the word out? A Metrolina school employee spoke to the marketing plan to reach to underserved communities, radio, minority owned marketing and targeted marketing. Translation into languages school is seeking to serve as well.

Motion: Motion to approve Metrolina Regional Scholars Academy weighted lottery request.

Motion: Bruce Friend

Second: Hilda Parlér

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

CSAB adjourned at 9:32 A.M. for a break and reconvened at 9:42 A.M.

Huntersville Charter High School Second Year Delay

- Ms. Baquero presented the school's request for a second-year delay. Ms. Jen Nichols of Huntersville appeared by phone as did Ms. Nicholson, Board Chair. Ms. Baquero provided technical feedback to Executive Director and BOD Chair. She provided an overview of first delay due to COVID and facility related; she stated the school is requesting a second delay and provided their rationale. She explained that they would have three years remaining in the charter and would begin Y3 in 2023 with a projection of 210 students, high school trade school with a small enrollment, 5th year would be 9-12 grade with 410. Additional request for a name change and OCS can approve but decided to bundle this with the delay request. Name would be Aspire Trade High School and explained why removing the name Huntersville was sought and will explain. Second delay would require CSAB approval and opened it up to questioning.
- Ms. Turner asked Ms. Nichols to explain the delay request. Ms. Nichols stated it was to build the building when many of the gifts and finances are secure so nothing should be owed on land, work, etc. but they will need to fundraise for new building. Gifts ended up going to COVID purposes. They were not able to access high wealth individuals during the pandemic and unable to access stakeholders and trade partners last year, in person meeting, getting students on campus was a challenge. Ms. Nichols outlined that they have now been in front of as well as community colleges to form partnerships to help with trade aspect of the school.
- Ms. Turner asked how will it be different this year since we are still dealing with COVID?
- Ms. Nichols stated that she is able to be in front of people now. She stated the board has hosted some on campus meetings as well. This has increased their momentum. Ms. Turner asked about student recruitment. Ms. Nicholas stated that the website is up, marketing and interest form. We have already begun recruiting students. Spoke to partnerships they have, and they have moved recruitment up. Explained that website translates everything into Spanish. Merchandise and branding are coming along as well.
- Mr. Friend asked about the delay. Asked about original enrollment. Asked about strongly vetted applicants. Ms. Nichols indicated that they have not accepted applications. Not sure that they would get second delay so didn't want to do that prior to getting delay. Mr. Friend asked if he should infer that if they don't get the delay, you won't open next year? Ms. Nichols stated yes.
- Ms. Turner asked for clarification of why they need an additional year.
- Ms. Nicholas explained that in order build the building and get trade partners in the lab. We have to be able to put the trades in place; HVAC/Plumbing etc. need to be in place. We need to secure the partnerships for each particular lab.

- Ms. Turner asked if that will take two years? Ms. Nichols stated that they would prefer to have two years. We do not want to put school in a church or portables. This would not work for the school and the quality of the school we intend to be. She continued that the school is starting with nine labs and trade partners need to bring equipment, and secure curriculum and apprenticeships.
- Ms. Nicholson stated there is no template/model for this, there is need in community and we would like to get it correct. Ms. Turner asked why they need more time again? Ms. Nichols stated had we not had issues with COVID, we would have had building up. Ms. Nicholson stated that our biggest challenge is fundraising, we won't debt finance the building and we won't do that. We won't do more than 50% of debt finance.
- Ms. Turner asked if you don't get this, you will relinquish the charter? Ms. Nicholson stated that we have traction and we feel good in terms of where we are. We have not crossed that bridge if we were not able to get an extension.
- Mr. Stoops comments that WCPSS technical school is a refurbished building. Asked more about the facility details and is more required. Asked them to explain the name change. How has that proven to be a barrier to community partners?
- Ms. Nicholson states that it goes to fundraising and a naming opportunity, a five million opportunity, donors look at that. Having the name doesn't show our regional presence. She stated that they don't want to be portrayed as a municipal school and we have had questions about that. She stated we are still in Huntersville, we just would like to mute that a bit and give a more regional focus. Ms. Nichols states there is a naming opportunity for a partner connected to trades.
- Mr. Friend asked to go back on the timeline. You would have been opening this fall, so you charter would have been approved in 2019, lots of work into this. Plan was to have a facility ready to go in 2021 but facility won't be ready until 2023. An integral part of approval is to have a solid facilities plan. This is now four years, and we still sit here three years and you can't say you have a facility. Are my facts correct?
- Nichols replied that when we purchased property we didn't know we'd have the DOT issues, the sewer issues, site itself took a lot of time to get prepared. Work has now been completed but it took a long time, and we could not have anticipated that.
- Mr. Sanchez asked the school to summarize what the board has accomplished.

- Ms. Nicholas states they have 25 acres. We also have no debt. We also looked at school administrators and social media is up. Mr. Sanchez asks about money and partnerships. Ms. Nichols describes partnerships and prep work.
- Ms. Nicholson spoke to the website and social media which will help drive enrollment. Grants available were mentioned.
- Mr. Machado explains the origin and plan of school. Clarified that the private school is up and running. Ms. Turner asked for clarification of the school (Halton) for new CSAB members. Ms. Nichols verified the private school is up and running. Ms. Nicholson spoke about Halton school and its success, fully operational and at capacity. Clarified that they are separate boards.
- Ms. Kroeger asked about the private school that was opened in 2019, at the time this application was approved you were opening the private school? Ms. Nichols stated that it was always a plan to have multiple schools on campus.
- Mr. Godbey mentions the website and that it looks like three schools. Will that be private as well? Ms. Nichols stated that we don't know if this will be a charter or private.
- Mr. Godbey asks how many board members do you have and do they overlap? Ms. Nichols stated that they have five and there is overlap of board members.
- Dr. Eldridge asks if they have started construction. Ms. Nichols states that they have done pre-construction and prep work. We did this to get a jump on this. Our hope is May of 2022.
- Dr. Eldridge asks if this is because you are still in fundraising. Ms. Nichols states yes and if we get grant from fed government. Dr. Eldridge asks for the amount needed. Ms. Nichols states we need 10 million. Mr. Godbey clarified with 50% debt. Ms. Nichols states we have raised a million and we'd like to raise 10 million in pledges.
- Mr. Sanchez asks are you still looking at 65k sq. ft. facility? Asked about renting space, is that no longer an option? Ms. Nichols states that is not an option we want to explore at this time. Mr. Sanchez stated that is a 14-month schedule. Pointed to the tightness of the schedule. Ms. Nichols states it will be a 12-month schedule and explained what they have done. Mr. Sanchez states, you have a million pledged, are your architectural drawings done? Ms. Nichols states they are all completed.

- Mr. Friend asks if they are trying to raise it all through pledges. There are many organizations which help fund charter school construction. Ms. Nichols states that they have a strategic partner and we are pursuing that advice.
- Ms. Nicholson expressed concern that we wouldn't be able to repay debt interest. Explained that they aren't willing to sacrifice the mission and quality. We don't want to do 100% from a long-term debt capacity perspective.
- Mr. Godbey asked about the plan for the additional 10 million of raised money. Have you engaged a fundraising firm? If, by May you have 10 million, what is your plan?
- Ms. Nichols indicated that the board has been active in seeking partnerships and relationships, plus federal grants. Rolling timeline.
- Dr. Eldridge stated that enrollment will be challenging with 11th and 12th grade students. Of your 210 students, what are your thoughts on this? Ms. Nichols clarified that the first year will only be 9th & 10th grades and they would bring them on campus early.
- Ms. Turner asked about the grants they are seeking. Ms. Nichols explained that they will be applying for work force development. First time this will be done. Ms. Tuner stated that there is funding for programs, but federal grants won't provide for facilities. Ms. Nichols clarified that these grants are for construction.
- Ms. Parlér stated she was disappointed that they were not able to express exactly what they need. Ms. Kroeger expressed disappointment in the lack of progress.
- Dr. Bullard stated that to have been working for two years and only have 1 million and want to reach 10 million.
- Mr. Friend asked about two-year delays and history of this recently from OCS staff. Expressed concern over timeline and approval in 2019 and lack of progress. We are at least 4 years into this and they don't have a facility situation resolved. It is not the merits of the application or the hard work. Should have relinquished and then come back.
- Mr. Sanchez stated that in the COVID year and you need to have your ducks in order July 1st, he could understand a Y2 request but there is no thought on putting something temporary up. Nothing mentioned about this. It looks like they may be in over their head.
- Dr. Haire spoke to the consequences of COVID and very long lead times for everything. Inspections, workers, materials. If they were building now, material costs are exponentially

higher now. This is a unique and needed model and an attribute to the community. It is commendable that they are trying to do this debt-free. They also want excellence. They have no model/template for this. I tend to feel more leniency for the time frame.

- Dr. Eldridge pointed to the funding already invested and work done to date. Perhaps using a consultant to get a timeline in place. He stated just trying to get desks, there are unprecedented delays.
- Ms. Turner stated that if we give the extension and they still don't get it together, there is no 3rd year extension; they would be belly up. I am not feeling a level of confidence. No students, all they have is cleared land and a sewer. If you start in May, you may or may not get it done in 12 months. I am not totally confident. Do we lose anything by giving them the time?
- Dr. Haire stated that they would be taking that risk on. Is there any harm done if they want to assume that risk with the extension?
- Mr. Friend stated that part of the application process is to have a secure, viable facility plan. If you don't have that, you don't get past go. Are we saying for future applications that we are going to move you along anyway and that onus is on you?
- Ms. Turner stated that CSAB would not have approved this. They gave the impression they had a facility plan.
- Mr. Godbey stated that, to Mr. Sanchez's point, what is lacking is a backup plan. The school is amazing, but it is September, and the plan is we need to reach 10 million by May. No back up plan. Finance it, or hire a fundraising company, or a temporary facility. I am missing the backup plan.
- Mr. Stoops expresses skepticism about the federal monies available for this.
- Mr. Sanchez would like to see more details of the plan because they are only 1/10th of the way to the capital campaign goal. He asked if the board can mandate stipulations?
- Ms. Baquero clarifies that CSAB may put contingencies in place, such as monthly updates and other stipulations.
- Ms. Turner asks about postponing with stipulations and we will see about this in a few months.
- Mr. Friend clarifies that they said that they would rescind if not approved. A second-year delay would give them more runway. CSAB also indicated that they are not final authority on this. If this is approved, they have one month to get more data to get this delay.

- Ms. Turner states that she is not comfortable approving this. I am open to conditions or stretching this out. Ms. Kroeger mentions this is a heavy lift and we can see what would take place in a few months. Ms. Parlér concurs.
- Dr. Eldridge would ask them to consider other fundraising and financing plans, alternatives. That would strengthen their case with us. It would also make any funders feel better about where they are. It will help in recruiting as well. Would support a two- month delay.
- Mr. Stoops asks what would be a fair time for us to give them.
- Mr. Sanchez states that they could have put something together with 1 million. You could put up 161 thousand square ft. right now and still have no debt. Not sure how open they would be to that.
- Dr. Bullard states that if we delay, they will start construction in May, would that timeline even work?
- Mr. Godbey clarifies the request for them to come back to us that they have another option. Would be a tough precedent for us to set. Mr. Friend: If we are going to give them additional time, they need to know what the metrics are. And if they don't have that, they should not come back to CSAB.
- Mr. Godbey states that they would want to see a back-up or contingency plan to give CSAB confidence.
- Mr. Friend states that this is not about the school or the original application. Mr. Friend asks if we are we including the name change in the motion.
- Ms. Baquero states that we can separate them and approve the name change in OCS. Dr. Eldridge states that the name change will help them. Mr. Machado states that we recommend that it is in their best interest to have the OCS approve the name change.

Motion: Motion that CSAB table the Huntersville second year delay request for 60 days and that the school shall reappear with the delay request, a timeline, a contingency plan, and the questions we have requested answered in full.

Motion: Lynn Kroeger

Second: Hilda Parlér

Vote: LK, HP, RH, TS, TG, SB, ES, JE, CT

No: BF

Passed

Failed

NC ACCESS TIMELINE, APPLICATION & RUBRIC

- Mr. Jay Whalen, NC ACCESS Program Director presented the timeline and shared some prior year highlights. He reviewed the goals of program, indicated that they met the goal of 60 subgrants and indicated they will go above and beyond goal. Mr. Whalen highlighted the new cohort, which will begin this week. Lots of progress with weighted lotteries, school lunch, transportation. Mr. Whalen described the Aspiring Minority Leaders program and provided a review. Goal is to develop high impact leaders. Additional professional development started last spring and more to come this fall. Mr. Whalen indicated that the NC ACCESS program annual review will be shared with new CSAB members as well. He stated that the application and rubric edits are minor, nothing substantively different. Mr. Whalen stated that the NC ACCESS timeline comes to CSAB today and that the SBE will approve it in November so that they can release on November 15th. Detailed review of timeline. Replication applications are on another timeline and those are due on October 1st, potentially have twp. Technical assistance, training, and support to all applicants.
- Dr. Haire asked Mr. Whalen to address the point system as it is assigned in the application. Is that subjective or is that very specific criteria which is assigned and understood?
- Mr. Whalen explains the rubric and point system. Explains how they norm with external evaluators. He stated the team does its best to norm on the point system.

Motion: Motion to approve the NC ACCESS timeline, application and rubric.

Motion: Hilda Parlér

Second: Lynn Kroeger

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

NC VIRTUAL QUARTERLY UPDATE

- Marcia Simmons, Principal, presented the NCVA quarterly update. She provided academic results from 2020-2021 school year and an overview of academic proficiency, growth, and participation. She highlighted the results in math, specifically, and reviewed subgroup data as well. Math I, Math III, Biology growth was discussed as was subgroup data for reading, grades 3-8. Ms. Simmons stated the greatest growth was Math I, III, and Biology; she also pointed to needed proficiency gains. Goals were reviewed as well: Increased proficiency, participation, reduce achievement gap and cohort year over year. She spoke about increasing rigorous coursework. She detailed the monitoring of standards (standards-based tracker) and using formative data to remediate in the afternoon. She suggested that this may have caused the gains in Math. Enrollment is right at capacity, 3435. Highlighted legislation and BOD decision to maintain decision of 3439 maximum. She stated NCVA has a significant waitlist.

- Ms. Simmons described staffing needs and retention trends of staff; she describes their marketing strategy and how the pandemic has impacted staffing. Ms. Simmons stated the 2021 audit has begun and that the school is financially in good standing and compliant. She mentioned one board resignation and highlighted administration changes.
- Ms. Parlér asked her what they plan to do to reduce the withdrawal rate?
- Ms. Simmons stated they have about 85% return to them, explained their lottery and advisor teams who contact families for outreach. She highlighted their providing of strong social emotional learning supports, the providing of basic necessities, clothing, arts, and other things to which she attributes the high return rate.
- Mr. Friend asked how many of the total are new students?
- Ms. Simmons reiterated the 85% return rate and that the new students are onboarded at the end of July during a weekend welcome session; same with parents. Ms. Simmons does this on the front end and she spoke to fact that they have very few openings in high school. Ms. Simmons also pointed out that they lack athletics.
- Dr. Haire pointed out that reading grades 3-8 outperformed the state average and asked to what do you attribute that?
- Ms. Simmons pointed to her history as an administrator since 2015 and attributes it to the personal touch. She provided anecdotal evidence of how this works at the school.
- Dr. Eldridge congratulated her.
- Machado stated that NCVA is very responsive.

2021 APPLICATION CYCLE INTRODUCTION

- Ms. Melanie Rackley, OCS Consultant, introduced this year's application cycle. She referenced the relevant charter application statutes and policies and explained how the timeline has been revised. She pointed out where resources are available should they be sought. She explained the distribution of applicants by type of application, and by county, and highlighted the CSAB/OCS responsibilities as they pertain to charter applications, as well as how applications proceed to the SBE. She indicated that the OCS received twenty-one applications and reviewed county distribution across the state. Ms. Rackley stated that all applications have been vetted for completeness.

- Ms. Rackley briefly highlighted for newer CSAB members the difference between acceleration and fast-track replication and stated that one applicant today is accelerated and the other is a fast-track replication. She explained that the fast-track application would forego the requirements of the Planning Year as they do a one-day training. She also highlighted that there is no guarantee of approval for accelerated applicants and that they must complete Planning Year/Ready to Open requirements.
- Ms. Rackley explained the three options after each Round 1 interview: Recommend approval, recommend denial, or hold over to a Round Two interview. She described process and procedure improvements in the 2021 cycle and second round interview parameters were reviewed; she stressed that applicants will only be able to submit items specifically requested by CSAB. This process will be in place for current cycle and is an attempt to streamline the process. Ms. Rackley highlighted committee assignments as well. Ms. Rackley reviewed Performance and Policy committee assignments and interviews.
- Ms. Turner asked if there were questions by newer CSAB members.
- Mr. Machado distinguished the requirements of accelerated v. fast track replication. Demonstrated need and facility must be ready. Mr. Machado will personally visit each of these schools to check on facility readiness.

**** At 11:23 a.m. the CSAB moved into closed session.**

Motion: Move that we go into closed session pursuant to NC General Statute 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.

Motion: Lynn Kroeger

Second: Bruce Friend

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

- Ms. Turner: Clarified that CSAB will go to lunch directly from closed session.

*****CSAB reconvened live stream at 12: 50 p.m. There was no action taken in closed session.**

2021 CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION INTERVIEWS

Revitalize Charter School, accelerated applicant

- Ms. Rackley, OCS Consultant, introduced accelerated applicant, Revitalize Charter School, proposed for Wake County, and detailed the proposed grade levels/enrollment for the school. The school plans to participate in the National School Lunch program, offer transportation, implement a weighted lottery, have identified a facility; there was no LEA impact statement, the applicants is not a repeat applicants, the applicant received no assistance in preparing the application and the application is complete. The school is proposed for the 27616 zip in the former location of Casa Esperanza charter school. Ms. Rackley highlighted other PSUs in a 6 mile radius and indicated the school intends to locate permanently in the 27610 zip code to serve the SE Raleigh community. Ms. Rackley introduced the applicant school's board of directors.
- Ms. Ansel Caceres, founder, introduced herself and the hopes for her board to serve families in Wake County with the highest need and hopes to set a trend of excellence.
- Dr. Valencia Williams, founding board chair, introduced herself, described her background in student support services, and articulated that charters are public education reimaged. Dr. Morgan Camu, board vice chair, introduced herself and her experience. Dr. Paul Bryant, Annie Deaver and Dr. Kimberly Harris introduced themselves and shared their experiences.
- Mr. Friends reviewed the framework of the interview and stated that the possible outcomes for accelerated would be to move forward to SBE, to not to move forward to the SBE, or to could hold over for another interview in October.
- The board provided an opening statement.
- Ms. Turner inquired as to how they would meet the needs of all students, as the exceptional children plan appeared to be more of a consultative model. She spoke to changes in the budget in terms of EC director or EC teacher. She inquired as to what Socratic inquiry looks like K-2 and when direct instruction would take place. Ms. Turner asked what a culturally relevant project would look like for a 5-year-old. She stated that a strength of the plan is a two-teacher model and then when the budget was changed that changed.
- Ms. Parlér stated she has questions around the mission, the word 'endeavor', enrollment starting with K-2, and that experience shows that there has been a challenge getting those numbers. She asked if the school considered K-5? She asked how they would teach Math, as

she did not see specific classes mentioned. She reminded them of the importance of the RTO trainings.

- Mr. Stoops asked about human resources, teacher recruitment and retention, and expressed concern that wages in budget don't seem competitive with Wake County schools.
- Ms. Kroeger stated that she felt the salaries were not high enough and asked for them to speak to the demand for the school.
- Dr. Haire stated that the educational plan put forth so many instructional strategies, what is the focus and what is the foundation? She inquired as to when professional learning for all of this would happen. She pointed to a good budget and application and added that the board has a rich set of experiences and whether they would plan to consult at all. Lastly, Dr. Haire inquired as to transportation, specifically the students who lived beyond the 1.5 miles.
- Dr. Eldridge felt the application was strong but there was a lot there. He inquired as to a specific math curriculum and asked about external benchmarking?
- Mr. Friend asked how many members on the board. Ms. Caceres stated they were at five members with the addition of Dr. Harris. Mr. Friend asked if boarded members were connected to E and SE Raleigh? Each board member explained his or her connection to the area. Ms. Valencia Church-Williams: NC connection, student in Durham and lived in east Raleigh, was a school system parent and has a connection to SE and NE Raleigh. Dr. Bryant: Native to the area and secondary and post-secondary here. Durham/Raleigh UNC Chapel Hill grad. Dr. Camu lives in SE Raleigh, 27601 zip code. Dr. Harris: Spoke to her connection as well.
- Mr. Friend asked if they were committed to the ready to open process and attending each and every meeting? Revitalize board confirmed commitment.
- Ms. Parlér stated that the board was education heavy and asked about diversifying skill set. Ms. Caceres indicated that they seeking to diversify as they move to 11 board members.
- Ms. Turner asked if they could address math instruction? Ms. Church-Williams explained that they will be doing this piecemeal and walked through the framing and contextualizing of this. She stated that everything that is done will be on the framework of MTSS. No waiting to fail approach. Instruction at core so less intervention later. We will offer the continuum of services. Inclusion in classrooms is research based. Our two-teacher model will have content and EC expertise. She stated that they are already partnered with UNC and that the budget was changed when they realized they would not get federal funding in year one for exceptional

children. She clarified that the instructional assistant terminology may be misleading, that these are not paraprofessionals.

- Dr. Camu stated direct instruction will be in place in Math and that a transdisciplinary approach would be used, with 60 minutes in STEM, there will be rotation and extended in 30 minute applied learning chunks.
- Ms. Turner asked for further explanation of project based learning for a five year old. Dr. Church-Williams explained that part of the framing for the International Baccalaureate program is transdisciplinary and explained the trajectory of concepts for students. Gave example of serving community. Comparing and contrasting as they move up.
- Ms. Turner asked if they were planning to be an International Baccalaureate school. Dr. Church Williams indicated that they used it as a framing. We are not IB going in but we are using it as a framing.
- Ms. Turner asked if they have you seen this done anywhere? Dr. Church-Williams indicates this was done in Brooklyn with a higher percentage of ED kids. Culturally relevant pedagogy, Socratic inquiry and others has been adopted from Ember Charter Schools.
- Mr. Stoops asks about the salaries of teachers which seem low for WCPSS. He inquired about the plan to attract talent. Dr. Bryan answered that based on their research, they tried to centralize it and get a competitive salary and grow. Dr. Bryan & Dr. Church-Williams provided more information on salaries and benefits.
- Mr. Godbey inquired as to their facility plan; how confident were they in the Casa location and did they have a contingency plan? He emphasized that acceleration requires that the facility be locked down.
- Dr. Church Williams expressed confidence that Casa was moving and that the property will be ready for fall 2022; she provided a list of non-profits which might be available as backup plan.
- Dr. Church-Williams provided a closing statement which outlined with examples and specifics the four reasons and the compelling need: academic failure, overcapacity, ineffective curriculum and COVID 19 impact. Spoke to the desire to transform education and take leadership roles.
- Dr. Bryant spoke to changing the trajectory of communities and the legislative purpose for charters and how the school would meet several with examples and specifics. Thanked the CSAB for the time.

- Mr. Friend explained the three options for moving forward.
- Ms. Parlér feels the energy and commitment and that they can make the school what they want it to be.
- Ms. Turner sees that they are committed to the model, but reality checks are ahead. She wants to see the program work.
- Ms. Kroeger concurs, she feels the passion and energy. She would like a contingency plan in place, and it is a requirement for acceleration.
- Dr. Eldridge points to educational experience of board and that it needs to be diversified. This will help take the stress off so you can focus on academics.
- Mr. Sanchez asks why child nutrition was taken out the first year and points to another charter in SE Raleigh and challenges to enrollment. With regard to staffing, he states they may have some changes to make.
- Mr. Stoops states that although disagrees with the *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*, there is a need in the intended area and that the board has the resources and the desire.
- Mr. Godbey asks to understand the plan for recruiting the number of students from that zip code.
- Mr. Friend spoke to passion of board; acceleration of this school gives pause. Would like to get more information so would like back to second round.
- Dr. Haire asks about the parent surveys and if we have data for fall 2022.
- Ms. Caceres clarifies that this was a mistake, 2023, and should read 2022.
- Dr. Bullard stated her concern of facility and staffing. Other than that, energy and drive are clear.
- Ms. Turner states we need a contingency on facility. Could we just get the information or do we have to invite them back?

- Mr. Friend asks if the second-round interview could simply address the questions we have posed. Mr. Machado states that if you need further clarification, you could get that. A second interview is warranted.

Motion: Motion to return Revitalize Charter School for a second-round interview.

Motion: Cheryl Turner

Second: Hilda Parlér

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

JOHNSTON PREPARATORY ACADEMY, Fast-track Replication

- Ms. Rackley, OCS Consultant, introduced applicant Johnston Preparatory Academy, Fast-Track Replication. Proposed 27512 zip code. Ms. Rackley reviewed the Y1-Y5 projected ADM. Capacity is at 1,572 students. National Heritage Academy is their partner EMO, NHA is the approved food vendor, no transportation other than as needed for exceptional children, no weighted lottery, slated facility in place, no LEA impact at this time, not a repeat, EMO is National heritage Academies (NHA). Application was complete at time of submission. Ms. Rackley reviewed charters and other PSUs within 10- mile radius.
- Ms. Brooke Holmes, Board Chair, thanked the CSAB and made introductory remarks, highlighted need for quality schools and noted overcrowding in county school, at over 100% capacity of school. She introduced her board members and highlighted their experience and expertise, including Ms. Denise Byrd, Director; Ms. Myrtle Early, Secretary; Mr. Chris Parsons, Treasurer; Mr. Jason Thompson, Vice Chair, as well as NHA Executive Director of High Schools, Mr. Dave Angerer; Mr. Jeff Ichescio, Manager of New School Development, NHA; Mr. Doug Hower, Director of School Quality, NHA. Ms. Holmes indicated that the proposed replication would be K-12 and based on high demand for new high-quality schools in area and described how the school would replicate JCA's model based on success with a similar student population, location, demand from families. She addressed the lack of accountability data over three years due to COVID and stated that they are outperforming the local school district and closest located schools. She pointed to an NHA partner school in Wake County, proposing to replicate Wake Forest Charter Academy, highlighted strong academic outcomes of JCA and Wake Forest Charter Academy, serving K-8. Ms. Holmes indicated the intent to replicate the program used by the management partner, NHA. She stated there are 14 schools are in NC, but none are HS; however, do have these in Michigan.
- Ms. Holmes continued that they would begin 7-9 and the proposed grade expansion and enrollment. She stated that Johnston Prep would be a sister school to JCA and that they intend for an articulation agreement, should application be approved. Ms. Holmes stated that they do not have a target population but intend to mirror the student population of WCPSS and

Johnston County Schools; they are prepared to serve all students with all needs. She spoke to the partnership with NHA and the changing demographics and need in the county. She provided statistics of saturation in the JCSS. Ms. Holmes stated the current waitlist at JCA is over 1,000 students, parents surveyed want a high school, the need and enrollment likelihood is high and highlighted outperformance of NHA schools across the state as well NHA partnership commits them to budget if school comes in under and assumes financial risk.

- Ms. Holmes stated NHA has a parcel of land under contract; construction would begin upon approval, would start with high school and then move down to elementary. Property is within a 6-mile radius of JCA, on the same road. JCA was delayed due to construction; wishing to avoid this, they began earlier here. They are well into entitlement process; Clayton annexation and rezoning approval has been granted, allowing them to potentially begin construction after application approved. Summarized with immediate need and growing.
- Ms. Turner states does this qualify for fast-track replication? If it does not, all else is moot.
- Ms. Kroeger asks them why they believe they qualify for fast-track replication.
- Mr. Ichescio, NHA responded to how they believed they would qualify. Policy also notes ‘other considerations’ can be made beyond those measures. He stated the hope would be that CSAB might take those into consideration given that NHA does have a track record out of state with high schools. He highlighted how those other schools outperformed district averages and served all students. Beyond proficiency and growth measures, that 11 of our 13 schools in NC do meet, financially/audits, budgets, we meet this expectation.
- Ms. Kroeger asked whether NHA has K-12 schools or just high schools? Mr. Ichescio states that NHA partners with K-12 schools on one campus, another is a similar model where it is K-8 on one campus and then 9-12 on another campus, within 3-6 miles. Mr. Ichescio provided further specifications about other schools.
- Dr. Haire asks for clarification that it doesn’t state instead of, it says in addition to; so, it doesn’t preclude the performance that’s expected of all schools. Every school must meet those performance standards of qualify for replication.
- Mr. Friend states that he is stuck here. I believe for replication it is all schools which EMO manages have to meet a certain threshold and it is not written as ‘in addition to’, not ‘in lieu of’.

- Ms. Turner states the word ‘shall’ is used and doesn’t appear to be equivocal, and ‘each’ references each school run by the EMO. While you have schools in Michigan which meet those criteria, you did not supply this data.
- Mr. Ichesco states he would love to submit that data.
- Mr. Friend asks if they are able to consider that data? From out of state? Just asking for clarification.
- Dr. Haire notes that out-of-state schools would only be considered if there are not in state schools. There are not high schools in NC.
- Mr. Machado reminds that we consider only what was in application submitted.
- Mr. Friend understands that these are not high schools, but other NC schools don’t meet criteria set forth for replication, it is not in lieu of that, it is other considerations on top of that.
- Mr. Sanchez asks if legal can opine? Ms. Schafer points to 16 NCAC 06G.0513. Explains that section (b) only comes in with a corporation that does not operate within the state of North Carolina. When the non-profit board operates within a state, you only look at the schools within the state for replication purposes within this policy.
- Ms. Turner states that I don’t see that we have any place to go with this.
- Mr. Angerer with NHA states that NHA is duplicating the K-8 program in this proposal; NHA has a K-12 program and curriculum in Michigan and we are proposing to replicate that as it is not offered in NC. This is replication of existing K-12 existing programming that NHA operates.
- Ms. Turner states that are not addressing the replication, we are looking at in order to qualify for fast-track replication, each school in NC must meet performance standards, two do not. It says each. I don’t see a way to get around this. The requirement is in rules.
- Mr. Ichesco states that as we partner with more schools, we are looking forward to serve more kids and we are proud to do that. Maybe those two schools are not within the 5% proficiency. Forsyth Academy, outperformed the nearest five schools in math and reading and met growth. Gate City Charter Academy also did outperform the five nearest located schools and met or exceed growth.

- Ms. Turner states that it says LEA; we don't get to decide which schools we get compared to. I am dealing with a Rule that says 'each' and 'LEA' and from what I am hearing from legal I don't have any options.
- Dr. Haire states that is correct, and it is because they chose replication they are under those policies and those are unequivocal.
- Mr. Friend asks why did you choose replication?
- Mr. Ichescio explains the main driver was to get a program in place quickly. We wanted to get this in front of CSAB soon and we wanted to get this for the county. We thought this could be a route we could pursue.
- Mr. Friend states this is not a question about the quality of the application at all, or disputing need, it is whether it even qualifies under the rule which we have to abide by. There are other considerations, but it is not in lieu of.
- Ms. Turner states I don't see where we can go with this other than to say they don't qualify for fast-track replication.
- Mr. Friend states acceleration would have required facility.
- Ms. Turner asks are you willing to move forward so that by the time you start another round in January you have a facility locked down and then you could go acceleration. That would be my recommendation.
- Mr. Godbey clarifies that this is not on the merit of the application or need but because they don't meet this fast-track replication.
- Mr. Stoops states there is a need and a demand but the rule is the rule here. CSAB's job is to make sure we have an even and fair process.
- Mr. Ichescio asks is your recommendation to pursue an acceleration route. Would that go to 2023. Is there a way for this to turn into a regular track this cycle?
- Ms. Turner states if you apply for acceleration or fast track and you don't get it, you can't get into regular.
- Mr. Machado explains that acceleration requires a close to move-in ready facility.

Motion: Motion to not move Johnston Preparatory Academy application forward.

Motion: Lynn Kroeger

Second: Eric Sanchez

Recused: Hilda Parlér

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

- Mr. Friend encourages them to look at acceleration and get a facility in place and come back to CSAB.
- Dr. Haire states that since we are encouraging JPA to come back, I'd like to encourage them to look at their budget and look at 15k per pupil encourages to look at this and consider this. If they are going to resubmit the application, they should look at this as well.
- Mr. Stoops suggests consider expanding Johnston for high school grades and satisfy the county need for this. You can add on grade a year without the need to get permission.
- Ms. Holmes states that they considered this option and there is no land available that is adjacent to JCA or within the 5 miles. It is over 6 miles away.
- Ms. Turner asks why you could not amend the existing application?
- Mr. Machado states the OCS would need an amendment and then it would go to the SBE after CSAB recommends. It is a three-month process. As long as you are not low performing, you can add a grade a year.
- Ms. Turner states those students would be going to that HS in any event.
- Ms. Kroeger asks about academic data. Do you have some?
- Mr. Ichesco states that they have data reflecting one year; they are not low performing.
- Ms. Turner reiterates that this is no reflection on the application; it is due to the Rule. Encourages her to look at all options.
- Ms. Parlér states she would like to announce that Ms. Ashley Baquero came to Wake Preparatory Academy's BOD retreat and she did an outstanding job presenting the annual report. She presented her with a certificate of recognition. Ms. Baquero goes far above and beyond the duties in OCS. Wanted to share this. CSAB congratulates Ashley.

ADJOURNMENT

- **Mr. Friend made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:48 PM. Ms. Kroeger seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned via acclamation.**

**Minutes of the
North Carolina Charter School Advisory Board
State Board Room 755, Department of Public Instruction
September 14, 2021
9AM**

Attendance – CSAB Members	
Jamey Falkenbury (non-voting) Rita Haire – absent John Eldridge Cheryl Turner Hilda Parlér Shelly Bullard	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 Joseph Letterio, Consultant Darian Jones, Consultant Melanie Rackley, Consultant Jay Whalen, NC ACCESS	<i>Attorney General</i> Stephanie Lloyd <i>SBE Attorney</i> Allison Schafer Brandon Walker

CALL TO ORDER

- The North Carolina Charter School Advisory Board (CSAB) meeting was called to order at 9:02 am by Chair Cheryl Turner who read the Ethics Statement and CSAB Mission Statement. Mr. Sanchez led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Ms. Hilda Parlér recused from discussion and voting on the matter of Johnston Preparatory Academy. Ms. Turner recused from Movement School’s application discussion and vote.

Motion: To amend the September 14, 2021 CSAB agenda to add a closed session at 9:30 a.m.

Motion: Terry Stoops

Second: Lynn Kroeger

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

NC ASSOCIATION FOR PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS

- Rhonda Dillingham, Executive Director of the NCAPCS shared with CSAB an overview of the Association's work to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the NC charter school law. She reminded CSAB that at the heart of all we do are the students served. She highlighted the art contest that the NCAPCS held to participate in the 25th anniversary. She asked the students to speak to what their schools meant to them and shared the winning students' artworks. K-2 winner was Tegan from the Classical Charter School of Leland, depicts student Tegan's love of her teachers and her love of Math. Tegan's art teacher is Mr. Lafave. In the 3-5 category, the winning student is Maya from The Expedition School, Hillsborough, NC. Maya's art teacher is Ms. Roney. The diorama portrays her joy being at school, conveys that the school is open and she feels welcomed there every day. In the category 6-8, student Azaria, Invest Collegiate Transform, student has depicted the skyline of Charlotte; she described that her school allows her to dream, and her dreams are big. Azaria's art teacher is Ms. Stanton. In the 9-12 category, student Anne, from Piedmont Community Charter in Gastonia. Anne's art teacher is Ms. Burch. This is a mixed media piece reflecting the number 25 and highlighted what her school means to her and these are the things she loves: art, theatre, dance, music, and she is able to do these things. The NCAPCS contest was sponsored by Little Architecture. Each student got a certificate and a check for \$25.00; each school's art department got \$250.00. Each piece was matted and framed and OCS will display these at NC DPI.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATES

- Mr. Dave Machado, OCS Director updated CSAB on the SBE approval of the NC ACCESS annual report that stated if any member of CSAB does not have a copy of the annual report that he would make sure they received one. Mr. Machado indicated that the SBE had upheld Appeals Committee review panel decision not to move Elaine Riddick and CE Academy forward to ready to open and that they also approved the 2022-2023 application timeline.
- Mr. Machado states that in terms of OCS updates, our renewal Cohort 1 has 27 schools; Cohort 2 has 41 schools in that cycle. Renewal visits have started, Dr. Cooper is trying to do in-person but we are offering virtual visits as well. We will also begin our risk assessments this month, LP/CLP schools and other issues that we might need to look at. Mr. Machado has attended 15 bond finance hearings in the last three months and conducted board training at Union Academy. He attended the West Lake Preparatory Academy ribbon cutting. OCS Office Hours resume Monday, September 20th. and the guest speaker will focus on the Science of Reading training.
- Mr. Machado indicated that SB 654 has passed, permitting all PSUs have virtual option and the ability to go remote; we will send another newsletter and clear guidance; we have moved

this newsletter to Tuesday and used a new format. Wells Fargo cup standings for athletics in NC, these are the top schools in the state; in the 1A Division, 6 out of top10 schools are charter schools. Mr. Machado congratulated Pine Lake Preparatory for winning the 1A cup. OCS thanked CSAB.

**CSAB recessed shortly until 9:30 a.m.

Motion: Move that we go into closed session pursuant to NC General Statute 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.

Motion: Lynn Kroeger

Second: John Eldridge

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

**CSAB returns to open session at 9:50 a.m. No action was taken in closed session.

2021 CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION INTERVIEWS

Movement School Southwest Accelerated Applicant

- Ms. Turner recused from consideration of and vote upon this acceleration applicant.
- Ms. Rackley, OCS Consultant, reviewed the application timeline, process, and second round interview parameters and committee lead responsibilities. She highlighted the applicant, Movement School Southwest, accelerated, proposed for Charlotte Mecklenburg County, the specific location, the proposed grade level spans and enrollments, stated that capacity would be in Year Five at 645 students. She stated the applicants intended to participate in the NSLP, offer transportation, will not use a weighted lottery, does have a secure facility in Charlotte, there is not LEA impact statement. Ms. Rackley highlighted all PSUs within the 5-mile radius. The applicant is not a repeat, they have a network of schools, did not receive assistance with the application, and the application is complete.
- Mr. Tim Hurley, Board Chair, reviewed his experience and expertise in education. He is also the Director of the Movement Foundation. Introduced his colleagues, Kerri-Ann T. Thomas and her experience and expertise, as well as Garrett McNeill, board secretary, and his experience and expertise. Mr. Hurley reviewed the school history and the foundation's story. He pointed to the academic successes even in the face of pandemic challenges and highlighted the foundation's contribution to the community and its investment. Mr. Hurley shared the vision of Movement School Southwest to complete the service in Charlotte. He highlighted the performance of the Movement schools compared to the LEA and the surrounding schools. Mr. Hurley spoke about accessibility in Charlotte, specifically those who offer transportation and NSLP access.

- Mr. Hurley compared growth trends on a national level and what is currently happening in Charlotte. Highlighted offerings of school and commitment to no barriers with examples. Mr. Hurley spoke to the roots of the school director, Kerr-Ann Thomas as well as Ashley Bays, who is a Charlotte native and her experience with a national network. Mr. Hurley spoke to partnerships, proven curriculum, two-teacher model, extended school day and after-school tutoring, and teacher commitment to serve students, and his perspective as a parent.
- Ms. Kroeger explained the CSAB policy committee deliberation process and next steps and the outcomes available: move the applicant forward, invite for a second round, or not move forward. She highlighted need for a facility for acceleration and asked for a contingency plan. She asked about for more information on the contingency plan as Freedom school is at capacity. Ms. Kroeger asked about education plan (curriculum), asked to address test scores vis a vis the LEA; after care and PreK and where is that budgeted. Ms. Kroeger asked him to explain how Movement Mortgage and Movement Foundation worked and any conflicts of interest which may arise. Governance: expand how movement foundation and movement mortgage and any conflicts of interest which may arise.
- Mr. Sanchez asked for elaboration on the academic support and managing that among all Movement schools.
- Ms. Parlér would like to know more about curriculum, Lavinia, and the math standards.
- Ms. Kroeger asked about the 500K initial investment and whether it is a donation, will be repaid and any terms for that. She also suggested that the salaries look competitive, but benefits look low. She asked for clarification on transportation as well, cluster plans and how many stops are planned. 45K noncapital expenditure in years 2-5, what it that?
- Mr. Stoops spoke to the drafting of this application; there is clumsy writing and misspelled words and pointed to significant copy-editing issues. Why was it submitted in this condition?
- Mr. Hurley addressed the facility contingency plans were expanded. He stated that they have secured their facility and are working with Choate construction and highlighted history of on schedule delivery. Contingency one would be to scale back, K-5, scale to K-1 in a manner of months. Should a catastrophe happen, Movement School Freedom drive, not currently full, currently only has 6th grade there. They would put their K-1 in there where 7-8 grade. 1 story building. He addressed the test scores are not where they need to be. Pointed that their kids are coming in behind their district peers, 80 to 90% in poverty. Feeder schools are at 10% and they acknowledge they still have much to achieve. Almost double the environ schools and there is still a gap with them and the district average. They have hired instructors to implement Lavidia (curriculum) and support the implementation. Math support in terms of hire as well. PreK not budgeted so it is regulated through DHHS and run as a separate entity, not run as part of our school. It will be ab NC PreK program and Mecklenburg PreK. It would be on the same campus and we have begun licensure process and hired a director. After school is partnered with third

parties to provide after-care service. We are not aware of any conflicts in governance. Movement Mortgage is a for-profit. Movement invests back into the foundation. Movement Mortgage to Movement Foundation and foundation pays to build. 500K is a gift, there is no expectation for repayment. Goal is to give school up front funding. School leases the building from Movement Resources at a below market rate and then as school grows the rate increases at about 3% a year as school grows.

- Ms. Kroeger asks about what the fund balance is with the foundation?
- Mr. Hurley states about 200 million. We have worked to keep salaries competitive; benefits have been budgeted at 12-15%, he recognizes that it is tight. He speaks to bus stops; they have contracted with Eagle Bus stop. Number of buses increase as school grows and they go out to a 5-mile radius; most schools have stops within a half mile of their home. Families are often lost because bus stop doesn't work for family. He states that the 45k noncapital investment is for furniture and Smart boards going forward. Mr. Hurley apologizes for the clumsy writing and editing.
- Ms. Kerri-Ann T. Thomas explained the Lavinia curriculum was explained to CSAB, noting that it is project based, inquiry driven and uses rigorous questioning. She adds that it is also a culturally relevant curriculum. Units are designed to build content knowledge and aligned. Disrupting a single story and history; embracing multiple perspectives. Gave some numbers from SUCCESS academy and their results.
- Ms. Kroeger asks if this is new this year across all Movement Schools.
- Ms. Thomas confirms that it is new and spoke to learning loss and their response to implement curriculum across all schools.
- Ms. Kroeger wants to focus on growth and her concern as two schools are new and are missing data; she applauds the desire to move forward but cautions them in growing too fast. New curriculum has not been proven in other schools, yet.
- Ms. Parlér inquired about the status of the facility.
- Mr. Hurley explains that there is no new construction, not building from ground up. There is extensive renovation within the building and he recognizes the challenge of growth noted by Ms. Kroeger. Mr. Hurley believes it is easier to grow like this within a network setting and they are pushing to grow aggressively, and there is a need for it. He points to the advantages of networking. Pointed to results and the number of folks wanting to come to their schools. In partnership with their own network and other schools serving low-income students in the state. As we get to a network level, we to get them can to scale so they can implement.

- Mr. Machado stated he has visited the facility and the need is only to move interior walls. Construction schedule is in there and OCS is confident that they can meet deadline.
- Ms. Kroeger ask if the applicant can address the evidence of need in far as your reasoning for the accelerated application.
- Mr. Hurley points to the number of applications at Movement West and Movement Freedom. He states that within corridor there is no other charter offering bus and USDA lunch program and this is critical. He points to the low performance of surrounding schools, as well as to their capacity. He points to partnerships with local traditional schools.
- Ms. Kroeger inquires about parent surveys. Mr. Hurley affirms that yes, they did do a new survey and received 150 responses within a week.
- Mr. Sanchez asks about what we can expect from the applicant and asked if they would consider a high school.
- Mr. Hurley articulates that they want to be really good at K-5. We have a MS on Freedom Drive, we told community we would do this and we would not break pattern. HS is not currently in our plans. Feeder programs and articulation programs. Believes they can grow more quickly with a focus on K-5.
- Mr. Hurley made a closing statement and shared that parental reaction has encouraged their growth and shared anecdotal information.
- Ms. Parlér stated that she felt their salaries were competitive; I want them to commit to RTO.
- Ms. Kroeger points to the amount of growth considered and this has given her pause. Two existing schools which are new and a 4th application which we will see later this year.
- Mr. Friend asks why is this application accelerated and the other one is not?
- Mr Hurley states that our plan was to submit this on a regular timeline, and they had missed deadline. This is our priority.
- Mr. Friend states that he appreciates the honesty, but an acceleration applicant must have a clear and compelling need, not because you have missed deadline.
- Mr. Hurley states that he thinks there is a compelling need and points to COVID, sub performance of neighboring schools, number of applications and other compelling factors; I can't think there is any more compelling need than to serve students well.

- Mr. Sanchez states you can judge a group based on its history. These folks have a history and success in serving low-income children. Sanchez said they have the resources, people, experience and this gives me confidence in addition to what I have heard about the facility. I hope the team considers high school. I think the group has a compelling need to open. I would make a motion if it is time.
- Ms. Kroeger concurs with Sanchez, proven through your record; there is a high need for serving these students, the area you have selected is high need. Facility requirement is met. Compelling need and facility.
- Mr. Sanchez highlights his knowledge of both individuals (Hurley and Thomas) and their work.

Motion to move applicant Movement School Southwest forward to the SBE.

Motion: Eric Sanchez

Second: Hilda Parlér

Recused: Cheryl Turner

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

Oak Hill Charter School Accelerated Applicant

- Ms. Rackley provided overview of the accelerated applicant, Oak Hill Charter School, proposed to be located in Caldwell county, at capacity in Y2 with 216 students. They intend to use a food vendor, they will provide transportation, they will not use a weighted lottery, they have a dedicated facility, there was no LEA impact statement provided, they are a repeat applicant, they were provided assistance with the application, they are not partnering with an EMO/CMO and the application is complete. Ms. Rackley provided the map for a 10 mile radius of the proposed 28640 zip code. There are no charters in the area.
- Ms. McIntyre, Chairperson, states that there is a correction; we are offering a weighted lottery. She introduced herself and her BOD. Highlighted dearth of opportunities of charters. Vice Chair Smith introduced herself and her background and experience, including her experience with child advocacy. Jan Greene, board member introduced herself and spoke of her experience with the Caldwell County Board of Commissioners; budget experience and expertise, as well as significant experience working with children. John McCrary, board Secretary, introduced himself and shared his experience and expertise. Jason Plyler, board Treasurer, provided his background and expertise provided. Charmion Frizzell, board member introduced herself and provided her background and experience. Carrie Foddrell, board member, provided her experience and expertise. Eric Todd Wilson, board member, provided his background and experience.
- Ms. McIntyre highlighted that they would bring a choice, character education, back to basics curriculum. Highest unemployment areas, economically distressed areas highlighted. 60%

students receive free and reduced lunch, highlighted proficiencies highlighted. 192 spots to full and have already received 243 already intent to enroll forms and 350 interest forms. Overcrowding and larger class sizes in most schools in the county, approaching 35 students, some students are required to be on the bus over 3+ hours a day. Spoke to community support, Ruritan club, donations received. Spoke to fundraising and donors. Secured a permanent facility, have already obtained their certificate of occupancy for educational use. Community outreach team of 70 diverse individuals. Partnership letters, legislators have supported them as well. Board believes in the head and heart and focuses on a comprehensive character education. Core Knowledge selected and rationale for its selection provided; Shurley grammar selected; Saxon Math, with a spiralized approach and conceptual reinforcement is research based. Core Essentials for values. Spoke to three core values and a focus on holistic education.

- Ms. Turner opens this up to board questions at this time.
- Mr. Stoops asks the applicant about its decision to stay at 216 students after year two and its plan for enrollment growth also asked specifically the 90 minutes per day set aside each day for ELA.
- Ms. Turner asked about lunch and whether the vendors are there everyday? She asked if the cold meal was available for those who don't bring lunch and asked for clarification. She asked about the building plan. Do you have leases on two places? She stated she is pleased that they have addressed the middle school concern from last year.
- Mr. Friend asks for clarification on moving forward with Goodall Consulting, what the relationship that is. Asked about student accounting fee. Pointed to budget and asked for clarification. Asked for clarification on class sizes, about 24 or 25. He asked about growth in years 3, 4, 5 and why not. This begs the question of what is the compelling need here.
- Mr. Sanchez asked for the rationale for math goals going down from year one and two; goals are higher for 3rd grade as opposed to 8th grade. I wonder about board diversity and outreach plan and diverse background. What is the plan to diversify?
- Mr. Kroeger asks why the articles of incorporation has the religious box is checked? Why is that? Finance area looks low for elective teacher; 11k is very low. Expand on student accounting and operations fee, comment on utilities (35k) which seems low, 10k for professional development seems very low as well.
- Dr. Eldridge asks about the electives and if the teacher assistants are part-time? Why no counselor? Given our world now, this is particularly needed now.
- Ms. McIntyre addresses the questions about lunch and explains that vendors will not be present; the applicant will be contracting with them and they will be brought in and served. It

will be daily, and clarified that they have a backup plan in the event the vendor can't serve lunch.

- Mr. Rodriguez explained the budgeting for lunch and the vendors.
- Ms. McIntyre explained that they have budgeted for this. Ms. McIntyre addresses the maximum number at 216 for our second year and that that they could petition to increase those numbers if they needed to. Goodall Consulting contract for accounting service, they will be outsourcing Powerschool, payroll, all the financials and reporting, audits, as well as marketing. Year 1 the contract is 155K, and that covers LINQ and start-up costs etc.
- Mr. Anthony Rodriguez explains that the school gets billed at the start of year; they would cover some of the start up costs; getting them in touch with vendors.
- Mr. Friend asked about clarification about articles of incorporation with 'religious' designation; they stated that was a typo.
- Ms. Turner states you had better get that fixed as that will definitely become a problem.
- Dr. Eldridge asks them to look into counseling.
- Ms. McIntyre states that they have a social worker on our BOD. That is our goal. Until we can afford it, we have people with those skills on the team.
- Ms. Turner states that what we are seeing is very high needs for emotional support. While you have folks who have those skills you can't depend on volunteers for things which need to be addressed now. This will not work.
- Mr. Rodriguez states that they will tap into other funds, this will be a Title I school. Opportunity to use those funds. He stated that the federal funding is not included in this budget. Addressed the intention of this BOD to have a diverse BOD. We have already set these bus stops with the intent to reach those communities.
- Dr. Eldridge states that in year one you have a curriculum coordinator. You need to take care of the SEL first, students and staff might need a counseling position in lieu of curriculum coordinator.
- Mr. Friend concurs and states you can't rely on your board for this.
- Ms. McIntyre states that she believes that the character education program will support this goal. They will also address this through Title I funding.

- Mr. Sanchez inquired about the 60% free and reduced lunch eligible and asked if the budgeted amount would be sufficient. He inquires as to whether they are providing lunch only. Asked again about no breakfast. 60% ED, food insecure, and they may come in not having food, what is the plan for that? I am concerned that in a rural community, do you have the correct voices at the table? Do you have a BOD which resembles the community?
- Ms. Foddrelle states that the board is intentionally reaching diverse groups. We are going to our Latino churches and we are attracting at risk students.
- Mr. Rodriguez stated the capacity is not there now. He spoke to the donor base. Have set aside in budget for snacks in the a.m. Mr. Rodriguez spoke to targeted focus on certain communities and efforts there.
- Dr. Eldridge asked about the cafeteria option and added that Chatham County Schools partners with this charter, consider this. Plan your budget going up for vendors.
- Mr. Rodriguez stated that they did reach out and they don't have capacity at the local level. Attempted to contact Union County as well as they didn't have capacity. We intended this originally and will revisit. Mr. Rodriguez explained that they have two educational certificates of occupancy. Ruritans won that at auction and they will give this to school. In year three, the rent goes up and Mr. Machado has toured the facility. We will move as we expand. The board wanted to grow slowly
- Mr. Machado states he has visited the facilities and they are in as good as shape of any other school.
- Applicant board chair made a closing statement and expressed gratitude to CSAB for the interview. Emphasized the support of community and the enthusiasm. Highlighted 243 intent to enroll forms. County needs reiterated. Mission and vision reiterated. Rising tide lifts all boats. Describes why Core Knowledge was selected and the importance of the character education. Connection and relationships. Partnership highlighted again. Community outreach team. Highlighted skills of each board member and how they will contribute to success of school. Desire of board is to create a unique, safe, supportive and challenging experience and for families to feel connected. Thanked the CSAB for the opportunity.
- Ms. Parlér states she would be in favor.
- Ms. Turner states she is impressed with the community outreach; they have connected with their community. Not only did they do interest forms, but intent to enroll form. A program that will work. Concerns exist still with the food, she would like to see that shored up a bit.

- Dr. Bullard notes the desire and genuineness of the board, her concern with the counselor issue as well. She would like to know who is responsible for teaching character programs. She would support them going forward.
- Mr. Friend states that this application checks off many boxes for him; there is a need and it meets acceleration guidelines. I would have liked to hear more from the board, not consultants as much. Would like to hear more about staffing, counselor, and other positions, such as teacher assistants. Concern that the board won't be able to bring as much time to the social emotional learning needs as they think. Would like to know more about the Character Education plan. The team was well prepared today.
- Ms. Kroeger states that there is a compelling need in this county; the improvement from last year's application is noticed and commendable. She notes that Core Knowledge is foundation based. She asks how will you address older students?
- Mr. Sanchez points to the board's sincerity. I appreciate the outreach plans. I have been in the food world in rural places, it is not sustainable. Numbers seem bare minimum and this must be rethought. He mentions that this is a rural context, all folks know each other. The more you can demonstrate the diversity of the board, the better you will diversify your student population. Would like a 2nd round interview.
- Dr. Eldridge states you will feel lonely as a rural school with no other charters. Find some partnerships, see how they have staffed, budgeted and pick up some tips.
- Ms. McIntyre states that their mentor is revolution Academy is their mentor.
- Mr. Falkenbury believes the application is solid and highlights that they are facing the same issues that other schools are facing. Meals, sounds like they have a plan. Diversity question is more that they need to track the community. Less than 10% of the community is African American and Hispanic. It should be reflective of the community. Have to consider the constraints of a county, where you have only a certain percentage of the county which are diverse. Not sure that asking more questions will help that much.
- Mr. Stoops states that when I compare this to Movement, we sent it straight to the SBE. I don't feel Oak Hill is in any worse position.
- Mr. Godbey points out that Movement has some track record and are operating schools which are performing.
- Mr. Friend states that he is on the fence and they could have a very short second round interview, and yet it is a really solid group. They still have to go through the RTO process which will flesh some of this out as well.

- Mr. Sanchez states that we didn't hear from the Board Chair as much. Another interview might given them more time to flesh it out and provide more context. The demographics as stated are not disaggregated in terms of students of color within in a low-income setting; might not be a huge point but we still need to do that, even if it is more small sub groups. Still thinks it must be focused on more. I think this is a second round. I think they need to be able to answer more on education plan.

Motion: Motion to move Oak Hill Charter School to return for a second interview.

Motion: Hilda Parlér

Second: Eric Sanchez

Vote: Unanimous

Passed Failed

**CSAB took a 10 minute break and reconvened at noon.

Johnston Preparatory Academy, Fast-track Replication Applicant

- Ms. Turner introduced the applicant's request for a reconsideration of yesterday's decision.
- Ms. Donna Rascoe, counsel for Johnston Preparatory Academy board of directors addressed CSAB and shared the thoughts of the board of directors after yesterday's meeting. She stated that they board is an experienced board and appreciated the process that CSAB went through as well as their concerns but that they were disappointed with the outcome of yesterday's decision. Ms. Rascoe further expressed the board's thinking of how to best move forward and take appropriate next steps. There was misunderstanding or confusion and they expected a full interview yesterday. Their hope would be that you would reconsider or rescind yesterday's vote. Ms. Rascoe deferred to CSAB counsel in terms of the whether it be to reconsider the CSAB vote from yesterday and provide JPA the opportunity to withdraw their application. The expectation would be that they might move forward with another application in the future.
- Ms. Turner asked if we were to vote to allow them to withdraw, would the understanding be that this application was not done at all. And, if they want to go forward with another application, they do it in the next cycle? We would have to vote to reconsider and then a motion to allow them to withdraw.
- Mr. Brandon Walker clarifies that it would be a motion for reconsideration and then rescind the application.
- Ms. Rascoe states that if you make a motion to reconsider yesterday's vote, she is authorized to report to CSAB that her client is prepared to withdraw their application.
- Ms. Parlér reminds CSAB she is recusing from this vote.

- Ms. Turner states there is precedent to withdraw the application; we have never done a reconsider before.

Motion to reconsider the CSAB’s denial of Johnston Preparatory Academy’s application for fast-track replication yesterday, September 13, 2021, and further move to accept the withdrawal of the Johnston Preparatory’s application for fast-track replication.

Motion: Bruce Friend

Second: Terry Stoops

Recused: Hilda Parlér

Vote: Unanimously

Passed Failed

- Ms. Rascoe states her client would like to withdraw their application.

Motion to adjourn

Motion: Bruce Friend

Second: Lynn Kroeger

CSAB adjourned at 12:11PM by acclamation.