

**Minutes of the
North Carolina Charter School Advisory Board
State Board Lounge
August 20, 2019
10:00 am**

Attendance/NCCSAB	Joel Ford - <i>Absent</i> Joseph Maimone - <i>Absent</i> Phyllis Gibbs - <i>Absent</i> Sherry Reeves Cheryl Turner - <i>Absent</i> Lynn Kroeger	Alex Quigley Jeannette Butterworth Steven Walker Heather Vuncannon Lindalyn Kakadelis
Attendance/SBE/DPI	<i>Office of Charter Schools</i> Dave Machado, Director Ashley Baquero, Consultant	<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 10:03 am by Chairman Alex Quigley. Ms. Ashley Baquero, OCS Consultant, read the Ethics Statement and CSAB Mission Statement.

THREE RIVERS ACADEMY AMENDMENT REQUEST

- Ms. Baquero introduced Three Rivers Academy’s request to relocate more than five miles from the school’s current location in Bertie County.
- Mr. Don McQueen stated at the end of the last school year, the school was approximately 80 enrolled students. He stated the previous location had approximately 300 students enrolled. He stated the school now wants to acquire the Windsor facility. He stated the facility has been upgraded and has a new Certificate of Occupancy for Assembly. He stated they hadn’t done it earlier because they didn’t have the Certificate of Occupancy. He stated it would reduce the overhead for the site – from about 10k per month to about 4k per month. He continued that all the trailers have been moved off the site.
- Mr. McQueen stated he met with the Town Manager yesterday. He stated the location is more central and transportation will be provided to students.

- Mr. Steven Walker asked when they plan to move. Mr. McQueen stated the county needs to meet September 9, 2019 and then another September 13, 2019 meeting to approve the relocation.
- Mr. Walker asked when school starts. Mr. McQueen stated August 26, 2019, so they would move after the school year begins.
- Mr. McQueen stated the owners have put in a lot of work to get the facility ready for students.
- Mr. Walker asked when the Educational Certificate of Occupancy would be acquired. Mr. McQueen stated after the September 13, 2019 meeting.
- Mr. McQueen stated that most students are located closer to the Windsor location.
- Mr. Walker asked for current enrollment. Mr. McQueen stated 81 students.
- Mr. Quigley asked when school starts. Mr. McQueen stated August 26, 2019. Mr. McQueen stated they would discuss this with families and handle transportation issues. Mr. McQueen stated that 100% of students receive transportation from the school. He stated only five students are close to the current location in Powellsville.
- Mr. Dave Machado confirmed the school would start in the current location and then move around mid-September. Mr. McQueen stated yes.
- Ms. Lindalyn Kakadelis asked if parents are aware of the planned move. Mr. McQueen stated not yet because they didn't want to upset enrollment, but all parents will be notified.
- Ms. Kakadelis stated she is concerned with enrollment because they are just at the 80 minimum. Ms. Sherry Reeves stated she agreed and if she was a parent she may be upset to learn about the move after starting school. She wondered if maybe the school could move at the winter holiday when there would be a planned break and the school could work on marketing in Windsor in the meantime. Mr. McQueen stated that it is a good idea.
- Mr. Quigley wants to know why they need to move this year. Mr. McQueen stated the location is very costly. He continued that he believes diversity and enrollment will improve in the Windsor location. Mr. Walker stated the population of Windsor is larger than Powellsville. Mr. McQueen stated there are decent sized populations nearby they would be able to draw from at the Windsor location.
- Mr. Bruce Friend asked what the financial implications are for leaving the current location. Mr. McQueen stated he has spoken with the owner and there would be a maximum 4k penalty if they leave the lease early. Mr. Friend stated he would echo the recommendation of Ms. Reeves to give the parents some time to adjust and reconsider the move date. Mr. McQueen agrees.

- Ms. Lynn Kroeger stated that funding will take a hit if the school increases enrollment after the first twenty days because they won't get state funding for those additional students. Mr. McQueen stated he realizes that and believes enrollment will be up before the first day of school. Ms. Kroeger asked if the move was discussed with parents at all through the recruitment efforts. Mr. McQueen stated no because they didn't want to speak before the board made its decision.
- Mr. Quigley asked if there was a way to wait until they got their final ADM. Mr. McQueen stated that could work. Mr. Machado stated that would give the school time to get enrollment up and receive the Educational Certificate of Occupancy.
- Ms. Heather Vuncannon stated that she agrees with moving later in the year and it is a delicate issue to handle with the parents.
- Mr. Quigley stated if the board is in agreement, the CSAB will hear this request at a later date once the final ADM and Educational Certificate of Occupancy is received. Mr. McQueen and the CSAB agreed.

ADJOURNMENT

- **Mr. Quigley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:30AM. The meeting adjourned via acclamation.**