

**Minutes of the
North Carolina Charter School Advisory Board
State Board Rm. 755
February 11, 2019
9:00 am**

Attendance/NCCSAB	Alan Hawkes Joseph Maimone Phyllis Gibbs Sherry Reeves Cheryl Turner Lindalyn Kakadelis Lynn Kroeger	Alex Quigley – <i>Absent</i> Tammi Sutton – <i>Arrived 11:18</i> Steven Walker Heather Vuncannon Bruce Friend
Attendance/SBE/DPI	<i>Office of Charter Schools</i> Dave Machado, Director Ashley Baquero, Consultant Shaunda Cooper, Consultant Danielle Allen, Consultant Jay Whalen, Consultant	<i>SBE</i> <i>Attorney General</i> Tiffany Lucas Stephanie Lloyd <i>SBE Attorney</i> Eric Snider

CALL TO ORDER

- The North Carolina Charter School Advisory Board (CSAB) meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by Vice Chair Steven Walker who read the Ethics Statement and CSAB Mission Statement. Ms. Sherry Reeves led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion: Approval of the January CSAB meeting minutes.

Motion: Heather Vuncannon

Second: Lynn Kroeger

Vote: Unanimous

Passed **Failed**

Motion: Approval of the February CSAB Agenda with revisions.

Motion: Heather Vuncannon

Second: Lindalyn Kakadelis

Vote: Unanimous

Passed **Failed**

Motion: Enter into Closed Session to consult on attorney-client privileged matters 9:03am.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Sherry Reeves

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

Motion: Leave closed session and enter open session 9:19am.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Phyllis Gibbs

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

APPLICATION UPDATES

- Dr. Danielle Allen, Office of Charter Schools (OCS) Consultant, gave an application update.
- Dr. Allen reviewed the clarification interview process. She explained the clarification interviews that will take place under each committee. She explained which applicants were repeat applicants. She explained there will be six applicant groups for clarification interviews next month. She stated those will be the last clarification interviews. She stated there are 33 total applicants this application season.
- Dr. Allen explained the interview process for today's interviews. She stated on January 18, 2019 five schools were notified of full interview opportunities. On February 4, 2019 the Office of Charter Schools released interview rubrics. She displayed the five applicant groups for the CSAB. She stated two groups appearing today are requesting replication.

CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICANT INTERVIEWS

Power Elite Preparatory Academy

- Dr. Allen stated the school is proposed to locate in Mecklenburg County. Dr. Allen gave a brief introduction of the school's proposed enrollment and grade levels. There was no LEA impact statement or due diligence for this applicant. Dr. Allen reviewed the pass/fail ratings for this applicant. She stated the applicant does not have any special requests and is not a repeat applicant. She stated the applicant partnered with Torchlight Academy Schools.
- The board chair, Ms. Gray, introduced herself and the remaining board members. The Vice Chair Ms. Monsanto approached the CSAB. She spoke about her background and the mission of the school. Mr. Weeks approached the CSAB as the Secretary of the board.
- Ms. Lindalyn Kakadelis opened the discussion regarding the school's mission. Ms. Reeves and Mr. Walker discussed the clarity of the mission. They stated the mission lacks clarity.

Ms. Kakadelis stated she has concerns about the certification of originality in the application because it is the same as several others.

- Ms. Kakadelis asked about the educational plan and the difference between the other Torchlight schools.
- Ms. Reeves stated she had concerns about the board's experience with at-risk students. She also stated she was unclear about who would hire the administrator – the board or the CMO. She had the same question about staff.
- Mr. Hawkes asked about the experience and qualifications of the board members. Mr. Walker also wanted some information about the educational experience of the board members.
- Ms. Kroeger expressed concerns about the size of the facility and the catered lunch program.
- Ms. Vuncannon stated that the personnel budget is concerning, especially since they will be in a competitive market.
- Ms. Monsanto stated the board has changed the mission statement. Ms. Monsanto stated the school is for males only.
- Mr. Walker asked how the different education models will be blended together into something cohesive for an all-male population.
- Ms. Gray spoke about the needs of male students. She spoke about the mental health issues for at-risk male students. She spoke about the use of multiple intelligences to help students find their own genius. She spoke about wrap around services that will be provided in addition to tutoring.
- Mr. Walker asked for more information about the day to day in the classroom components. Ms. Gray stated some of those components will be strategies like Teach Like a Champion. She stated that the other things will go into the lesson plans on a weekly basis. Mr. Walker asked for more clarity. She spoke about using movement in the lessons.
- Ms. Kakadelis asked if the board has visited any all-male schools. Ms. Gray stated yes and explained which schools she has visited.
- Ms. Kakadelis asked about the professional development specifically designed for the all-male population. Ms. Gray stated Torchlight as well as other educational professionals will assist.
- Mr. Friend asked if anyone is versed in the Core Knowledge sequence. Ms. Gray stated she currently uses this.

- Ms. Reeves voiced concerns about specific strategies for male students. Ms. Gray stated they are also using character education for males.
- Ms. Vuncannon asked about how the school will integrate project-based learning (PBL) and multiple intelligences and train teachers how to use those effectively. Ms. Gray stated that multiple intelligences are not difficult to integrate into lesson plans. Ms. Vuncannon stated the PBL can take a long time to implement effectively.
- Ms. Kakadelis asked about the school's intervention strategies. Ms. Gray stated it is important to understand the individual's genius and use that to help him build confidence.
- Mr. Weeks spoke about community engagement with the school.
- The CSAB spoke about concerns with the budget and personnel numbers. Mr. McQueen from Torchlight stated that they understand the budget is a guideline and will work to make sure they have the people in place.
- Ms. Kakadelis asked why this application is for an all-male school but is the same as the application for other schools. Mr. McQueen stated the board has passion and will get the job done.
- Mr. Friend stated that \$10,000 for professional development is low for the number of instructional staff they have. He stated Core Knowledge takes a lot of professional development to implement correctly. Mr. Friend asked about the budget for wrap around services. Ms. Gray stated there are groups that will provide mental health and tutoring services for very inexpensive costs.
- Ms. Kroeger stated there seem to be a lot of underfunded items in the budget. Mr. McQueen spoke about the budget and the facility.
- Mr. Maimone asked for clarification about the Core Knowledge curriculum. Ms. Gray stated they will use the NC Common Course of Study. Mr. Maimone stated that is not the same as Core Knowledge sequence curriculum. Ms. Gray stated she thought they would use NC Course of Study.
- Mr. Friend stated it should be pretty clear that Core Knowledge curriculum is not the NC Course of Study. He stated the budget is concerning because it is the same as the other Torchlight schools, but this is a specific school with different needs.
- The CSAB expressed concern that the application states the school will use Core Knowledge, but the board does not seem to understand that specific curriculum. Mr. Friend and Mr. Walker also expressed concerns with the budget.
- Ms. Gibbs stated she thinks they need to take the feedback and come back next year.

- Ms. Vuncannon stated the pass/fail ratings show that they may be setting something up for failure. She stated the concept is good, but it needs work. Ms. Kroeger agreed.
- Ms. Reeves expressed concern that the application is identical to others, yet this school is for a very targeted group. She stated the application does not speak to that and the budget does not support it at all.
- Ms. Kakadelis stated the need is there and the passion is evident. She continued that she wants more specifics in the application and more information from those organizations that are going to partner with the school. She wants to see how males will be targeted throughout the application. She stated the curriculum needs to be articulated more clearly.

Motion: The CSAB does not move Power Elite Preparatory Academy forward to Ready to Open.

Motion: Lynn Kroeger

Second: Sherry Reeves

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

Achievement Charter Academy

- Dr. Allen stated the school is proposed to locate in Harnett County. Dr. Allen gave a brief introduction of the school's proposed enrollment and grade levels. There was no LEA impact statement or due diligence for this applicant. Dr. Allen reviewed the pass/fail ratings for this applicant. She stated the applicant does not have any special requests and is a repeat applicant that received a full interview. She stated they are not partnering with an EMO or CMO.
- Ms. Warren introduced herself as the President of the board. She explained they have been here before and they went back and made improvements. The remaining board members introduced themselves.
- Mr. Walker opened discussion on the application. He stated he would like the board to discuss goals and asked for more clarification with the Glasser Quality School (GQS) model.
- Ms. Reeves asked for some more information on the mission and why the GQS model is not stated in the mission.
- Ms. Kakadelis wants more information on the educational plan and Ms. Reeves asked how parents will be engaged in this model.
- Ms. Reeves asked about Choice Theory and Choice Time. She asked when curriculum will be selected. She expressed her concerns with the governance portion of the application including the bylaws, the organizational structure, and conflicts of interest.

- Ms. Reeves stated she wants to know why there is no EL teacher budgeted. She wants to also hear more about the facilities and distance between the two.
- Ms. Reeves and Ms. Kroeger stated they are concerned with the bus budget.
- A board representative spoke about the Glasser Quality School (GQS) model. She stated it was developed in 1985 by Dr. Glasser. She stated it is a psychology model and a process based on relationships and understanding the only person you can control is yourself. She stated GQS is very inclusive and flexible. She stated it is based on a premise called Lead Management – leadership through management. She stated the model is about building better relationships. She stated the process takes a while and not many schools do it because it is not easy to implement. She stated the training is mostly communication – how to evaluate your relationships with students and parents.
- Ms. Kroeger asked how you evaluate if a GQS is successful. The board representative stated the process is about self-evaluation and it takes time. She stated the students learn to self-evaluate based on how the teacher models self-evaluation. She stated you are teaching the children to question themselves regarding their progress and needs.
- Ms. Kakadelis asked if the board has seen performance improve based on this model. The board representative said the students want to be in these schools and want to do the work. She continued that the schools eliminate coercion in schools. Ms. Kakadelis asked if any North Carolina schools have implemented the model. The board representative replied that the Rutherford Early College used the model and had great data. She stated students do much better on the standardized tests because the students want to do well. Mr. Maimone stated he couldn't find anything about GQS models in North Carolina on the Glasser website.
- Ms. Warren spoke about curriculum options. She stated they looked at highly-rated programs that are rigorous. She stated you can use any curriculum and still use the GQS model. She stated Gregg Sindors, from CFA, has offered to assist the school. She stated they also want input from the teacher to make a curriculum selection. She stated they will drive the instruction and the model takes the opinion of stakeholders into account.
- Mr. Maimone asked Ms. Warren what her philosophy is on K-3 literacy. Ms. Warren stated this model provides the framework for the suggestions of improvement pertaining to literacy. She gave some examples of providing support for K-3 literacy. Another board representative stated there are several factors at play including highly-qualified teachers that can understand the GQS model and Choice Theory.
- Mr. Walker stated he likes the application and the ideas behind it. He stated the application is unique and maybe outside the range of some of our experiences.
- Ms. Kroeger stated charter schools are created to be innovative and this is something that has not been done before. Ms. Kakadelis stated it is innovative and in an area with only one other charter school. She stated the board is strong. Mr. Walker stated they are strong in the community.

Motion: The CSAB moves Achievement Charter Academy forward to Ready to Open.

Motion: Lindalyn Kakadelis

Second: Heather Vuncannon

- Mr. Hawkes stated he has some reservations about the model in this area, but he is going to support the school.
- Mr. Friend stated he challenges the board to make sure you can connect with the diverse student population and explain the model to stakeholders.
- Ms. Turner stated they are starting with a very manageable number and they have acknowledged the model is a process.

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

Doral Academy of North Carolina

- Dr. Allen stated the school is proposed to locate in Wake County. Dr. Allen gave a brief introduction of the school's proposed enrollment and grade levels. There was no LEA impact statement. She stated due diligence for this applicant was completed with a previous application. Dr. Allen reviewed the pass/fail ratings for this applicant. She stated the applicant is a replication application and had previously applied for Doral Academy Wake in 2016. They are partnering with Academica and Doral Academy, Inc.
- Board Chair David Carrera introduced himself and explained the decision to partner with Doral Academy, Inc. Other board members introduced themselves.
- Ms. Turner stated she has concerns about the enrollment numbers because they are ambitious.
- Ms. Reeves asked for more information about data/surveys in student interest.
- Ms. Kroeger stated she has questions about the facility and the triple-net lease. She also has questions about the marketing budget.
- A board member spoke about reaching out to the community and his work in reaching out to the diverse population of the area. He stated the board will work with the Mexican consulate and he is confident with the projected numbers.
- Mr. Walker asked if Doral Academy, Inc. will support the school financially if the enrollment numbers don't pan out. A board representative stated that yes, the CMO will provide financial backing if enrollment numbers are not as anticipated.
- Mr. Maimone asked if there are teaching assistants for the lower grades. A board member stated there are for some of the classes, but not all.

- Mr. Friend asked for clarity regarding the budget and the CMO's fee. A representative from the CMO stated that the CMO helps the school get up and running and doesn't collect a fee until the end of the first operating year. Mr. Maimone asked about the school board fee in the budget. A board member stated that was based on experience in other states and has been removed from the budget.
- Ms. Kroeger asked how the triple-net lease works. A board member stated that the school will be responsible for normal maintenance/wear and tear and the landlord is responsible for the bigger items.
- Mr. Friend asked if the facility will be large enough for the eventual 1,000 students. A representative from Legacy Funding Services spoke about how the company will assist Doral in finding a location that will allow them to grow. He stated the plan is to grow in phases.
- Ms. Kroeger asked who the landlord will be. A board member stated ultimately Doral Inc. will probably own the building and the charter will pay the lease.

Motion: The CSAB moves Doral Academy forward to Ready to Open.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Bruce Friend

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

THREE RIVERS ACADEMY ADM REQUEST

- Mr. Don McQueen addressed the CSAB. He stated that based on the ADM system, they will not be able to go past 83 students. He stated he believes that based on the assumption, they are a new entity and should be able to enroll more students. He stated in the original assumption application they projected 279 students for the second year. He stated they are hoping that somewhere between those two numbers the school will be able to grow for next year.
- Mr. Walker asked about applications for next year. Mr. McQueen stated enrollment is open now.
- Ms. Turner asked how many students they have currently. Mr. McQueen stated 78.
- Mr. Hawkes asked if they are advertising and promoting right now. Mr. McQueen stated not yet, but they will. Mr. Maimone asked if they are still targeting Bertie County. Mr. McQueen stated yes, but they pull from multiple counties.

- Ms. Turner asked how many they reasonably believe they can get for next year. Mr. McQueen stated about 150.
- Mr. Walker asked if they want the enrollment in the application. Mr. McQueen stated that may be too ambitious, but around 150 or 175 students.
- Mr. Walker stated this is a reasonable request, but we will wait to hear from legal.

2019 PROPOSED APPLICATION TIMELINE

- Dr. Danielle Allen stated they are proposing to open the application earlier than usual next year to the beginning of June – June 3rd. She stated the application group, especially acceleration applicants, was large this year. She stated the application will open for all applications on June 3rd. She stated acceleration would get eight weeks to submit the application and standard timeline applicants would get twelve weeks. She stated the system will be new this year and works differently than Apex. She stated that with Epicenter the applicant will need to request a user name and password and then release the application. She stated we are requesting that at least a week before the application is due they must request the user name and password.
- Dr. Allen stated another change the Office of Charter Schools is proposing is that if a school requests acceleration or fast-track, that application is considered for that applicant pool only and will not be placed in the standard application pool if they don't qualify.
- Mr. Maimone stated we need to have a hard deadline to get into the Epicenter system and it needs to be at least a week prior to the application closing.
- Mr. Walker stated he agrees that if you apply for acceleration and don't qualify, you don't get standard timeline placement. Mr. Walker stated it will need to be on the applicant to decide if they apply for acceleration. Mr. Maimone stated that needs to be extremely clear in the training and on the application.
- Mr. Maimone asked for clarification on the timeline and needing to start reviews earlier next year.
- Ms. Reeves stated she thinks we need to rethink the pass/fail ratings and perhaps move to a rubric. She stated there is also the option of having the external evaluators give comments but not pass/fail.
- Mr. Walker stated he agreed with the external evaluators just giving comments and not pass/fail ratings. Mr. Maimone and Ms. Kakadelis agreed.

- Mr. Walker stated it should be just like it is now, but no pass/fail button. He spoke about how external evaluators don't hear the interviews or see resubmitted documentation and therefore don't have a full picture to give pass/fail.
- Ms. Reeves asked about when clarification should stop. She stated applicants are constantly submitting updated documents.
- Mr. Walker asked how much from the appendix can we move into the actual application. Dr. Allen stated she would talk to the Epicenter developers about having appendix materials with each individual section.
- Ms. Reeves stated the standards used to train the external evaluators are fine. The CSAB concurred that the external evaluators should check boxes and give comments, but not give a final pass/fail rating. Mr. Walker stated the CSAB gets a lot more information on each application compared to the external evaluators who make their ratings based on one reading of the application.
- Dr. Allen agreed to revise the application timeline based on the CSAB's comments and present for a vote at tomorrow's meeting.

CSP GRANT

- Mr. Jay Whalen, Consultant for the Office of Charter Schools, gave a brief update on the CSP grant. He stated letters of intent are due on Friday. He spoke about upcoming trainings and the application process. He stated there is one letter of intent so far. He stated they are in the process of building out the team.

The CSAB broke for lunch at 12:30pm and reconvened at 1:45pm.

CLARIFICATION INTERVIEWS

- Dr. Allen reminded the board of the time limits and process for clarification interviews.

Leadership Academy of Wayne

- Dr. Allen stated that Leadership Academy of Wayne is proposing to locate in Wayne County. Dr. Allen gave a brief introduction of the school's proposed enrollment and grade levels. There is not a LEA impact statement and there is not a due diligence report for this applicant.

Dr. Allen reviewed the pass/fail ratings for this applicant. She stated the applicant does not have any special requests and is not a repeat applicant. The applicant is not partnering with an EMO or CMO.

- Board members introduced themselves. The Board Chair spoke about the proposal for the charter school in the southern portion of Wayne County. He stated there are approximately five schools in the area that are D and F schools. He stated it is a high poverty area that needs a school of choice.
- Ms. Turner stated the enrollment numbers are not reasonable. Mr. Walker agreed.
- The Board Chair stated the schools in the area are crowded and spoke about the need for the school in the area. He confirmed the enrollment numbers are only 6% of the LEA's enrollment.
- Ms. Kroeger expressed concern about the stated operational goal of having 90% ADM because of how that impacts the budget.
- Mr. Walker asked about the decision to build the first year. The Board Chair stated they are open to renovation or leasing facilities.

Motion: Committee motion to allow Leadership Academy of Wayne to continue to full interview.

Motion: Cheryl Turner

Second: Heather Vuncannon

Vote: Unanimous Committee Vote

Passed

Failed

Motion: Full CSAB motion to allow Leadership Academy of Wayne to continue to full interview.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Sherry Reeves

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

Griffin Leadership Academy

- Dr. Allen stated that Griffin Leadership Academy is proposed to locate in Greene County. Dr. Allen gave a brief introduction of the school's proposed enrollment and grade levels. There is a LEA impact statement and there is not a due diligence report for this applicant. Dr. Allen reviewed the pass/fail ratings for this applicant. She stated the applicant does not have

any special requests and is not a repeat applicant. The applicant received assistance from Leaders Building Leaders and the NC Charter Accelerator and paid a \$1,000 fee.

- The Board Chair introduced himself and his background. He spoke about the reason the applicant is seeking a charter school in this area. He stated he has been Director of Operations at Wayne Preparatory Academy.
- Mr. Walker wanted clarification on whether any board members are from Greene County. He stated there are three Wayne County board members and two out of state. The Board Chair stated they would like to find a board member from Greene County.
- Ms. Turner wants more clarification about the board members relationship to Wayne Preparatory Academy.

Motion: Committee motion to allow Griffin Leadership Academy to continue to full interview.

Motion: Heather Vuncannon

Second: Lynn Kroeger

Vote: Unanimous Committee Vote

Passed

Failed

Motion: Full CSAB motion to allow Griffin Leadership Academy to continue to full interview.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Lynn Kroeger

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

Piedmont Career Academy

- Dr. Allen stated that Piedmont Career Academy is proposed to locate in Person County. Dr. Allen gave a brief introduction of the school's proposed enrollment and grade levels. There is a LEA impact statement and there is not a due diligence report for this applicant. Dr. Allen reviewed the pass/fail ratings for this applicant. She stated the applicant does not have any special requests but is a repeat applicant that received a clarification interview. The applicant received assistance from Charter Success Partners.
- The Board Chair, Mr. Robert Daniel, introduced himself. He spoke about the school's targeted population which are students that do not intend to go to college straight out of school.

- Ms. Kakadelis asked about clarification regarding the application’s originality. Mr. Daniel stated it was copied from last year’s application.
- Ms. Reeves asked about the enrollment numbers. Ms. Kakadelis asked why the applicants chose 6th thru 10th grade. Mr. Daniel stated they will run two programs and the 6th grade will be a traditional middle school with career focus, but they also anticipate some students wanting to go into a standard academic program in 9th grade.
- Mr. Maimone asked if he knew the waitlists at the local charter schools. Mr. Daniel stated about a year and a half ago it had a waitlist of about 100 and Roxboro Community School had a waitlist of about 30 or 40.
- Mr. Friend asked about clarity regarding the local LEA’s cooperation. He stated in the LEA impact letter the superintendent made it clear they would not assist with providing transportation.
- Ms. Kakadelis asked if they would have dual enrollment. Mr. Daniel stated they are open to that possibility.
- Ms. Reeves asked about the CTE program. Mr. Daniel stated they don’t want to be tied to the CTE program restrictions, so they won’t be part of the CTE program. Mr. Daniel stated they will have locally developed options. Ms. Reeves explained she is concerned about the standardization of the program. Mr. Daniel stated they are not looking to certify students in specific areas. He stated we want students to be familiar with the job market.
- Mr. Maimone asked if he was a student, why would he want to go to this school as opposed to the local school where he can get certified in a trade. Mr. Daniel stated there are other areas that students can get experience without certification, like in small business work. He stated a lot of students may not know where they want to go.
- Ms. Sutton asked where the 135k in other funds come from. A representative with the board stated it came from experience with other charters and funds they could access through federal funds.

Motion: Committee motion to allow Piedmont Career Academy to continue to full interview.

Motion: Bruce Friend

Second: Phyllis Gibbs

Vote: Unanimous Committee Vote

Passed

Failed

Motion: Full CSAB motion to allow Piedmont Career Academy to continue to full interview.

Motion: Lindalyn Kakadelis

Second: Phyllis Gibbs

Vote: Unanimous

Passed **Failed**

Huntersville Charter High School

- Mr. Walker stated the CSAB needs to consider if the application was complete before going forward.
- Dr. Allen stated that Huntersville Charter High School is proposing to locate in Mecklenburg County. Dr. Allen gave a brief introduction of the school's proposed enrollment and grade levels. There is not a LEA impact statement and there is not a due diligence report for this applicant. Dr. Allen reviewed the pass/fail ratings for this applicant. She stated the applicant does not have any special requests and is not a repeat applicant. The applicant did not receive third party assistance. The Office of Charter Schools is requesting a vote on completeness. Dr. Allen explained what was missing and stated that all materials have been uploaded to Eboard along with a letter from the applicant explaining why materials were late.
- The CSAB discussed what was missing and the timeline of the submission of missing materials from the applicant. Dr. Allen confirmed that the incompleteness goes into the application portal and official communication is through that application portal. She confirmed that an applicant must go into the portal to receive communication. Ms. Turner stated she feels that the materials were submitted far too late. Mr. Walker stated he believes this is a substantial amount of information missing. He stated we have been strict on this in the past. Mr. Hawkes asked if there was any error on our part. Mr. Walker stated no, this is completely on the applicant. He stated the applicant put the wrong email address in the system and the applicant is required to check the system for official communication. The CSAB expressed the need to be consistent with all applicants.

Motion: The Huntersville Charter High School application is deemed incomplete.

Motion: Tammi Sutton

Second: Cheryl Turner

- Board members asked for reconsideration.

Vote: Unanimous

Passed **Failed**

Motion: Recommend that SBE waive the completeness requirement and allow the CSAB to consider the application and proceed to a full interview and request action on first read.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Alan Hawkes

- The CSAB expressed concern about opening a can of worms with applicants down the road.

Vote: Phyllis Gibbs, Alan Hawkes

Opposed: Bruce Friend, Tammi Sutton, Cheryl Turner, Lynn Kroeger, Heather Vuncannon, Steven Walker, Lindalyn Kakadelis, Sherry Reeves

Passed

Failed

ADJOURNMENT

- Ms. Reeves moved to adjourn. Ms. Turner seconded. Unanimously adjourned. 2:55pm.

**Minutes of the
North Carolina Charter School Advisory Board
State Board Rm. 755
February 12, 2019
9:00 am**

Attendance/NCCSAB	Alan Hawkes Joseph Maimone Phyllis Gibbs Sherry Reeves Cheryl Turner Lindalyn Kakadelis Lynn Kroeger	Alex Quigley – <i>Absent</i> Tammi Sutton Steven Walker Heather Vuncannon Bruce Friend
Attendance/SBE/DPI	<i>Office of Charter Schools</i> Dave Machado, Director Ashley Baquero, Consultant Shaunda Cooper, Consultant Danielle Allen, Consultant Jay Whalen, Consultant	<i>SBE</i> <i>Attorney General</i> Tiffany Lucas Stephanie Lloyd <i>SBE Attorney</i> Eric Snider

CALL TO ORDER

- The North Carolina Charter School Advisory Board (CSAB) meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by Vice Chair Steven Walker who read the Ethics Statement and CSAB Mission Statement. Mr. Walker led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Mr. Bruce Friend recused himself from Triumph Charter Academy discussion and voting. He also recused himself from any voting, if it takes place, regarding Coastal Preparatory Academy.

RENEWAL VOTE – BRADFORD PREPARATORY ACADEMY

- Ms. Shaunda Cooper, OCS Consultant, stated that Bradford Preparatory Academy has had a testing irregularity as reported by Accountability. The school is working with Accountability to resolve any issues.
- The CSAB discussed that Bradford Preparatory Academy does not qualify for a ten-year renewal because of this issue but would qualify for a seven-year renewal.

Motion: Bradford Preparatory Academy receive a seven-year renewal.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Heather Vuncannon

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

APPLICATION UPDATES

- Dr. Danielle Allen, OCS Consultant, gave an application update. Dr. Allen reviewed the clarification interview process. She explained the clarification interviews that will take place under each committee.

CLARIFICATION INTERVIEWS

Carolina Experimental School

- Dr. Allen stated that Carolina Experimental School proposes to locate in Wake County. Dr. Allen gave a brief introduction of the school's proposed enrollment and grade levels. There was no LEA impact statement or due diligence for this applicant. Dr. Allen reviewed the pass/fail ratings for this applicant. She stated the applicant does not have any special requests but is a repeat applicant. She stated the application was deemed incomplete last year. She stated the applicant did not receive third party assistance.
- Members of the board introduced themselves. The Board Chair explained the school's model. He stated the board tried to merge a Chinese model with American models. He stated the proposal is balanced, but the evaluators did not understand this.
- Mr. Walker opened discussion for the committee. Ms. Turner stated the enrollment number of 650 is aggressive. Mr. Walker stated it looks like a rigorous program, but it wouldn't appeal to all parents. Mr. Walker would like clarification on the grade levels starting at 6-9th.
- The Board Chair stated they feel a sense of urgency and want to have results in a few years, so they want to start in the middle grades.
- Ms. Vuncannon asked for clarity about the home-based work and how the school can help families develop that for students that have not developed those habits.
- Mr. Hawke stated he worries that the applicant may not fully appreciate the differences between American and Chinese models.
- Ms. Turner stated that as a culture we value whole-child, so we value sports and extracurriculars and when students receive too much work outside of school, families object to not being able to do those other things.

- Ms. Kroeger stated marketing to parents will be key. She would like to see more surveys that there is a demand.
- Mr. Walker asked for more clarification regarding interest in the community. The Board Chair stated that in Cary there is a huge Asian population and the community has a long history of success. He stated other American students benefit from this cultural capital. He stated Asian parents are very interested because they often have discontent with the American system.
- A board member stated that the applicant values both the American and the Chinese systems and wants every child to be challenged and successful. She stated we value the students with special needs. She stated we want to use the best of both systems.
- Ms. Turner expressed concern about a requirement of students to clean bathrooms in the school.
- Ms. Turner had a concern regarding voting for EC service qualification. She stated that is not the process for identifying EC students. She had a concern about teacher evaluations being based on surveys of parents regarding growth from home study.

Motion: Committee motion to allow Carolina Experimental School to continue to full interview.

Motion: Lynn Kroeger

Second: Heather Vuncannon

Vote: Unanimous Committee Vote

Passed Failed

Motion: Full CSAB motion to allow Carolina Experimental School to continue to full interview.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Lynn Kroeger

- Mr. Walker stated there is enough here in terms of innovation that it warrants a full interview.
- Mr. Friend stated he believes the model is not innovative, but a model we are trying to break away from.
- Members of the CSAB expressed concerns with the application.

Vote: Cheryl Turner, Lynn Kroeger, Heather Vuncannon, Steven Walker, Lindalyn Kakadelis, Phyllis Gibbs, Alan Hawkes

Opposed: Bruce Friend, Tammi Sutton, and Sherry Reeves

Passed Failed

Triumph Charter Academy

- Dr. Allen stated Triumph Charter Academy proposes to locate in Robeson County. Dr. Allen gave a brief introduction of the school's proposed enrollment and grade levels. There was no LEA impact statement or due diligence for this applicant. Dr. Allen reviewed the pass/fail ratings for this applicant. She stated the applicant does not have any special requests and is not a repeat applicant. She stated the applicant did not receive third party assistance.
- Dr. Tanya Head introduced herself as the Board Chair. She stated she noticed a common trend in evaluator questions: nonprofit partner, enrollment, and transportation/meal plans. She would like to address those concerns today.
- Dr. Head spoke about the need for a charter school in Robeson County. She spoke about community partners and expertise evident on the board.
- A board member stated that enrollment projections have been driven by the interest in the community. She stated many parents are choosing to send their children to schools outside the county and even outside the state. She stated the school has interest surveys from approximately 550 students.
- A board member spoke about their connection to the nonprofit Five Porches. She stated Five Porches has begun to work in the county to provide support mainly with food security. She stated they are very committed to the welfare of the people and the community and therefore education is one of their priorities. She stated they have agreed to generous financial support to ensure Triumph Charter Academy has what it needs to get off the ground. Ms. Reeves asked if that is a loan. The board member stated no, it would be a grant.
- A board member spoke about transportation and food plans. She stated the primary source of transportation will be parent transport, however, there will be cases of hardship. She stated that is where Five Porches is committed to support the school and ensure there are no barriers for students to attend the school. She stated they have decided to provide cluster stops for students that will be funded by Five Porches.
- A board member spoke about the facility plans. She stated a former proposal with an old Sam's Club building is off the table because the Sam's Club will be reopening. She stated they now have a relationship with the Walton Foundation which supports charter schools. She continued that the school is now planning to construct a new facility.
- Ms. Reeves stated she has concerns with K-6 in year one.
- Ms. Kakadelis asked for clarification regarding the church and Five Porches relationship.
- Ms. Reeves asked if anyone on the board is also on the board of Five Porches. Dr. Head stated no.

- Ms. Reeves stated she has concerns with the educational plan.
- Ms. Reeves asked for clarification regarding the governance structure. A board member stated they decided to have an advisory group for the board to provide expertise in needed areas like legal and construction. She stated this fills in some of the gaps for the board. She stated they are simply advisory. She stated someone from Five Porches will also be on that advisory group.
- Mr. Maimone stated the board needs to be prepared to elaborate on the budget if they return for a full interview. Ms. Reeves stated the money received from Five Porches needs to be spent out as expenditures. She stated they need to address those gaps in expenditures.

Motion: Committee motion to allow Triumph Charter Academy to continue to full interview.

Motion: Sherry Reeves

Second: Phyllis Gibbs

Recused: Bruce Friend

Vote: Unanimous Committee Vote

Passed

Failed

Motion: Full CSAB motion to allow Triumph Charter Academy to continue to full interview.

Motion: Lindalyn Kakadelis

Second: Sherry Reeves

Recused: Bruce Friend

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

CE Academy

- Dr. Allen stated CE Academy is proposing to locate in Wake County. Dr. Allen gave a brief introduction of the school's proposed enrollment and grade levels. There was no LEA impact statement or due diligence for this applicant. Dr. Allen reviewed the pass/fail ratings for this applicant. She stated the applicant did not submit any special requests. She stated the applicant is a repeat applicant that received a clarification interview last year. She stated the applicant did not receive third party assistance.
- Mr. Bryce Roberts introduced himself as a board member. He spoke about the mission to create an English Chinese bilingual program.
- Mr. Walker stated the application is much improved from last year.
- Ms. Turner stated a concern with the enrollment numbers because they are very ambitious. Mr. Walker agreed.

- Mr. Maimone asked for clarification on location. A board member spoke about the school’s current search for land to build and lease. Mr. Walker clarified it would be the Cary Apex area. The board member stated yes.
- The CSAB asked what “CE” stands for. The board replied “Chinese English.”

Motion: Committee motion to allow CE Academy to continue to full interview.

Motion: Lynn Kroeger

Second: Cheryl Turner

Vote: Unanimous Committee Vote

Passed Failed

Motion: Full CSAB motion to allow CE Academy to continue to full interview.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Lindalyn Kakadelis

Vote: Unanimous

Passed Failed

CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICANT INTERVIEWS

Wendell Falls Charter Academy

- Dr. Allen stated that Wendell Falls Charter Academy is proposing to locate in Wake County. Dr. Allen gave a brief introduction of the school’s proposed enrollment and grade levels. There is not a LEA impact statement and there is not a due diligence report for this applicant. Dr. Allen reviewed the pass/fail ratings for this applicant. She stated the applicant is requesting replication and is a repeat applicant that previously applied for Cardinal Charter West. She stated they plan to partner with Charter Schools USA.
- Mr. Allen Taylor introduced himself as the Board Chair. He introduced the remaining board members.
- Mr. Walker spoke about the Wendell Falls community and the growth in the area. Mr. Walker asked if the board thinks the facility will be an issue in this area.
- Mr. Taylor stated that the real estate component can be an obstacle, but they have a new strategy. He stated this time, they have identified property first, and are ready to go into contract in a location that is zoned properly. He stated both of the applications today already have the properly zoned land with letters of intent.
- Ms. Turner stated she believes the need is really well developed in this application.

- Ms. Reeves stated she had concerns about the school reflecting the diversity of the entire Wendell Falls area. Mr. Taylor stated the board also was concerned about that and therefore have included a weighted lottery in the application. He stated marketing is going to target Head Start programs in the area. Mr. Taylor spoke about the school’s marketing budget and plans.
- Ms. Sutton asked about how the team planned to diversify the board. Mr. Friend asked if anyone lives in the Wendell Falls area. Mr. Taylor stated they have a board member that has family in the area and they are currently speaking to residents to become board members.
- Ms. Becky Draper, Cardinal Charter principal, spoke about the educational plan and use of technology in the classroom. She spoke about the school’s use of personalized learning plans. She stated it will be an expectation that every student has a plan. She spoke about Success Time plans for the school when students can work on the personalized learning plan.
- Mr. Hawkes asked for Cardinal’s report card grade. Ms. Draper stated a “B.”
- Ms. Kroeger asked what things this board wants to do differently than Cardinal’s program. Ms. Draper stated teacher quality is very important.
- Mr. Maimone asked why Cardinal Charter is not meeting growth. Ms. Draper suggested it could be because they have high scoring students. Mr. Maimone wondered if it could be something else. Ms. Draper stated it also has to do with teacher quality and the use of data.
- Ms. Reeves asked what curriculum is used. Ms. Draper stated the curriculum maps that are used for the NC course of study. She stated they also use Invision, Lexia, Reading Plus.
- Ms. Gibbs asked if these schools have any trouble recruiting teachers. Ms. Draper stated she believes every school in NC is having trouble recruiting good teachers.
- Ms. Kroeger asked about benefits for the staff. She also stated health insurance seemed low. Ms. Draper stated that Charter Schools USA does provide a retirement and an insurance package. Ms. Reeves asked how that works. Ms. Draper said the teacher contributes to those programs. Mr. Taylor stated they have competitive packages because they leverage the many sister schools.
- Ms. Reeves asked for more information about board meetings. Mr. Taylor stated board meetings would rotate between the three schools. He spoke about how the board meetings function with the collaboration between Charter Schools USA.

- Ms. Kakadelis asked why the board believes they can open two schools at the same time. Mr. Taylor stated this has been a mission for years and the obstacle has been facilities. He stated they know the EMO can handle this and it is not a governance issue.
- Mr. Friend asked about staffing and Charter Schools USA. Mr. Taylor stated that the offers of employment and termination come from the board. He stated the principal is an employee of Charter Schools USA. He stated the employees use benefits through Charter Schools USA.

Motion: The CSAB moves Wendell Falls Charter Academy forward to Ready to Open.

Motion: Phyllis Gibbs

Second: Cheryl Turner

Vote: Unanimous

Passed **Failed**

North Raleigh Charter Academy

- Dr. Allen stated that North Raleigh Charter Academy is proposing to locate in Wake County. Dr. Allen gave a brief introduction of the school's proposed enrollment and grade levels. There is not a LEA impact statement and there is not a due diligence report for this applicant. Dr. Allen reviewed the pass/fail ratings for this applicant. She stated the applicant is requesting replication and is a repeat applicant that previously applied for Cardinal Charter West. She stated they plan to partner with Charter Schools USA.
- Mr. Walker asked about the need in the area because there are several other charter schools in the area. Mr. Taylor stated the population is very dense in the area and the school would serve a diverse population through its weighted lottery. He also stated they would have a traditional school calendar that will draw families because there are no other traditional calendars in that area.
- Ms. Turner appreciates the effort the board is making to reach out to all kids. Ms. Turner stated she remembers the other schools that never came to fruition. She is concerned that two schools at once would be too much. Ms. Sutton agreed. She also stated she would like to see the schools meet or exceed growth before opening two more.
- Mr. Taylor stated it is very difficult to find property and it will be very difficult to find again. Ms. Reeves stated that is the same argument they had with the Cary school that never opened.
- Mr. Maimone stated he appreciates the fact they did not give up and went back to the drawing board to make a plan to work.

- Mr. Friend stated he believes in the importance of the board having a connection to the community in which they will operate. Mr. Taylor stated they are reaching out to board members in the area.

Motion: The CSAB moves North Raleigh Charter Academy forward to Ready to Open.

Motion: Lindalyn Kakadelis

Second: Bruce Friend

- Ms. Reeves stated she cannot support two schools at the same time.

Vote: Bruce Friend, Heather Vuncannon, Steven Walker, Lindalyn Kakadelis, Phyllis Gibbs, Alan Hawkes

Opposed: Cheryl Turner, Lynn Kroeger, Sherry Reeves, Tammi Sutton

Passed

Failed

DR. MICHAEL WELLS – FEDERAL PROGRAMS

- Dr. Wells, NCDPI Federal Programs, spoke about federal designations for low-performing schools - CSI (Comprehensive Support and Improvement) schools and TSI (Targeted Support and Improvement) schools. He stated CSI schools are the lowest 5% Title I schools and lowest 5% high schools which have a graduation rate below 67%.
- Dr. Wells stated these schools receive funding from Title I for improvement. He stated every school receives a minimum of 50k to be used for school improvement.
- Dr. Wells stated TSI schools are Targeted Support and Improvement schools which looks at subgroup performance data. He continued that if there is a subgroup in your school with more than ten students, and that subgroup is at or lower than the 5% cutoff for CSI schools, then the school is designated TSI. He stated there are 1634 public schools (including charters) that are designated TSI.
- Dr. Wells stated most of those schools were identified because of the students with disabilities subgroup. He stated schools are required to implement a NC Star School Improvement Plan. He stated there is no funding that comes with the TSI designation. He stated this year they have identified 13 million dollars that were not used last year, so that money will be split between those schools that request it.
- Dr. Wells spoke about how schools can and cannot use funding.
- Dr. Wells stated that all CSI and TSI charter schools are coming to Raleigh to receive training through Federal Programs and the Office of Charter Schools on February 20, 2019.

- Dr. Wells stated that once you are identified you are on the list for four years. During those four years, you try and move off the list. He stated this includes both CSI and TSI designations.
- Ms. Turner asked how TSI schools get off the list. Dr. Wells stated you have at least two years at which your scores are above 5% for that subgroup and you have no other subgroup at or below 5%.
- Ms. Kakadelis stated she is glad charters are included in this system, but she has concerns about some low-performing schools that are getting a great deal of money. She asked if the schools are monitored for how they spend the funding. Dr. Wells explained how the schools are monitored.
- Mr. Machado asked if schools have been notified that this money is available. Dr. Wells stated yes.
- Mr. Maimone asked about the challenges related to the large virtual school allotments. Dr. Wells stated it will be challenging and the biggest expense may be to provide additional training for staff and tutorial support. He explained the virtual schools will be best equipped to know how they need to spend the money.
- Mr. Maimone raised concerns about funds being supplanted in schools with EMO/CMO agreements.

THREE RIVERS ACADEMY ADM REQUEST

- Mr. Walker stated legal has explained that the assumption agreement will rein in the enrollment issue. Legal stated that Three Rivers Academy and OCS can handle the matter administratively and does not need to go to the State Board.
- Mr. Hawkes stated he believes 276 is too high and we should recommend a number that is more reasonable. The CSAB discussed the best recommendation to make regarding enrollment.

Motion: The CSAB moves that Three Rivers Academy be able to increase ADM to 175.

Motion: Sherry Reeves

Second: Lindalyn Kakadelis

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

2019 READY TO OPEN UPDATE

- Dr. Kebbler Williams, OCS Consultant, stated fourteen schools are scheduled to open in August. She stated the CSAB received a report for the eleven non-accelerated schools that

shows the projected enrollment, number of applications received, and facility updates. She stated four schools have amendment requests pending. She stated Apprentice HS of NC is requesting to open with grades 9-11 with approved maximum of 375 students. She stated Carolina Charter Academy is requesting an amendment to open with grades K-6. She stated Discovery Charter School has a pending relocation and enrollment amendment request. She stated the final pending amendment request is West Lake Preparatory Academy for an enrollment decrease.

- Dr. Williams stated six of the eleven schools are in delayed years. She stated Cardinal Charter Academy West Campus relinquished its charter.
- Mr. Hawkes asked what is causing these delays. Dr. Williams stated it is primarily due to facilities.
- Ms. Reeves asked about the next update. Dr. Williams stated early April.

The CSAB broke for lunch at 12:00pm and reconvened at 1:10pm.

2019 PROPOSED APPLICATION TIMELINE

- Dr. Danielle Allen stated she has made changes based on yesterday's feedback. She stated she collapsed the timeline so applications open June 3, 2019. She stated each specific timeline (accelerated and standard) includes a reminder that applicants must request Epicenter access at least one week prior to the application deadline. She stated the initial application and committee review timeline is now from September to November 2019 and full interviews to begin November 2019 to March 2020.

Motion: The CSAB approves and recommends approval to the State Board of Education for the 2019 Proposed Charter School Application Timeline.

Motion: Sherry Reeves

Second: Cheryl Turner

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION UPDATES

- Mr. Dave Machado, OCS Director, gave an update on State Board of Education action. He stated the SBE approved the CSP Grant, articulation agreements, and charter school annual report with two dissenting votes.

- He continued that the board heavily discussed renewal recommendations and the Discovery Charter amendment request. Those items will receive votes next month.
- He reviewed renewal visits and risk assessment visits that have taken place over the last month.
- Mr. Machado stated he has been to Huntersville to work with the charter school task force the town has formed to consider a charter school application.

LOW-PERFORMING PRESENTATIONS

Charlotte Choice

- Ms. Alexis Schauss, NCDPI School Business, gave an overview of the financial situation. She stated they are on disciplinary financial noncompliance. She stated they have exhausted their state funds for this year. Ms. Schauss stated they have some restricted use federal funds. She stated there is a significant decrease in student membership. She stated they are currently at 104 students, down from 204 the year prior. She stated they have an overdraft in cash and loans payable.
- Mr. Antoine Brisbon introduced himself as the interim principal. Board members introduced themselves. A board member stated four out of five board members are new to the board.
- Mr. Brisbon described the mission of the school. He stated the school opened in August 2013. He described the academic data of the school. He reviewed the school's 2018-19 academic, professional development, and governance goals. Mr. Brisbon explained the school's chosen curriculum.
- Mr. Brisbon spoke about the school's holistic approach for the student and family. He stated the families receive weekly and monthly communication.
- Mr. Walker stated he is more concerned with the financial pieces at the moment. He asked someone to speak on how the school will make it through the rest of the year.
- Ms. Reeves asked when Mr. Brisbon took over as principal. He replied October 2018.
- Mr. Walker asked why the enrollment has decreased so much. A board member stated that two years ago the school relocated and the school lost students. A board member stated that American Charter Development is going to underwrite the deficit. She continued that the school is working to turn things around.
- Mr. Walker asked how many teachers are left at the school. The board stated nine. Mr. Walker asked about administration. The board stated the principal, secretary, and business manager.

- Ms. Reeves asked for average class size. Mr. Brisbon stated about ten. Ms. Reeves asked if they can pay the staff for the remainder of the year. The board stated yes. Mr. Friend asked if any staff had missed or delayed pay. The board stated no. Ms. Reeves asked how far the new facility will be. The board stated about five miles.
- Mr. Hawkes asked why the founding board member left a few years ago if the school just opened in 2013. She stated there was turbulence on the board and she needed to take a break from the board.
- Mr. Friend asked how American Charter Development (ACD) funds are being used now. The board stated it is not being used now but will be used for the new facility. Mr. Friend asked how ACD will get money back. The board stated ACD will lease the facility back to the school. Mr. Friend asked if anyone on the board has a relationship with ACD. The board stated yes, Taft Morley, is a new board member and his dad is the founder of ACD. Mr. Friend wondered if there is a conflict of interest.
- Ms. Reeves asked when the new budget will be developed. The board stated in a few weeks.

Motion: The CSAB moves that FBS and/or OCS provide monthly reports to the CSAB regarding the school's financial situation. The CSAB moves that the school submit a new budget to OCS.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Sherry Reeves

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

Coastal Preparatory Academy

- Ms. Jamie Getz, Head of School, introduced the Director of Academics Dr. Watson. Dr. Watson reviewed the school's mission statement. She explained the school's core values. She described the school's demographics. The school currently has 612 enrolled students.
- Dr. Watson spoke about the school's strategies for improving academics at the school. She spoke about the school's use of Core Knowledge curriculum. Dr. Watson spoke about the school's progress monitoring strategies including the MTSS program.
- Dr. Watson spoke about future plans such as hiring a math tutor, morning math club, math facts competition, math student of the week, and an EOG Pep Rally.
- Ms. Reeves asked if they are doing NC Check-Ins. Dr. Watson stated they would be doing that next year.

Charlotte Secondary

- Ms. Leigh Ann Kerr, NCDPI School Business, stated the school has experienced a significant ADM decline in the last few years. She stated the month four was 288, which is a 41% decline from 2016. She stated the school has reduced their expenditures accordingly.
- Mr. Anthony Hall, Head of School, addressed the CSAB. He explained the school's demographics. The school was founded in 2007 as a 6-8 school. He stated that in 2013-14 the school added high school. He stated that this decreased the percentage of proficient students enrolling. He stated there has been an increase in the EC population.
- Mr. Hall spoke about the school grade and growth. He stated the school struggles in math. He stated he believes the school is experiencing white flight and competition in the Charlotte area. He stated people vote with their feet.
- Mr. Hall described the school's 2018-19 performance goals. He spoke about the school's EVAAS data and NC Check-In data. He explained how the school is using data trackers to group students based on progress monitoring data. He spoke about the school's use of Mastery Connect to collect more data on student achievement.
- Mr. Hall spoke about communication with families, credit recovery, flexible scheduling for high school students, after school support, and targeted support for students.
- Mr. Walker stated he hopes we can celebrate success when you come back next year. Ms. Reeves asked for breakdown of enrollment. Mr. Hall stated its about 175 in high school and 110 in middle school.

ADJOURNMENT

- Ms. Reeves made a motion to adjourn at 3:00pm. Meeting adjourned via acclamation.