

**SCOTLAND COUNTY SCHOOLS' EXPECTED IMPACT FROM THE PROPOSED WADDELL
ELEMENTARY INTERNATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOL**

April 9, 2013

Pursuant to G.S. 115C-238.29D(d)(3), the Scotland County Board of Education ("Board"), the governing body of the Scotland County Schools, respectfully submits this Impact Statement to the North Carolina Public Charter School Advisory Council and the North Carolina State Board of Education for their consideration in connection with the charter school application submitted by Waddell Elementary International Charter School ("WEIC).

1. What is the name for the proposed charter school for which this information is being provided?

Waddell Elementary International Charter School ("WEIC")

2. Does your LEA support or oppose the approval of this charter school and why?

The Scotland County Schools, by and through the Board, respectfully opposes approval of this charter school, and cites the following:

A. DUPLICATION OF EXISTING CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

WEIC proposes to operate under the Common Core and the North Carolina Essential Standards, which constitute the same curriculum framework already employed by the Scotland County Schools. In addition, WEIC proposes implementation of project based learning, STEM-oriented instruction, and an emphasis on reading, all of which are already key pillars of the Scotland County Schools instructional plan. In other words, the basic curriculum framework and instructional methods proposed by WEIC represent nothing new as compared to those already offered in the Scotland County Schools.

B. SCOTLAND COUNTY SCHOOLS ARE ALREADY PROVIDING OUTSTANDING LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES IN A CHALLENGING ENVIRONMENT, AND IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT A START UP CHARTER SCHOOL COULD IMPROVE STUDENT LEARNING IN SCOTLAND COUNTY.

Scotland County currently experiences the fourth highest unemployment rate in the State of North Carolina, with 17.8 percent of our workforce, including many parents, currently unemployed. Over 78% of Scotland County School students qualify for free and reduced lunch. Despite this challenging environment, Scotland County Schools are consistently high performing, including three Schools of Distinction, five schools named Schools of Progress, and one Title I elementary school which is a finalist for the National Title I Distinguished School Award. Overall, during the last period for which data are available, Scotland County Schools met 88.9 percent of its Annual Measurable Objectives, and Scotland County Schools' overall graduation rate is 76.2%. Given the social context for public education in Scotland County, it is highly unlikely that a startup charter school could begin to equal the levels of student achievement already demonstrated within the Scotland County Schools and made possible by its dedicated and talented teachers and staff.

C. LOCAL CONTROL

The Scotland County Schools are governed by an 8 member board of education elected by the citizens of Scotland County. This method of local, elected control provides for a high degree of communication and responsiveness between the students, their parents, and the governing body for the school district. By contrast, the 5 unelected, proposed board members of WEIC, identified at pages 19 through 23 of the WEIC application, all list Greensboro addresses. Greensboro is over 90 miles away from Laurinburg, the county seat of Scotland County, and, in fact, exists within a separate telephone area code. It is inconceivable that unelected individuals living almost two hours away in an area of the state with markedly different demographics and needs than Scotland County could be as responsive to the needs of Scotland County parents and students as the locally elected Scotland County Board of Education.

D. WEIC PROPOSES TO CONTRACT AWAY MANAGEMENT OF THE PROPOSED CHARTER SCHOOL TO AN ENTITY BASED IN CALIFORNIA, FURTHER LESSENING THE POSSIBILITY OF LOCAL CONTROL AND INPUT.

In addition to proposing a governing board consisting exclusively of individuals from the Greensboro North Carolina area, WEIC proposes to further remove responsibility for the proposed charter school from Scotland County, by contracting with an entity known as "Partners for Developing Futures," with an address in Los Angeles California, as a proposed "educational management organization," or "charter support organization." This proposed contracting away of essential educational functions to an entity located on the other side of the country further lessens the possibility of responsiveness to actual parent and student needs in Scotland County, North Carolina, and again stands in stark contrast to the locally elected board of education and locally based teachers and staff who administer and operate the Scotland County Schools.

E. THERE IS NO DEMONSTRATIVE NEED OR DEMAND FOR AN EDUCATIONAL ALTERNATIVE AS REPRESENTED BY WEIC

Perhaps because of the high levels of student achievement already enjoyed within the Scotland County Schools, the WEIC application fails to demonstrate any significant need or demand for an educational alternative in Scotland County. The Interest Meeting sign in sheet contained at page 108 of the WEIC application shows a total of 10 persons who appeared for an informational meeting regarding the proposed charter school.

3. Estimated financial impact to the LEA:

Enrollment x (state per pupil and local per pupil allocations)

\$5,813,937.00

4. What will be the projected enrollment at the charter school and what percentage of the Average Daily Membership (ADM) does that reflect for your LEA and any other LEA that you think may be impacted?

Assuming projected enrollment of 675, this would represent a loss of approximately 11% of LEA ADM.

5. Does the charter duplicate an existing program or service in the LEA? Yes No
If yes, then describe the program or service that would be duplicated.

As set forth above WEIC does not propose to stray from the Common Core or North Carolina Essential Standards already adopted by the Scotland County Schools, and does not propose essential instructional methods different from those already employed by the Scotland County Schools. Accordingly, WEIC appears to propose simply replacing a locally controlled public elementary school, which must conform to all the requirements of federal and state law, including No Child Left Behind, with a privately managed charter school, with a governing board based in Greensboro, North Carolina and contracted management entity based in Los Angeles, California.

6. Describe the specific impact that you expect the charter school may have on your LEA for each one of the following areas:

a. Funding

As set forth above, at the projected enrollment of 675 students, the projected impact on the Scotland County Schools would be almost \$6,700,000.00 or approximately 9% of the school systems total budget for 2012-2013 of \$62,900,879.00. In an already poor county with unemployment of almost 18%, this loss of school funding would be devastating. In the second year projected enrollment is 810 which will impact Scotland County Schools by approximately \$8,000,000.00. Projected enrollment for year three is 972 with an impact of approximately \$9,700,000.00.

b. Programming and Student Services

The loss of approximately 9% of the total school system budget would similarly have a devastating effect upon educational programming and student services.

c. Staffing

As the vast majority of the school system budget is consumed by personnel costs, the loss of approximately 9% of the total school system budget would require an extensive reduction in force of both certified and noncertified personnel, leading to the loss of numerous, experienced educators, and worsening the already dire unemployment situation in Scotland County. With the loss of 675 students, Scotland County Schools would be losing 27 classroom teachers at a cost of \$56,000.00 per teacher. This would total a loss of 1.5 million dollars. Additionally, SCS would lose 15 teacher assistants at \$23,500.00 per position equaling \$352,000.00. Scotland County would also lose 6 itinerant teachers (PE, Music, Art) at \$56,000.00 a piece totaling \$336,000.00. Finally, our Food and Nutrition Department would lose 6.5 workers using the ratio one worker for every 100 meals served daily.

d. School Size and Related Extra-Curriculars

In the event that WEIC reached its projected enrollment of 675 elementary age students, the Scotland County Schools would more than likely have to close one or more existing schools, with resulting devastating economic impact on their surrounding communities. The accompanying loss of funding set forth above would inevitably impact student extra curriculars throughout the school district and at all grade levels.

e. Student Demographics

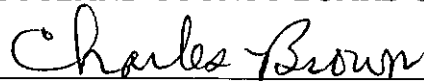
Scotland County Schools, both within its student population, and its workforce, provides an extremely diverse environment which enhances learning opportunities for all. The proposed WEIC "educational management organization" or "charter support organization," Partners for Developing Futures, describes itself as a "non-profit social venture investment fund that primarily invest in high-potential, early stage minority-lead charter schools." It is difficult to forecast how the proposed charter school would impact student demographics in Scotland County. For its part, the Scotland County Schools is an equal opportunity workplace which serves all of its students without regard to race, ethnicity, creed, nationality, or other characteristics.

7. Provide any additional information or comments that you think should be considered as justification for your view point on the expected impact from the proposed charter school.

In summary, the Scotland County Schools are providing a high quality educational experience in an extremely challenging local environment. The Scotland County Schools are led by a locally elected, 8 member board, which represents the interests of parents, students, school employees, and the citizens and taxpayers of Scotland County, North Carolina. The proposed charter school essentially seeks to duplicate educational services provided by the Scotland County Schools, but without the benefit of local, elected control. To usurp or supplant in essence one entire public elementary school with a charter elementary school, attempting to provide essentially the same services, but governed by an unelected, private board from Greensboro, North Carolina, employing an outside management entity based in Los Angeles, California, would not be reasonably calculated to improve student learning in Scotland County, increase learning opportunities for Scotland County students, or otherwise meet an unmet educational need in the Scotland County community. The Board respectfully requests the charter application be denied.

This 8th day of April, 2013.

SCOTLAND COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION



By: Charles Brown, Chairman

ATTEST:



Rick Stout, Superintendent and
Secretary to the Scotland County Board of Education