

**Minutes of the
North Carolina Charter Schools Advisory Board Meeting
October 7, 2019
NC Department of Public Instruction
State Board Room 755 – 9:00AM**

Attendance/NCCSAB	Joel Ford – <i>via phone</i> Bruce Friend – <i>absent</i> Joseph Maimone – <i>nonvoting member</i> Sherry Reeves Cheryl Turner Lynn Kroeger	Alex Quigley – <i>arrived 9:22am</i> Jeannette Butterworth Steven Walker Heather Vuncannon – <i>absent</i> Lindalyn Kakadelis Rita Haire – <i>non-voting; awaiting appointment confirmation</i>
Attendance/SBE/DPI	<i>Office of Charter Schools</i> Dave Machado, Director Ashley Baquero, Consultant Shaunda Cooper, Consultant Claire Porter, Consultant Danielle Allen, Consultant Jay Whalen, Consultant Joseph Letterio Maimone, Consultant	<i>Attorney General</i> 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 9:05am by Vice Chair Steven Walker who read the Ethics Statement and CSAB Mission Statement. Mr. Walker led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion: To approve the September 2019 CSAB meeting minutes.

Motion: Lindalyn Kakadelis

Second: Sherry Reeves

Vote: Unanimous

Passed **Failed**

Motion: To approve the October 2019 CSAB meeting agenda.

Motion: Lindalyn Kakadelis

Second: Cheryl Turner

Vote: Unanimous

Passed **Failed**

- Mr. Walker introduced the Senate nominated new CSAB member, Ms. Rita Haire. She is attending the meeting pending her official appointment. Ms. Haire spoke briefly regarding her professional experience and background.

2019 CHARTER APPLICATION SEASON INTRODUCTION

- Dr. Danielle Allen, Office of Charter Schools (OCS) Consultant, introduced the 2019 charter school application process. Dr. Allen reviewed the application timeline and process.
- Dr. Allen explained that five fast-track/acceleration applications and fourteen traditional timeline applications were received. She explained fourteen traditional timeline application clarification interviews remain.
- Dr. Allen explained the clarification interview process. She continued to explain the clarification interview assignments for the policy and performance committees.
- Dr. Allen proposed four clarification review assignments for each committee in November for a total of eight clarification interviews scheduled for November 2019. The CSAB had no objections to this schedule.

CLARIFICATION INTERVIEWS

Revolution Academy Bunker Hill

- Dr. Allen introduced the applicant. She stated the school is proposing to locate in Guilford County. She explained the proposed enrollment and grade levels. She stated at capacity the school would serve grades K-8 with 727 students. She stated there was no LEA impact statement received and the applicant is not a repeat applicant. The applicant partnered with Charter Development Solutions.
- Ms. Alex Valenscin herself and explained the history of the school proposal. She spoke about trying to find a good school for her daughter and being placed on long wait lists for area charter schools. She spoke about partnering with Charter Development Solutions and the development of the charter application.
- Ms. Lindalyn Kakadelis asked if this was originally intended to be a replication application. The Development Solutions representative, Mr. Randy Shaver, stated there are some similarities to another school, but this is not a replication.

- Ms. Kakadelis asked if the board was concerned about the management company being a new company with no record of success. Ms. Valenscin spoke about the strong reputation of the management company in the community. She stated the board has full confidence in the management company. She spoke about the board composition and stated there are six members of the board.
- Ms. Jeannette Butterworth asked if there were other schools planning to partner with the management company. Mr. Shaver introduced himself and explained his forty years of experience in education. He stated he knows the county very well. He stated he worked with the US Department of Education for two years as a rural community representative. He stated that at this point the management company would only manage one school but are open to managing others in the future.
- Ms. Sherry Reeves asked for clarification regarding the name of the school and its similarity to Revolution Academy. Mr. Shaver stated the name of the school had been decided before the management company was incorporated. He stated he understands that has caused some confusion and do consider the two sister schools.
- Ms. Kakadelis asked for clarification regarding the name and whether the board could leave the management company if it felt the need to do so. Ms. Valenscin stated that with thirty days notice, the board can terminate the management company's contract. Ms. Valenscin stated that the board has discussed the name and the board likes the term "Revolution Academy" because of the reputation of the approved Revolution Academy. Ms. Reeves stated the school has not opened yet. Ms. Valenscin stated that is true, but the founders have a strong reputation in the community.
- Mr. Joseph Maimone asked what services the management company would provide. Mr. Shaver explained the services provided by the management company including day to day operations, staffing, professional development, and financing. He explained the fee structure for the management company. Mr. Maimone clarified that expenses for professional development and financial services comes out of the management fee and not line items in the school's budget. Mr. Shaver stated that is correct.
- Ms. Reeves asked why the school would need the management company if the management company is using a large amount of subcontractors. Mr. Shaver spoke about the expertise and efficiency of the management company to find the subcontractors and vendors. Ms. Reeves asked how the management company will be able to pay a principal for the planning year with no revenue at that point. Mr. Shaver stated they have a line of credit available to hire a principal for the planning year.

Motion: Committee motion to forward applicant to full CSAB vote.

Motion: Sherry Reeves

Second: Jeannette Butterworth

Vote: Unanimous

Passed **Failed**

- Ms. Kakadelis stated the whole board should be here for the full interview if granted.

Motion: Full CSAB motion to forward applicant to full interview.

Motion: Lindalyn Kakadelis

Second: Sherry Reeves

- Mr. Walker asked if there is any willingness on the part of the management company to provide some type of financial documentation to the Office of Charter Schools to show financial stability. Mr. Shaver stated he would certainly take that request back to the management company.

Vote: Unanimous

Passed **Failed**

Oak Grove Charter Academy

- Mr. Alex Quigley recused himself from discussion and voting on this applicant.
- Dr. Allen introduced the applicant. She stated the school is proposing to locate in Durham County. She explained the proposed enrollment and grade levels. She stated at capacity the school would serve grades K-8 with 772 students. She stated there has not been an LEA impact statement submitted. She stated this is a replication applicant and not a repeat application. She stated the applicant has partnered with National Heritage Academies (NHA).
- Mr. Gerald McNair, Board Chair, introduced himself and the other board members in attendance. He stated the board represents education, finance, retail, and law enforcement. Board members introduced themselves and spoke briefly about their backgrounds.
- Board members spoke about the importance of education and concerns about Durham Public Schools' performance.
- Ms. Cheryl Turner asked why the commitment to Durham when no board member lives in the county. Mr. McNair stated he previously lived there for years, volunteers, and attends church in Durham.
- Ms. Lynn Kroeger asked for clarification regarding the need and demand of the school. Mr. McNair stated they are conducting a detailed analysis of the need. He stated the school is

proposing to locate in the Gorman area of Durham County which has low proficiency levels. He stated that location would also draw students from two counties, but believe the bulk of students would come from Durham County.

- Mr. Joel Ford asked how the school would supplement the economically disadvantaged student so the student is in a situation where he or she can learn. Mr. McNair stated they would reach the entire population, but the school expects disadvantaged students to attend. He stated there are things the school can do to assist those students. He stated the board is looking into transportation options. Mr. Ford stated there is too much data available on these populations and he worries the plan is not suitable for the projected disadvantaged populations. He stated he does not want to set this school up to fail. Mr. McNair stated the partnership with NHA is critical.
- Ms. Turner stated that the three schools partnered with NHA that serve disadvantaged populations are making progress with these populations. Ms. Turner stated she believes NHA understands the needs of those students. Mr. Ford stated he appreciates that information.
- Ms. Turner stated the school is not actually a replication of Wake Forest because they serve completely different populations. She stated that may not matter in the grand schemes of things.

Motion: Committee motion to forward applicant to full CSAB vote.

Motion: Cheryl Turner

Second: Lynn Kroeger

Recused: Alex Quigley

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

Motion: Full CSAB motion to forward applicant to full interview.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Cheryl Turner

Recused: Alex Quigley

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

PEAK Academy

- Dr. Allen introduced the applicant. She stated the school is proposing to locate in Buncombe County. She explained the proposed enrollment and grade levels. She stated at capacity the school would serve grades K-8 with 400 students. She stated there was no LEA impact statement submitted. She stated this is not a repeat applicant. She stated they received assistance and paid fees to Leaders Building Leaders.

- Ms. Iheanacho introduced herself as Board Chair. Board members spoke about the need in the county and the persistent achievement gap in the county.
- Ms. Kakadelis stated she is excited about this application. Mr. Maimone asked why the board thinks that charter schools in the area have not been able to attract minority populations and what this board will do differently. A board representative stated that until recently there has not been a fair representation of people of color in leadership. She continued that there has not been the chance for certain groups to have a voice in the county. She stated there has not been an opportunity for parents of color to have a voice and engage in the community. She stated this board is very intentional in understanding this and making a change. Mr. Maimone asked about how important the location of the school will be to meeting the needs of the families the school seeks to serve. The board representative stated they are taking that into account with transportation plans and reaching all areas of the county.
- Ms. Reeves asked about name of the school and the fact that there is a PEAK Academy currently operating. A board representative stated the board would speak about the name and perhaps adding some type of clarification such as “PEAK Academy of Asheville.” Mr. Dave Machado expressed concerns about similar names and confusion it sometimes causes within the NC Department of Public Instruction (NC DPI). Ms. Iheanacho stated the board would be prepared to speak more about the name if they make it to a full interview.
- Ms. Kakadelis stated she would want to hear more about facility if the applicant goes to a full interview.

Motion: Committee motion to forward applicant to full CSAB vote.

Motion: Sherry Reeves

Second: Jeannette Butterworth

Vote: Unanimous

Passed **Failed**

Motion: Full CSAB motion to forward applicant to full interview.

Motion: Lindalyn Kakadelis

Second: Sherry Reeves

- Ms. Iheanacho asked if it is the recommendation of the CSAB that the entire name is changed. Mr. Quigley stated that may be tricky because it is aligned with substantial parts of the application. He stated he would ask the board to coordinate with the Office of Charter Schools (OCS) to determine the best course of action. Mr. Walker stated they would have plenty of time to do that during the RTO process if the application is approved.

Vote: Unanimous

Passed **Failed**

City Charter Academy

- Dr. Allen introduced the applicant. She stated the school is proposing to locate in Guilford County. She explained the proposed enrollment and grade levels. She stated at capacity the school would serve grades K-8 with 772 students. She stated there was no LEA impact statement submitted and this is not a repeat applicant. She stated this is a replicant applicant and the school has partnered with NHA.
- Mr. Jeff Hyde introduced himself as Board Chair and spoke about his children's educational experience in the county. He stated the board has a heart for options in an area of Greensboro that does not have many options available. He spoke about school performance in East Greensboro. He spoke about the history of the board and development of Gate City Charter Academy.
- Mr. Hyde spoke about the history of Greensboro Academy and the desire to replicate that school. Mr. Hyde spoke about the board members' experience. Board members spoke about their experience working with NHA and the success of Gate City Charter. The board spoke about the need for high quality school choice in East Greensboro.
- Mr. Quigley asked if the board is the same as the Gate City Charter Academy Board. Mr. Hyde stated no, there are two members that are on both boards. Mr. Hyde stated he will eventually resign from this board to stay on the Gate City Charter Academy.
- Mr. Walker stated his biggest concern is enrollment, but he knows NHA is good at using available data to make enrollment projections.
- Mr. Hyde spoke about the location of this proposed school in relation to the Revolution Academy proposed location. He spoke about the population this school would attract and current wait list at Gate City Charter Academy.
- Mr. Quigley stated he would like more data from NHA regarding the North Carolina schools it operates. He stated he would like to see growth and proficiency scores for each school for the previous three years. He stated this is really a replication of the NHA model, not necessarily a specific school. He stated NHA should have that data and the resources available to put that data together. He stated he believes it will be in NHA's favor to have that data. He stated he would also like to see the waitlist data from NHA.
- Ms. Turner stated she would like to hear more about transportation if the applicant reaches the full interview. Mr. Quigley stated he would want more data on need.

Motion: Committee motion to forward applicant to full CSAB vote.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Lynn Kroeger

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

Motion: Full CSAB motion to forward applicant to full interview.

Motion: Alex Quigley

Second: Steven Walker

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

North Davidson Charter Academy

- Ms. Turner recused herself from discussion and voting on the matter.
- Dr. Allen introduced the applicant. She stated the school is proposing to locate in Mecklenburg County. She explained the proposed enrollment and grade levels. She stated at capacity the school would serve grades K-8 with 414 students. She stated an LEA impact statement has been submitted. She stated this is a repeat applicant that received a full interview last year. She stated the applicant is planning to partner with Torchlight Academy Schools.
- Mr. Addul Ali spoke about the board's work following last year's interview. Mr. Ali spoke about the North Davidson community and the need for high quality school choice. He spoke about challenges the community faces including economic challenges and suspension rates in the community. He spoke about board development and the facility already in place.
- Ms. Kakadelis stated the application was weak in terms of details including the educational plan.
- Ms. Reeves asked for clarification regarding the management company's role and the board's capacity. Mr. Ali stated board members have the capacity to run a school and have experience working for Fortune 500 companies. Mr. Ali spoke about board member experience. Mr. Ali stated he feels strongly about this board's capacity. Mr. Ali stated the board provides the vision and the management company is accountable to the board. He stated the board will oversee hiring. He stated there is a diverse amount of talent on the board.
- Ms. Reeves asked what the management company will provide in terms of day to day operations. Mr. Ali spoke about the board holding the management company accountable and the ability of the board to operate without a management company if needed. He stated that is why the board has added a board member with significant education experience.

- Ms. Kakadelis and Ms. Reeves expressed concerns about partnering with Torchlight given current issues the EMO is facing. Ms. Kakadelis asked if the board has discussed going forward without an EMO. Mr. Ali stated they have discussed this, but they have seen the management company work successfully with the targeted population. Mr. Ali stated board members have met with Torchlight employees. He stated the board feels comfortable working with Torchlight even in light of current issues.
- Ms. Reeves asked how the board plans to hold the EMO accountable. Mr. Ali stated the board will meet monthly and measure progress. He stated the board will meet frequently and provide oversight to hold the EMO accountable. Mr. Ali stated the board is prepared to consider moving forward without an EMO if expectations are not met.
- Ms. Kakadelis and Ms. Reeves continued to express concerns with the EMO partnership. Mr. Ali stated those issues are not with the board’s application. Ms. Reeves replied yes, but it could very well be your school in the future. Mr. Ali stated the board has discussed going forward without an EMO, but the board believes the success Torchlight has had with similar populations is important.
- Mr. Quigley stated the application was not well-written and mixed several types of pedagogies. Mr. Quigley expressed other concerns including EMO capacity and saturation in the area. Mr. Ali stated the board has looked into the EMO’s capacity and have evaluated saturation in the area. Mr. Quigley stated that even though local schools are low-performing, it doesn’t mean parents will come to new schools. Mr. Quigley referenced the newly operating charter schools that have faced significant enrollment issues.
- Mr. McQueen spoke on behalf of Torchlight Academy Schools. He stated that much of what has occurred recently have been allegations. He stated he hasn’t put up a vigorous fight because he cares more about the charter school movement, but he has submitted information rebutting claims. He stated he is trying to resolve those concerns, but he does not want a public fight on those matters. Mr. McQueen stated he wouldn’t want the board to prejudge anything with respect to the applicants coming forward.

Motion: Committee motion to not forward applicant to full CSAB vote.

Motion: Lindalyn Kakadelis

Second: Sherry Reeves

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

Motion: Full CSAB motion to not forward applicant to full interview.

Motion: Lindalyn Kakadelis

Second: Sherry Reeves

Recused: Cheryl Turner

Opposed: Steven Walker and Joel Ford

Vote: Lindalyn Kakadelis, Sherry Reeves, Lynn Kroeger, Alex Quigley, Jeannette Butterworth

Passed **Failed**

Carolina Royal Academy

- Dr. Allen introduced the applicant. She stated the school is proposing to locate in Chatham County. She explained the proposed enrollment and grade levels. She stated at capacity the school would serve grades K-8 with 900 students. She stated an LEA impact statement has not been submitted. She stated this applicant is not a repeat application. She stated the applicant received assistance from Gregg Sindors and did provide a fee. She stated the applicant does not intend to partner with a management company.
- Dr. Allen stated this application needs a determination of completeness. Dr. Allen reviewed GS 115C-218.1(a) and stated the applicant submitted Articles of Incorporation that were established on September 6th, nine days after the application deadline. Mr. Walker asked when the application deadline was. Dr. Allen stated August 26th. Mr. Walker stated it looks like they submitted the documentation to the Secretary of State August 21st and paid for expedited filing. Mr. Walker stated the Secretary of State did not process this in the time it should have.

Motion: 11:22am. To move into closed session to discuss attorney client related issues.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Sherry Reeves

Vote: Unanimous

Passed **Failed**

Motion: 11:25am. Adjourn closed session and enter open session.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Alex Quigley

Vote: Unanimous

Passed **Failed**

Motion: Move to deem this application complete.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Sherry Reeves

Vote: Unanimous

Passed **Failed**

- Mr. John Norwood introduced himself as Board Chair. He spoke about his professional experience in finance. Other board members introduced themselves and discussed their professional experience.
- Mr. Walker stated he was impressed by the application.
- Ms. Lynn Kroeger stated she was concerned about evidence of need. Mr. Norwood stated that the board is currently doing that work. Ms. Kroeger asked if any work has taken place regarding need. Mr. Norwood stated they are meeting with community leaders and local representatives.
- Mr. Walker asked how far the school would be located from Cary. Mr. Norwood stated they have not decided on a specific location at this point and the board is looking for a suitable plot of land. Mr. Walker stated the CSAB would need more information about facility options if the application gets to a full interview.
- Ms. Turner asked for clarification on the educational plan. A board member spoke about a meeting with Chatham County and the county is supportive of the school. He stated the school's focus would be computer science.
- Mr. Sindere spoke about the educational plan and the uniqueness of the application in terms of the international education and computer science focus.

Motion: Committee motion to forward applicant to full CSAB vote.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Lynn Kroeger

Vote: Unanimous

Passed **Failed**

Motion: Full CSAB motion to forward applicant to full interview.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Cheryl Turner

Vote: Unanimous

Passed **Failed**

- Mr. Machado informed the CSAB that Dr. Allen would be leaving the Office of Charter Schools soon to pursue a new opportunity. The CSAB expressed appreciation for her hard work and contributions to the office. Dr. Allen stated she has been honored to serve.

AMENDMENTS

Tillery Charter Academy

- Ms. Ashley Baquero, OCS Consultant, introduced Tillery Charter Academy's request to implement a weighted lottery. She stated the school currently serves K-2 in Montgomery County. Ms. Baquero explained the school's weighted lottery goals to reach more economically disadvantaged students.

Motion: Recommend the State Board of Education approve this amendment request.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Lindalyn Kakadelis

Vote: Unanimous

Passed **Failed**

East Voyager Academy

- Ms. Baquero introduced East Voyager Academy's request to implement a weighted lottery. Ms. Baquero explained the school's weighted lottery goals to reach more educationally disadvantaged students. She explained the difference between two categories schools can weight for: economically disadvantaged and educationally disadvantaged. She explained East Voyager plans to weight for educationally disadvantaged.

Motion: Recommend the State Board of Education approve this amendment request.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Lynn Kroeger

Vote: Unanimous

Passed **Failed**

NE Academy of Aerospace and Advanced Technologies

- Ms. Baquero introduced NE Academy of Aerospace and Advanced Technologies' request to amend its mission. She explained the original and proposed mission statement.

Motion: Recommend the State Board of Education approve this amendment request.

Motion: Sherry Reeves

Second: Steven Walker

Vote: Unanimous

Passed **Failed**

Bonnie Cone Classical Academy

- Ms. Baquero explained Bonnie Cone Classical Academy’s request to change its management company from TeamCFA to Charter One.

Motion: Recommend the State Board of Education approve this amendment request.

Motion: Lindalyn Kakadelis

Second: Steven Walker

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

- Mr. Machado recognized Ms. Turner for selection as the 2019 Outstanding Urban Educator Award winner.
- The CSAB honored the service of Mr. Eric Sanchez and his work at Henderson Collegiate. Ms. Turner stated Henderson Collegiate is the only Title I charter school ever designated the state Title I school of the year. Ms. Turner and Mr. Quigley spoke about the generosity of Mr. Sanchez and the Henderson Collegiate staff in sharing best practices and helping other schools succeed. Mr. Quigley stated that is the type of collaboration and innovation we want to see in all public schools.
- Mr. Quigley expressed his concern in the data that is being presented publicly regarding economically disadvantaged populations. He stated the data is not accurate and we need to figure out how to fix this situation working with the NC DPI folks that issue that data. Ms. Shaunda Cooper stated she hears this every renewal cycle. Mr. Machado stated he has had conversations with data and nutrition services here at NC DPI. He stated the number comes from direct certification and if a family does not apply for assistance, they will not show up on the direct certification number.
- The CSAB discussed economically disadvantaged percentage data and implored the SBE to do a deep-dive into understanding this issue and having correct data available to the public. Ms. Kakadelis suggested having the Charter Association look into how other states are handling the issue.

Motion: 12:17pm. Recess for lunch and reconvene at 1:30pm for closed session to discuss attorney client related matters.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Alex Quigley

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

Motion: 1:31pm. Enter Closed Session to discuss attorney client related matters.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Alex Quigley

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

Motion: 2:07pm. Adjourn closed session and enter open session.

Motion: Alex Quigley

Second: Sherry Reeves

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

THREE RIVERS ACADEMY ANNUAL UPDATE

- Mr. Don McQueen stated Three Rivers Academy is an “F” school and the school is desperately trying to change that. He stated there was a complete personnel change including all teachers and the principal. He stated the school has hired a new principal with substantial education experience.
- Mr. McQueen stated that three students have enrolled today bring enrollment to 89 students enrolled. He stated that he is not sure what the final ADM will work out to be.
- Mr. McQueen stated that following the assumption, he lost his partners in the management company, Mr. Johnson and Mr. Slocum. He stated that he has taken on the management of the school on his own.
- He spoke about the challenges Ms. Bazemore has posed to the school including spreading misinformation about the school. Mr. McQueen stated she is very much fixated on the school and they have spent approximately 30k in legal fees dealing with her. He stated he believes Ms. Bazemore took funds allotted for summer reading camps.
- Mr. McQueen spoke about the relocation and stated that the town of Windsor has issued a conditional use permit for a charter school. He stated the relocation bring the school back to where it was originally established in the town of Windsor.
- Mr. McQueen stated they are working to have the audit completed by the deadline at which time they will know more about the financial situation of the school. Ms. Reeves asked who the auditor is for the school. Mr. McQueen stated Darrell Keller of King’s Mountain, North Carolina.

- Ms. Reeves asked for a breakdown of the student body. He stated enrollment is 89. He stated they have reached out to the Hispanic and Native American communities. He stated they have eight Hispanic students, two white students, and the remaining are black.
- Mr. Quigley asked if the classes are combined. Mr. McQueen stated yes, except he believes 4th grade is on its own. Mr. Quigley asked when the school plans to move. Mr. McQueen stated December. Mr. Quigley asked if the school is concerned about losing students. Mr. McQueen stated there may be a temporary loss, but the school is reaching out to the Windsor community. He believes they will pick up students from the Windsor area. Mr. Quigley asked if the families know about the move. Mr. McQueen stated not until the CSAB has made a decision.
- Mr. Maimone asked if the school has considered the top-heavy upper grades and lower enrollment in the lower grades. Mr. McQueen stated that Torchlight has seen increased enrollment for eighteen straight years and believe they know strategies for improving enrollment.
- Mr. Walker asked Mr. McQueen to what he attributes the school not meeting growth and what is the plan going forward to met growth this year. He responded that teaching staff was the first thing. He continued that the school is going to use strategies that Torchlight has used to improve academics including exit tickets, improved resources, and professional development.
- Mr. Walker spoke about the difficulties Torchlight has faced in Three Rivers being the first assumption to take place.
- Mr. Quigley asked if Global Education is still the management company and Mr. McQueen is the sole partner. Mr. McQueen stated yes. Ms. Reeves stated it was confusing because the school was listed in Torchlight's capacity plan. Mr. McQueen stated yes, it is still Global Education, but he is the sole partner. He stated he should have specified that in the report.
- Mr. Quigley read the stipulations the SBE placed on the assumption and stated the CSAB is now in a difficult spot and Mr. McQueen clearly faced several challenges. Mr. Quigley stated he is sympathetic to the challenges Mr. McQueen is facing and wonders if Mr. McQueen wants to continue. Mr. McQueen stated he wants to continue and he stated Torchlight started with only 67 students and is now over 600 students.
- Ms. Reeves reviewed the academic data from last year for Three Rivers Academy. Mr. McQueen stated he takes responsibility. He stated looking back, the school took teachers from Heritage because they needed teachers quickly, and now they have stronger teachers.

- Mr. McQueen stated Ms. Dawn Holland will come on board as the administrator in three weeks.
- Mr. Maimone asked if the students are better off at Three Rivers than another school given the low proficiency. Mr. McQueen stated yes because it is not just about the test scores and they are going to improve. Mr. Maimone asked for specifics about what the school is doing to improve. Mr. McQueen stated tutoring, weekly EOG meetings with teaching staff, and the development of a data room. Mr. McQueen stated leadership did not take that on last year. He stated every single staff member is new this year except the janitor, secretary, and food service provider.
- Mr. Quigley asked for the board chair's name. Mr. McQueen stated James Montague. He stated the board chair is new.
- Mr. McQueen stated the move is about eighteen miles. He stated there is a lot of community support and the school will provide transportation. He stated the site offers better control for the school and the site is much less expensive than the current location. Ms. Reeves asked how much it will cost and how long it will take to get it ready. Mr. McQueen stated around 25k.
- Ms. Schauss stated the school projected 88 students and has drawn down about 200k. She stated they have drawn down the funds for the first allotment which needs to last about another month.
- Mr. Quigley asked for the name of the nonprofit that holds the charter. Mr. McQueen stated Three Rivers Academy.
- Mr. Quigley states he believes the move is risky, but Mr. McQueen seems to be very confident about the move. Mr. Quigley stated it becomes difficult to bring this move request to State Board and not answer to the stipulations in the assumption approval.
- Mr. McQueen stated he understands that, but the challenges of the assumption are multi-faceted and has many layers.
- Mr. Walker states he doesn't believe the stipulation of meeting growth originated from the CSAB and the board doesn't require any school to meet growth in the first year.

Motion: Recommend the relocation and ask the State Board to waive the stipulation that the school must meet growth in its first year.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Lindalyn Kakadelis

- Mr. Ford asked for more information regarding why the board is wanting to waive the SBE stipulation. Mr. Walker spoke about the challenges with the assumption process and the fact that the CSAB has never asked a school to meet growth in the first year. Mr. Walker stated the only real option seems to either close the school or waive this stipulation. Mr. Walker stated stipulations usually come from the CSAB for approval by the SBE, but this stipulation came from the SBE, and perhaps it was unrealistic for a school in this position undergoing the first assumption. Mr. Ford stated maybe the motion should require meeting growth in the second year. Mr. Walker stated he could support that.
- Mr. Quigley asked if Mr. McQueen could support that. Mr. McQueen stated yes, he will make the motion himself if the school doesn't meet growth this year.

Motion: Withdraw previous motion and recommend that the State Board approve the relocation contingent upon receipt of an Educational Certificate of Occupancy is obtained prior to moving to the new location and that Three Rivers Academy must meet growth at the end of the second year.

Motion: Steven Walker

- Mr. Maimone stated he would feel better if the proficiency level was higher. He stated he is very troubled by allowing this school to continue with Mr. McQueen having to shoulder the entire burden of the management of the school while also managing the schools currently operating and scheduled to open. Mr. Maimone stated Mr. McQueen needs to make a commitment to this school or to opening new schools, but not both.
- Ms. Reeves stated the management company knew what they were inheriting, and the local LEA way outperforms this school even in a low scoring LEA. Mr. McQueen stated that the county schools have had many years and many resources to make that proficiency.
- Ms. Turner stated she is more comfortable with allowing this school to remain open because it is open, as opposed to allowing more schools to open when Mr. McQueen is now a one-man band. She stated these are students already in school.
- Mr. Quigley stated it appears Mr. McQueen understands how this decision may impact his charter applications currently pending. Mr. McQueen stated yes. He stated he does not want any school's application to be harmed by his association.

Second: Lindalyn Kakadelis

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

NC CYBER ACADEMY MONTHLY UPDATE

- Mr. Nathan Currie addressed the board and introduced the staff members accompanying him at today's meeting.

- Mr. Maimone asked how the phone calls are handled at the school. Ms. Christina Robinson stated there may have been issues in the very beginning of the school year, but there are no phone issues.
- Ms. Kroeger asked if the revised budget is based on revised enrollment or if it is based on the original numbers. Mr. Currie stated it is based on the original numbers and that the budget is being revised based on current numbers.
- Mr. Quigley asked the EC Director to speak to the school's review and implementation of IEPs. She explained that each IEP is being reviewed to make sure the accommodations are appropriate for a virtual setting.
- Ms. Turner asked about the change to the calendar that caused parents to be concerned. Ms. Domina Blount stated that the student calendar was adjusted and so course pacing is readjusted accordingly. NCCA representatives stated they did not know it caused concern among families.
- Mr. Quigley stated that it sounds like communication is breaking down with some families. He reiterated how important communication is with families that you don't see every day because of the virtual setting. He asked what systems are in place to communicate with families and manage communication. Mr. Currie stated there are multiple platforms including the main LMS system. He stated that the transition is new to the families and staff, so everyone is adjusting to a new system.
- Mr. Ford asked at what time during the day do you get a live voice on the toll-free number. Ms. Robinson stated the toll-free number is just the enrollment line and the regular office line is operable 7:30AM to 4PM. Mr. Ford stated that his suggestion is the school has customer service available 24/7 so that students that can access the learning platform 24/7 can also access a person. Ms. Robinson stated that is something they can consider, but the school operates on normal school hours. Mr. Ford stated the school is not a traditional school, the school is a cyber academy and should get outside the traditional school ideas.
- Ms. Rita Haire asked for clarification about the phone system. Ms. Robinson clarified the system is a pre-recorded introduction and there is a live person available, but the pre-recorded introduction gives clarity about who to contact for certain situations.
- Mr. Machado stated the calls OCS is receiving are for the admin team, not the teachers, and the school needs to consider how to better communicate with families.
- Mr. Maimone asked about school performance improvement. Mr. Currie stated they have transitioned from Pearson because of school performance. He stated they are doing several things including developing a strategic plan and instructional framework and implementing new positions and new assessments.

2020 RENEWAL SCHOOLS REPORT

- Ms. Shaunda Cooper introduced the 2020 Renewal Schools Report. She reviewed the renewal guidelines approved by the SBE. Ms. Cooper explained a slide that shows the school names, date opened in EDDIE, and the current charter term.
- Ms. Cooper explained the recommended renewals for schools. She explained which schools meet the automatic ten-year guidelines.
- Mr. Walker stated that if the school qualifies for the ten-year renewal based on statute, the board has no discretion and there is no need to see the school prior to the recommendation.
- The CSAB discussed which schools need to appear. The CSAB discussed allowing each school that doesn't meet the ten-year automatic renewal the chance to fight for a ten-year renewal.
- The CSAB stated the schools that appear need to have guidelines for the presentation. The CSAB discussed no PowerPoints and a simply one-page summary of plans going forward. The CSAB discussed wanting more information on any compliance issues.
- Mr. Quigley stated the CSAB needs as much information on compliance issues as possible so the board can articulate why the school does not meet the ten-year renewal guidelines.
- Mr. Walker requested a memo from FBS regarding which schools are on financial noncompliance. He stated that information is very helpful.

Motion: Every school that does not automatically get a ten-year renewal must come before the CSAB.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Alex Quigley

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

- Ms. Reeves asked when these would need to appear. Ms. Cooper stated November and December because recommendations go to SBE in January. The CSAB stated the three-year and below recommendations get thirty-minute interviews, otherwise fifteen minutes. Mr. Walker stated the three-year renewal recommendations must have their audit in on time. The CSAB asked that low-performing schools that are also up for renewal have one single presentation.

ADJOURNMENT

- **Mr. Walker made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:53pm. Ms. Kakadelis seconded. Meeting adjourned via acclamation.**

**Minutes of the
North Carolina Charter Schools Advisory Board Meeting
October 8, 2019
NC Department of Public Instruction
State Board Room 755 – 9:00AM**

Attendance/NCCSAB	Joel Ford - <i>absent</i> Bruce Friend Joseph Maimone – <i>non-voting member</i> Sherry Reeves Cheryl Turner Lynn Kroeger	Alex Quigley Jeannette Butterworth - <i>absent</i> Steven Walker Heather Vuncannon Lindalyn Kakadelis - <i>absent</i> Rita Haire – <i>non-voting;</i> <i>awaiting appointment</i> <i>confirmation</i>
Attendance/SBE/DPI	<i>Office of Charter Schools</i> Dave Machado, Director Ashley Baquero, Consultant Danielle Allen, Consultant Jay Whalen, Consultant Joseph Letterio Maimone, Consultant Kebbler Williams, Consultant	<i>Attorney General</i> Stephanie Lloyd Tiffany Lucas <i>SBE Attorney</i> Eric Snider

CALL TO ORDER

- The North Carolina Charter School Advisory Board (CSAB) meeting was called to order at 9:00am by Chairman Alex Quigley who read the Ethics Statement and CSAB Mission Statement. Mr. Quigley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2019 CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION FULL INTERVIEWS

- Dr. Danielle Allen, Office of Charter Schools (OCS) Consultant, gave an overview of the full interview process. She stated the full interview is an opportunity up to one hour. She outlined the full interview process. She stated that on September 11th three schools were notified that their applications have been moved forward for full interviews. Dr. Allen reminded the CSAB that the OCS needs final rubrics by the end of the day. Mr. Quigley asked that the board have some time after each applicant to fill out the rubric scores.

Davis Academy Chadbourn

- Dr. Allen introduced the applicant. She stated the school is proposing to locate in Columbus County. She explained the proposed enrollment and grade levels. She stated at capacity the school would serve grades K-8 with 540 students. She stated there was an LEA impact statement submitted. She stated this is not a repeat applicant. This applicant has requested acceleration. She stated the applicant received assistance from and paid fees to Leaders Building Leaders.
- Ms. Yolanda Davis introduced herself as Board Chair. Accompanying board members introduced themselves and spoke briefly regarding their professional experience.
- Mr. Walker stated the CSAB needs an update on the facility. Ms. Davis stated the city would allow a due diligence period starting next Monday if the applicant is moved forward. She stated there are two contingency plans if the building requires major renovations. She stated one contingency is a “pod” that is on the same site. She stated a second contingency is a day care owner that would lease classroom space to the school.
- Ms. Davis spoke about the different prices for each facility option. Mr. Walker asked if the number one choice is the old LEA building. Ms. Davis stated yes. Mr. Walker asked if the board has been in the building. Ms. Davis stated the city has not allowed the board in the building yet. Mr. Walker asked how far the alternative space is from the LEA building. She stated less than three miles. Ms. Reeves asked where the daycare will go if the applicant’s school moves into that facility. Ms. Davis stated the daycare has another location with room to grow. Ms. Turner asked for more information regarding the space available in the daycare location. Ms. Davis said there would be ten total classrooms in that space. She stated at 23 students per classroom, they would need eight classrooms so the school would have two additional classrooms. She stated there is office space in addition to the classroom space and there is room to grow on that property.
- Ms. Kroeger asked about the size of the pods on the other site option. Ms. Davis stated typically 6-8 classrooms in a pod.
- Ms. Reeves asked how long the due diligence period is for the LEA facility. Ms. Davis stated she has asked for a thirty-day due diligence period. She stated she has a 50k budget for renovations/repairs.
- Mr. Maimone stated he would suggest that if the board approves this applicant, it would need to be contingent on facility updates.

- Ms. Turner asked where the money is coming from for the renovations. Ms. Davis stated personal financing she has been approved for.
- Ms. Vuncannon asked where the seed money would come from to get the classrooms ready. Ms. Davis spoke about what is available in the facilities and searching for reasonably priced supplies.
- Mr. Maimone asked how confident Ms. Davis is that the LEA will be supportive of allowing this lease given the LEA impact statement. Ms. Davis stated it appears to be mixed support. Ms. Turner asked if worst case scenario the board could use the daycare facility. Ms. Davis stated yes.
- Mr. Maimone stated he feels the board would need to see something more concrete before the SBE's final approval.
- Mr. Walker asked how the board will integrate basic curriculum (math, English, etc.) with the equity values expressed in the application. Ms. Davis stated the school will use a thematic approach and character education based on the acronym PRIDE. She stated the theme would be centered around a nine-week unit of study such as the American Dream. She spoke about teacher education in restorative circles.
- Ms. Turner stated she has concerns regarding enrollment because the previous LEA school was closed due to low enrollment. Ms. Davis stated low enrollment resulted from taking away the fifth grade and issues at the site including staff turnover. She stated the community is excited and has sought them out to open a new school. She stated the students remaining are those that have no choice due to financial limitations or other limitations to enroll in another school. She spoke about community engagement the board has conducted. She stated the board has been on the radio several times and involved in several community events.
- She stated the board has looked at the surrounding schools the applicant could pull from to ensure enrollment. Ms. Turner asked for the break-even number. Ms. Davis stated 170.
- Ms. Reeves asked for clarity regarding the LEA impact statement. Ms. Davis stated she is not sure from where the LEA impact statement is drawing data because it does not match the research the board has conducted. Ms. Davis spoke about the research the board has conducted on enrollment figures from surrounding LEAs.
- Mr. Bruce Friend asked for more information regarding the community surveys included in the appendix. He stated it doesn't appear the responses are from the nearby community. Ms. Davis stated she is confident surveys are from the community.

- Mr. Friend asked if the board is confident they can get at least 225 in the pipeline to ensure their enrollment projections. Ms. Davis stated they are doing everything they can to get to that number.
- Ms. Turner asked about transportation plans. Ms. Davis stated the school plans to have transportation through cluster stops.
- Ms. Turner asked for more information about culturally responsive teaching if the school has many cultures represented. Ms. Davis stated it is more about what is happening in the students' communities and cultures present day as opposed to differences between backgrounds.
- Mr. Quigley asked if the school leader is here. Ms. Davis stated she was unavailable because she just started an interim position at an alternative school in New Jersey. Mr. Quigley stated he understands that, but a lot of the application references her experience and she will be arguably the most important factor going forward. He asked if Ms. Davis plans to work at the school. She stated no. Mr. Quigley asked if anyone else on the board plans to work at the school. Ms. Davis stated no. Mr. Quigley stated it would not be such a big deal if this applicant wasn't acceleration. Ms. Davis stated the proposed principal would attend future RTO sessions.
- Mr. Friend asked if the school leader has connections to the community. Ms. Davis stated she does not live there but grew up there with Ms. Davis. Mr. Friend stated the salary in the budget is considerably less than what a principal in New Jersey would make. Ms. Davis stated yes, she would take a considerable cut because she is passionate about the area.
- Mr. Maimone stated he is very impressed with the backgrounds of the board members and wants to hear from the other members about why this school should exist. A board member spoke about the school to prison pipeline and giving schools the opportunity to use less punitive options that can correct relationships and keep them in school. He spoke about the restorative justice clinic he operates at Campbell Law School. Another board member spoke about equity and the opportunity for all students to have a high-quality education. The final board member spoke about the board's educational plan and the fact that this is not a one-person engine. He spoke about his experience in curriculum design and culturally responsive teaching and learning.
- Ms. Turner stated this is an extremely impressive board and feels the organization is compelling. She stated there will be challenges to pull this off by July, but she feels the board knows how to work hard and she will support this application.

- Mr. Walker agreed and Ms. Kroeger stated the answers to the CSAB’s questions were spot-on. Ms. Vuncannon stated that the board mentioned change-agents and that takes risk-takers. Mr. Friend stated he would echo what he is hearing about the board, but he has concerns about the numbers and one of the educational goals for the first year. He also has concerns about the proposed principal not being here. He stated he also recognizes that many schools don’t have a principal at this point. Ms. Reeves stated the application was refreshing to read and has a very clear vision. She stated she is concerned about the facility not being locked-down and that is a requirement of acceleration. She also thinks it will be very difficult to get 180 6th to 8th graders. Mr. Maimone stated the facility concerns are legitimate but can be alleviated with contingencies for locking down a signed lease agreement by November. Mr. Walker stated the board should provide a signed lease by the next CSAB meeting.
- Mr. Quigley stated he is going to support the application but would like some more information before going before the State Board of Education (SBE) to argue for approval. He stated he would like to speak to the principal. Mr. Quigley stated accelerated requests before the SBE require more detail than other applications. He stated he also has some concerns that none of the board members live in Columbus County. Ms. Davis stated two board members live in Columbus County, but were unavailable today.

Motion: The CSAB recommends the SBE approve Davis Academy Chadbourn on an accelerated timeline.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Bruce Friend

Vote: Unanimous

Passed **Failed**

New Generation Charter Academy

- Dr. Allen introduced the applicant. She stated the school is proposing to locate in Edgecombe County. She explained the proposed enrollment and grade levels. She stated at capacity the school would serve grades K-8 with 396 students. She stated there was not an LEA impact statement submitted. She stated this is not a repeat applicant. This applicant has requested acceleration. She stated they are partnered with Torchlight Academy Schools and no fee was provided.
- The board members introduced themselves and spoke about their passion for the charter school application.
- Ms. Turner asked if the facility has an Educational Certificate of Occupancy. A board member stated they are waiting on that, but the inspection has been completed and passed, and insurance received for the building. Another board member stated that the board completed a walk-through of the building this week. He stated the floors, walls, rooms, and

restrooms were in good structural status. He stated it was in better condition than the board expected. He stated the building is ready for use.

- Ms. Kroeger stated the budget is really tight and could be a problem if enrollment is not met.
- Mr. Quigley stated he would like to hear more information about the need required for an acceleration applicant. He stated the application did not speak to need very well. He stated schools have been closed in the area for low enrollment. A board member stated that eleven of fourteen Edgecombe schools are below proficiency and that students do not have an opportunity for successful learning. She stated a lot of children are put out of classrooms for behavior issues.
- Mr. Walker asked how far the location is from the Nash County border. A board member stated a few miles. Ms. Turner asked how far the school would be from Rocky Mount Prep. A board member stated she believes about eight miles.
- The CSAB questioned the board regarding need and demand in the community. Board members spoke about parents in the community that want a change in the educational options. The CSAB expressed concern because a charter school was closed in Nash County last year because of low enrollment.
- Ms. Reeves asked for more information about the educational plan and how all the various components will come together cohesively. A board member stated active-based learning will be used in the classroom. She continued that students will learn the same lesson in different ways. Ms. Reeves asked how the teachers will receive professional development and if the EMO will provide the professional development. A board member stated eighteen days professional development will take place with teachers and the board will arrange that training.
- Ms. Turner asked what the board is expecting from the EMO. A board member stated they are a vendor and will help with things such as policies. CSAB members expressed concern that a lot of money is going to the management company and there should be more expected of the management company. The board spoke about the reputation and experience of Torchlight. A board member stated the EMO has offered 50k to assist with startup.
- Mr. Quigley stated he has concerns about the educational plan, but he can't get past the fact that the need doesn't appear to be there. CSAB members expressed concern about being able to open a school in an area where the CSAB closed a school just last year. Ms. Reeves stated there are several instances of low enrollment the CSAB has to address today so this is a serious issue. Mr. Walker stated it would be one thing if the board had significant data on need.
- Mr. Quigley expressed concern about the survey data received from all applicants and wondered if OCS could develop something that helps the CSAB receive authentic survey data.

- A board member stated the previous school that existed in the facility closed five years ago and there have been children birthed since that time that need school options. Mr. Quigley stated that is possible, but from a data standpoint that assumption doesn't stand up to acceleration requirements. Mr. Quigley reminded the CSAB that only one of fourteen schools that opened this year met its original enrollment target. Mr. Quigley stated more parents are homeschooling and there are more charter schools and districts have more magnet programs attracting parents, so it is a competitive environment.
- A board member stated that in this community, the schools are "D" or "F" schools and the board knows the demand in the community. Mr. Quigley stated he doesn't doubt they are involved in the community and doesn't doubt the board's passion.
- The CSAB discussed the enrollment challenges facing charter schools and that the need is not apparent in this application. The CSAB discussed the high bar required for an accelerated application.

Motion: The CSAB moves that New Generation Charter Academy is not moved forward for acceleration.

Motion: Cheryl Turner

Second: Heather Vuncannon

Vote: Unanimous

Passed **Failed**

Old Main STREAM Academy

- Dr. Allen introduced the applicant. She stated the school is proposing to locate in Robeson County. She explained the proposed enrollment and grade levels. She stated at capacity the school would serve grades K-8 with 440 students. She stated there was not an LEA impact statement submitted. She stated this is a repeat applicant that received a clarification interview last year. This applicant has requested acceleration. She stated they have not received third party assistance and do not plan on partnering with an EMO/CMO.
- Dr. Rosemary Townsend introduced herself as the Board Chair. Board members introduced themselves and spoke briefly about their professional backgrounds. Dr. Townsend spoke about the two board members that were unable to attend. She stated the board added an attorney board member based on advice from CSAB.
- Ms. Reeves asked for facility status. Ms. Kroeger would like more information about enrollment projections and budget.
- Dr. Townsend stated two facilities have been identified. She stated one is under construction and the other is a leased facility available in June. Dr. Townsend spoke about budget revisions based on facility options. She stated the board put out an interest survey on

Facebook which provided 182 student names and grades. Dr. Townsend stated budget adjustments were made to make 85% of that number as an enrollment projection. She continued to speak about the facility and stated the capacity is 450 students. Ms. Reeves asked if the facility has outfitted restrooms and kitchen. Dr. Townsend stated yes, and the board has contacted a vendor to bring lunch to the facility. Dr. Townsend stated she has a partnership with the Boys and Girls Club, and it provides a large donation from Campbell's Soup to assist with lunch. Another board member spoke about working with DPI to receive assistance with a lunch program. CSAB members spoke about the long and detailed process the National School Lunch Program requires and that the board would need to budget for school meals before the National School Lunch Program is approved.

- Mr. Walker asked if they have a signed lease. Dr. Townsend stated yes, the lease is for the church facility, but the children's home is the number one choice. Mr. Walker clarified that the board has a signed lease that guarantees the facility will be available by June. Dr. Townsend stated yes. Ms. Turner told the board they need to verify the certificate of occupancy will be for educational use.
- Mr. Walker asked about the benefits package referenced in the application. Dr. Townsend stated they have several retired educators that have expressed interest in teaching in the school, so the staff members would have options for benefits. Dr. Townsend stated it is almost like a flex account. Ms. Turner asked about non-retired staff members and Dr. Townsend stated they would be able to use the money to find benefits.
- Ms. Kroeger asked about 35k teacher salaries and whether that salary is too low to attract teachers. Dr. Townsend stated the board will look at that down the road and think about bonuses and that the salary is comparable to the local charter schools.
- Mr. Walker asked what the break-even number is to make the budget work. Dr. Townsend stated around 200. Mr. Walker stated the budget is tight. Dr. Townsend stated there are available funds in some of the line items because the board had to make estimates for some line items like electricity.
- Mr. Quigley asked why the board budgeted 90k for instructional materials. She stated because she knew the board would need some cushion in some areas and it would be nice to give the students the instructional materials the board envisions.
- Mr. Friend asked if the targeted population was the native population. Dr. Townsend stated the school is offered to all students. Mr. Friend asked if the geography allows for that. Dr. Townsend stated yes. She spoke about over-crowding in surrounding schools.

- Mr. Friend expressed concerns about the possible Exceptional Children (EC) population, based on the LEA's percentage of EC students, and the number of EC staff in the budget. The board stated they would also contract for services needed.
- Ms. Reeves stated the mission speaks directly to the indigenous population. She wonders how the school will overcome other non-indigenous populations feeling like the school is not designed for their students. A board member stated the school is an educational choice and can select to participate and the curriculum is still relevant to non-indigenous populations.
- Mr. Quigley asked for clarity on the educational plan because there is a lot going on in the plan including STREAM and RED pedagogy. A board member stated RED pedagogy is place-based culturally-responsive curriculum. She stated RED pedagogy is about knowing the students and their backgrounds. She stated for example, incorporating the Lumber River into the curriculum. Ms. Turner asked how you make the transition from that to the test which will not be place-based. A board member stated that comes down to teaching strategies. Another board member spoke about the STREAM curriculum which she stated is the core curriculum. Board members spoke about the curriculum and educational plan of the school.
- A board member spoke about the low proficiency of the indigenous populations and how culturally responsive teaching can reach those students. Ms. Vuncannon asked how much professional development will take place to make sure the curriculum is being implemented with fidelity. A board member stated that five days are dedicated to RED pedagogy and beyond that there is a professional development calendar. She stated the board has also submitted a grant for assistance.
- Mr. Quigley asked if Ms. Olivia Oxendine has engaged with the board and if she is supportive of the school. A board member stated yes.
- Mr. Quigley asked if there are any non-educators on the board. Dr. Townsend stated yes, the two that were unable to attend today. Dr. Townsend spoke about the University of Pembroke partnership.
- Mr. Quigley asked if there is a letter of support from Ms. Oxendine. A board member stated no, but the board has one from the School of Education. The CSAB expressed concerns about the school being able to integrate non-indigenous populations. The board clarified what "indigenous practitioner" is the reference in the application and that it doesn't mean only indigenous populations.

- Mr. Quigley and Mr. Walker expressed mixed feelings about this application. Mr. Walker expressed concerns about being able to explain the school’s curriculum to prospective families.
- Ms. Turner stated that nobody else is doing this and she believes that is important. She stated this school is different and the community will rally around it because they will get it. Mr. Friend stated he doesn’t disagree with Ms. Turner, but he still has some reservations about reaching a diverse population and the budget.
- Mr. Quigley stated that families will go to the best school, but you can’t be the best school in year one. He stated in year one the school is an unknown.
- Ms. Reeves stated that questions she had last year about the educational plan were not clarified for her this year. She stated that the facility has not been locked down and the county has a declining population. Ms. Reeves continued that the goals were not measurable and there are also operational issues. She stated that to her, it does not meet the requirements of acceleration.
- A board member spoke about the poor educational opportunities available in Robeson County and that parents are begging for greater options.
- Mr. Quigley stated that for acceleration the application needs to be airtight. Mr. Quigley stated he is going to continue to belabor the enrollment challenges charter schools are facing as evidenced by this year’s new schools.

Motion: The CSAB recommends the SBE approve Old Main STREAM Academy on an accelerated timeline.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Cheryl Turner

Vote: Cheryl Turner, Lynn Kroeger, Heather Vuncannon, Steven Walker

Opposed: Alex Quigley, Sherry Reeves, Bruce Friend

Passed **Failed**

The CSAB recessed for lunch at 12:50pm and reconvened at 1:40pm.

ESSIE MAE KISER FOXX

- Mr. Quigley asked for an update on how things are going since last month’s CSAB meeting. Mrs. Tina Wallace, Board Chair, stated the board has requested assistance from Mr. Darius Little, Business Consultant. Mr. Little introduced himself and spoke about the work he is doing with the board.

- Mr. Quigley asked for the enrollment number as of today. Mrs. Wallace stated 123. Mr. Walker asked where they will come up with the 15k loss outlined in the budget. Mrs. Wallace stated they are launching fundraisers and a capital funds campaign. She stated last year the board was awarded 25k in grant money.
- Mr. Walker asked how many administrative staff are on payroll. Mrs. Wallace stated the Principal, Director of Operations, and two clerical staff. Mrs. Wallace stated the enrollment director is part of the clerical team.
- Ms. Turner asked if the federal expenses are written in the budget. Ms. Turner stated she doesn't see anything under federal expenses for 060. She asked where is the other 20k for the EC salary. The board was unable to answer that question. Mr. Walker asked how many EC students the school currently identified. Mrs. Wallace stated eight students with another eleven students that may be eligible.
- Ms. Alexis Schauss, NC DPI School Business, stated the school has been capped at 154k which is how much they have drawn down. Ms. Schauss stated the ADM came in at 111, which means they are about on budget. Ms. Schauss stated the school will get their 68% in about three weeks. Ms. Schauss stated that does not include EC funding. Ms. Schauss stated the estimated budget is about 624k.
- Mr. Walker and Ms. Turner stated the school needs to continue to work on the budget and the CSAB and OCS will keep tabs on the school's progress. Mr. Machado suggested the board provide monthly budget reports to OCS.
- Mr. Quigley asked if the new principal, Mr. Fisher, feels the board is too involved in the day to day operations. Mr. Fisher stated he has a firm grasp on the day to day operations and his focus is on the scholars.
- Mr. Quigley stated the CSAB will need monthly budget reports (projected to actual) and anything else OCS requests. Mrs. Wallace and Mr. Little stated that would be provided.

LOW ENROLLMENT PRESENTATIONS

Tillery Charter Academy

- Representatives with the school, including board and staff members, introduced themselves. Mr. Quigley asked for an update on enrollment. The Board Chair, Ms. Chrissy Fisher, stated the school is rural and remote. She spoke about active recruitment and the school has picked up three new students today. She stated that puts the school at 66 enrolled. She stated enrollment efforts are continuing.
- Mr. Quigley asked what the projection was in the CSADM system. Ms. Fisher stated 144. Mr. Quigley stated that is a significant difference, but thankfully the school has not drawn down everything.

- Ms. Schauss stated the school has drawn down significant funds and will be about 85k in the hole for the second draw down. She stated that will put the second installment down to 50k or less which will have to last until the end of February. She stated they have drawn down a total of 196k. She stated the allotment was provided based on 125 because of the concerns about enrollment before School Business had actual ADM. Ms. Schauss stated the ADM is 60.
- Mr. Quigley asked how staffing has changed based on the low enrollment. Mr. Rodriguez, consultant for the school, stated the school was very careful about hiring. Mr. Rodriguez stated there are two kindergarten teachers, one first grade teacher, and one second grade teacher. He stated that staffing is only 53% of the budget. Mr. Rodriguez stated the school also has the NC ACCESS grant. He stated they plan on spending about 180k of grant money in the budget this year.
- Mr. Whalen spoke about the NC ACCESS grant. Mr. Whalen stated the school has been notified that the school is out of compliance with state law with fewer than 80 students. Mr. Whalen stated that if the school is out of compliance, it is not eligible for reimbursement. Mr. Whalen continued that even if the school meets the 80-minimum enrollment, the grant may be reviewed because it would present a significant difference to the submitted application.
- Mr. Rodriguez stated several funds are not accounted for in the budget because they have not received those funds such as Title I and Title II. Mr. Rodriguez stated they are also pulling enrollment from multiple counties. Ms. Reeves asked that if we assume the school does not get the 180k from the NC ACCESS grant will the school be able to make it through the year financially.
- Mr. Eddie Goodall, consultant for the school, stated that it was stated in the application multiple times that the school is in a geographically remote area. He stated that the school currently has one out of fourteen students in Montgomery County. He spoke about his belief that the school meets the 80-minimum enrollment exception. He stated they didn't want to put that in the application because it would understate what they believed they could obtain for enrollment.
- Mr. Rodriguez stated the school expected to get more than 80 students, but the school realized that students from further distances decided to opt-out because of the distance.
- Mr. Quigley asked what the plan is if the NC ACCESS grant money is not available. Mr. Rodriguez spoke about budget adjustments. He stated there would be no staff cuts.

Motion: 2:21pm. To move into closed session to discuss attorney client related issues.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Sherry Reeves

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

Motion: 2:30pm. Adjourn closed session and enter open session.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Sherry Reeves

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

- Mr. Quigley stated that OCS will reach out to the school for follow-up. Mr. Quigley stated the CSAB is taking the amendment request under advisement but will not take action today.

BLUE-GREEN Academy

- Ms. Turner recused herself from all discussion and voting on this matter.
- Ms. Deena DeShazor introduced herself as Head of School. She introduced Ms. Daye Brake as Operations Director. Ms. DeShazor and Ms. Brake explained the issues the school faced with the facility. She stated that the school is now in the building, but it took until the second week of school. She stated that many parents pulled out because of the delays.
- Ms. DeShazor stated that currently have 54 in the headcount and as far as day 20 is concerned, the school had 57.
- Ms. Schauss stated there were issues with the Principal's Monthly Report so there is no official ADM at this time. She stated they were allotted based on 100 students which came to about 183k. She stated the allotment has been dropped to 100k of which the school has drawn down about 72k.
- Mr. Quigley asked if the budget in the presentation is based on new enrollment. Ms. Brake stated it is based on 57 students.
- Ms. Reeves asked for grade break-down. Ms. Brake stated about evenly split between 5th and 6th grades. Ms. Brake stated there are 31 5th graders and 25 6th graders. Mr. Quigley asked if the school anticipates any students leaving. Ms. Brake stated no.
- Mr. Quigley asked if this school poses any more risk than the former school that appeared. Ms. Schauss stated this school appears to be more cognizant of making budget adjustments based on low enrollment, so less of a risk fiscally. She also stated that any school with low enrollment by definition poses a financial risk.
- Ms. Reeves asked if the school has any EC students. Ms. DeShazor stated yes, about eight students. Mr. Quigley asked who provides the EC instruction. Ms. Brake stated that the EC teacher is teaching those students, but the position may be cut and the EC services will be contracted with an external provider. Ms. DeShazor stated that she would handle all EC services. Mr. Quigley asked if one of the two teachers is an EC teacher. Ms. Brake stated yes. Mr. Quigley asked if they are both teaching as well. They both responded yes.

- Mr. Quigley stated the CSAB will communicate through the OCS to keep up to date with the school.

Monroe Charter Academy

- Mr. Jim Stegall, Vice Chair, introduced himself. He stated that the school had 74 students show up when they expected 129 who had enrolled. He stated that out of the 55 families that did not show up, 50 of those were white students. He stated that the county is very divided racially. He stated they worked very hard to create a diverse school population but were disappointed when those families did not show up. He stated they tried to find out more information regarding why the families did not show up, but they did not get much feedback. He stated that ADM is 78 and the budget has been adjusted to reflect that.
- Mr. Quigley asked for budget changes. Mr. Stegall stated that the school was very conservative with hiring, so they did not have to cut any positions. He stated Goodall Consulting reduced its fee and so did some vendors. He stated the transportation and meals programs have not been cut.
- Ms. Schauss reported on the school's financial position. She stated the ADM projection was 144 and the allotment was based on that. She stated the school is in the hole about 15k that could be made up with budget cuts.
- Mr. Rodriguez spoke more to the adjusted budget. He stated they have spent about 157k. Ms. Kroeger asked how many staff are there currently. The principal reported staffing numbers – five teachers; 3 part-time teachers; EC coordinator; office manager; principal.
- Mr. Quigley stated they are the closest to the statutory minimum and they need to continue to increase enrollment. He stated OCS will reach out with any further feedback or requests.

NC ACCESS REVISIONS

- Mr. Whalen stated the NC ACCESS team would like to share some good news. He stated the program was awarded an additional \$10M in federal grant money. Mr. Whalen spoke about the grant program and plans for the five years of the program. He spoke about the ACCESS Fellowship program.
- Mr. Whalen stated updates to the application and rubric were presented to the CSAB last month. Mr. Whalen stated the team would like to revise eligibility criteria. He stated the team has added two additional avenues for eligibility. He stated these additional avenues would add more schools to the possible pool of applicants.

Motion: The CSAB recommends the SBE approve the revised eligibility criteria for the NC ACCESS program.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Sherry Reeves

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

- Mr. Maimone asked how many additional schools would be eligible under these revisions. Mr. Whalen stated 23.
- Mr. Maimone asked if there is any concern that the total amount of the federal grant will not be used. Mr. Whalen stated they don't have concerns about that, and the team knew that expansion and replication would be the most difficult application categories.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION – CSAB MEETING ADMIN

- Mr. Machado stated the next meeting is November 12th and 13th following the Veteran's Day holiday.
- Mr. Machado gave an overview of recent SBE items, as well as OCS updates. He stated next week is the annual Charter Schools Leadership Institute.
- Mr. Machado stated that OCS would like to put Essie Mae Kiser Foxx on governance noncompliance. CSAB members voiced agreement.
- Mr. Machado stated OCS would like to bring a Charter School Teacher of the Year Advisor to the board. CSAB members voiced agreement.

ADJOURNMENT

- **Mr. Walker made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:11pm. Meeting adjourned via acclamation.**