

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

Attendance/NCCSAB	Joel Ford – <i>via conference line</i> Bruce Friend Joseph Maimone (non-voting) Sherry Reeves Cheryl Turner Lynn Kroeger	Alex Quigley Jeannette Butterworth Steven Walker Heather Vuncannon Lindalyn Kakadelis Rita Haire
Attendance/SBE/DPI	<i>Office of Charter Schools</i>  Dave Machado, Director Ashley Baquero, Consultant Shaunda Cooper, Consultant Claire Porter, Consultant Kebbler Williams, Consultant Jay Whalen, Consultant Barbara O’Neal, Consultant Joseph Letterio Maimone, Consultant	<i>Attorney General</i>  <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 Chair Alex Quigley who read the Ethics Statement and CSAB Mission Statement. Mr. Quigley led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Mr. Quigley recused himself from discussion and voting on all Durham County renewal schools.

**Motion: To approve the November 2019 meeting minutes.**

**Motion: Sherry Reeves**

**Second: Lynn Kroeger**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**

**Failed**

**Motion: To approve the December 2019 CSAB meeting agenda.**

**Motion: Steven Walker**

**Second: Lindalyn Kakadelis**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

**2020 RENEWAL SCHOOL VOTES**

- Ms. Shaunda Cooper, Office of Charter Schools (OCS) Consultant, stated that the CSAB will make votes on the renewal terms for each charter expiring in 2020.

**Motion: The CSAB moves that Excelsior Classical Academy be granted a ten-year renewal.**

**Motion: Steven Walker**

**Second: Cheryl Turner**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

**Motion: The CSAB moves that Henderson Collegiate be granted a ten-year renewal.**

**Motion: Steven Walker**

**Second: Heather Vuncannon**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

**Motion: The CSAB moves that Lake Lure Classical Academy be granted a ten-year renewal.**

**Motion: Steven Walker**

**Second: Jeannette Butterworth**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

**Motion: The CSAB moves that Northeast Academy of Aero Technology and Advanced Sciences be granted a ten-year renewal.**

**Motion: Steven Walker**

**Second: Heather Vuncannon**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

**Motion: The CSAB moves that Winterville Charter Academy be granted a ten-year renewal.**

**Motion: Steven Walker**

**Second: Sherry Reeves**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

- Mr. Walker asked OCS staff for an update on the Mountain Island Charter School compliance issues. Ms. Cooper stated that she conferred with the Department of Public

Instruction (DPI) Accountability division and was informed the school had multiple years of compliance issues stemming from the number of Exceptional Children (EC) tested.

**Motion: The CSAB moves that Mountain Island Charter School be granted a seven-year renewal.**

**Motion: Steven Walker**

**Second: Lindalyn Kakadelis**

- Mr. Quigley stated that the testing compliance issue may be problematic, but the real concern is a pattern of compliance issues including testing and lottery issues. He stated that is why he is supporting the motion for a seven-year renewal term. He stated that multiple mistakes become a pattern that becomes a problem.

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**

**Failed**

- Mr. Walker stated that Charlotte Lab School has had some financial issues but seems to be on the upswing. CSAB members stated the discussion last month fluctuated between a five- and seven-year renewal.

**Motion: The CSAB moves that Charlotte Lab School be granted a seven-year renewal.**

**Motion: Steven Walker**

- Mr. Ford asked why the seven rather than the recommended five-year renewal term. Mr. Walker stated the school is making a lot of progress resolving financial issues.
- Ms. Leigh Ann Kerr, Assistant Director of School Business, stated the school has several financial concerns which she explained. She stated there were multiple short-term operating loans. She stated the 2019 audit was received in a timely manner and the unassigned government fund balance had increased to a positive fund balance. She stated revenues exceeded expenditures and the audit reported that several short-term loans have been repaid.
- Board members discussed improvements the school has made over the last few years. Mr. Quigley stated he has no major concerns with this school and believes they will make the progress needed to receive a ten-year renewal next time around.

**Second: Cheryl Turner**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**

**Failed**

- Mr. Quigley is recused from Kestrel Heights School renewal discussion and vote.
- Mr. Walker stated the school has made significant progress since the closing of the high school.

- Ms. Reeves confirmed that the Office of Charter Schools recommended a five-year renewal. Mr. Walker stated he believes with the exception of the average daily membership (ADM) issue, they would probably qualify for a ten-year by statute.
- Board members discussed the items previously discussed regarding the school. Ms. Kakadelis stated the DPI memo stated there were no financial issues. Dr. Tracy, Kestrel Height's Principal, stated all compliance issues have been resolved.

**Motion: The CSAB moves that Kestrel Heights School be granted a ten-year renewal.**

**Motion: Steven Walker**

**Second: Bruce Friend**

**Recused: Alex Quigley**

**Opposed: Sherry Reeves and Jeannette Butterworth**

**Vote: Steven Walker, Bruce Friend, Cheryl Turner, Lynn Kroeger, Heather Vuncannon, Lindalyn Kakadelis, Rita Haire, Joel Ford**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

- Mr. Walker discussed the academic data and compliance notes regarding Piedmont Classical High School. He stated his main concern is how much the academic scores dropped last year.

**Motion: The CSAB moves that Piedmont Classical High School be granted a five-year renewal.**

**Motion: Steven Walker**

**Second: Sherry Reeves**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

**Motion: The CSAB moves that PreEminent Charter be granted a seven-year renewal.**

**Motion: Steven Walker**

- Board members discussed the significant academic improvement the school has made over the last several years.

**Second: Sherry Reeves**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

- Ms. Kerr stated the audit has been received for Queen City STEM and the financial concerns have been resolved.

**Motion: The CSAB moves that Queen City STEM School be granted a seven-year renewal.**

**Motion: Steven Walker**

**Second: Lynn Kroeger**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

- Ms. Turner suggested the school make sure it conducts its teacher observations going forward.

**Motion: The CSAB moves that Shining Rock Classical Academy CFA be granted a seven-year renewal.**

**Motion: Steven Walker**

**Second: Lindalyn Kakadelis**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

- Mr. Walker discussed the academic data on Youngsville Academy. Ms. Cooper stated the beginning teacher support (BTS) compliance issue has been resolved.

**Motion: The CSAB moves that Youngsville Academy be granted a seven-year renewal.**

**Motion: Steven Walker**

**Second: Lynn Kroeger**

- Mr. Joseph Maimone asked what keeps them from a ten-year renewal term. Mr. Quigley stated the academic data.

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

- Mr. Quigley and Ms. Turner are recused from discussion and voting on KIPP Durham.
- Ms. Kerr stated the audit has been received and a 12k deficit has been resolved so there are no financial concerns. She stated the finding in the audit is really for the charter holder, KIPP ENC, but does not apply to KIPP Durham specifically.

**Motion: The CSAB moves that KIPP Durham be granted a seven-year renewal.**

**Motion: Steven Walker**

**Second: Lindalyn Kakadelis**

**Recused: Cheryl Turner and Alex Quigley**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

- Mr. Quigley is recused from discussion and voting on PAVE SE Raleigh Charter School. Mr. Walker discussed the school's academic data and believes five-years seems like a good option.

**Motion: The CSAB moves that PAVE SE Raleigh Charter School be granted a five-year renewal.**

**Motion: Steven Walker**

**Recused: Alex Quigley**

**Second: Heather Vuncannon**

**Vote: Unanimous**

Passed

Failed

**Motion: The CSAB moves that Rocky Mount Preparatory be granted a three-year renewal.**

**Motion: Steven Walker**

**Second: Lindalyn Kakadelis**

- The board discussed how many three-year renewal terms this school has previously received. The board believes they are coming off their third three-year renewal. Ms. Kakadelis and Ms. Cooper spoke about the fact the school has changed leadership.
- Mr. Quigley stated that the BTS system is almost designed to find compliance issues. He stated it is almost impossible to do it correctly and it dissuades schools from reaching out for help. He stated he wants the board to focus on more serious compliance issues. Ms. Cooper stated that all schools are notified of any compliance issues and given the chance to rectify prior to the CSAB hearing any issues.
- Ms. Turner stated the school has been opened for twenty or so years, so they are going to need to make it work this time around. Mr. Quigley expressed confidence in the school leader. He stated the thing they need to work on is academics. He stated they are in a good financial position.

**Vote: Unanimous**

Passed

Failed

**Motion: The CSAB moves that VERITAS Community School be granted a five-year renewal.**

**Motion: Steven Walker**

**Second: Heather Vuncannon**

- Ms. Reeves asked for an update on ADM. Ms. Cooper stated the ADM has remained the same. Mr. Quigley stated the issue with the BTS compliance is that the school refused to work with the program. The board stated that is not an option and is not the type of BTS compliance error the board referred to earlier.

**Motion: Withdrawal the previous motion and make a new motion. The CSAB moves that VERITAS Community School be granted a three-year renewal.**

**Motion: Steven Walker**

**Second: Sherry Reeves**

**Vote: Unanimous**

Passed

Failed

- Mr. Walker stated Wilmington Preparatory Academy is trending up in growth but has not been comparable to the local education agency (LEA).

**Motion: The CSAB moves that Wilmington Preparatory Academy be granted a five-year renewal.**

**Motion: Steven Walker**  
**Second: Sherry Reeves**

- Ms. Kerr stated the school is lean, but there are no financial concerns.

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

- Ms. Reeves and Mr. Friend are both recused from discussion and voting on Ignite Innovation Academy Pitt.
- Mr. Walker reviewed the academic data including three years of not meeting growth and being an “F” school. He stated the enrollment has dropped. He stated he doesn’t seem like this school will make it. He stated the school is far below the LEA in student proficiency. He stated the application seemed like a good idea, but the implementation clearly has not worked. Ms. Turner stated that when the CSAB approved the application, the school stated it would partner with East Carolina University and that clearly did not happen. Mr. Walker continued that there are also major compliance and financial issues.

**Motion: The CSAB moves that Ignite Innovation Academy Pitt be nonrenewed.**

**Motion: Steven Walker**

**Second: Lindalyn Kakadelis**

**Recused: Bruce Friend and Sherry Reeves**

- Mr. Maimone asked for the ADM in terms of displacement. Board members stated 171. Mr. Quigley stated this is one of the reasons we no longer give ten-year charters to begin. He stated charter schools are given the opportunity to be innovative, but it may not work.
- Mr. Walker reminded public listeners that this is charter school accountability. He stated this is the ultimate accountability; if a charter school does not perform it will not remain open. Mr. Quigley stated traditional schools, except for the Innovative School District selection, never have to come before boards to argue to stay open. He stated knowing your school is on the line can be powerful motivation to improve.
- Ms. Kakadelis stated that she heard a quote from Mr. Walker that without consequences there is no incentive to change.

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

**SBE UPDATES – CSAB ADMIN**

- Mr. Dave Machado, OCS Director, stated that Davis Academy of Chadbourn was the only accelerated applicant approved by the SBE at last week’s meeting. He stated that several amendments were approved.

- Mr. Machado reviewed recent site visits conducted by the Office of Charter Schools. Mr. Quigley asked how many students Tillery Charter Academy currently has enrolled. Dr. Kebbler Williams, OCS Consultant, stated about 65.
- Mr. Machado and Mr. Jay Whalen gave a brief update on the NC ACCESS program. Mr. Whalen stated that one letter of intent has been received, but the deadline is not until January 15<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Whalen spoke about the recent roundtables to give insight on the expansion and replication subgrant opportunities.

### **2019 CHARTER APPLICATION SEASON INTRODUCTION**

- Dr. Kebbler Williams, OCS Consultant, discussed the charter school application process and the full interview process that will take place today.
- Dr. Williams reviewed the recent SBE's decision to move forward with Davis Academy Chadbourn's acceleration application.
- She discussed the process for today's full interviews. She reviewed instructions for applicants appearing for today's interviews. She stated the CSAB should make a final recommendation on the applications today that will be forwarded to the SBE for final approval.
- She stated that six applicants were notified of full interviews on November 18, 2019 and on November 25, 2019 OCS released external evaluation rubrics and clarification interview minutes to applicants. Dr. Williams continued by explaining which board member would lead each interview.

### **FULL INTERVIEWS**

#### Revolution Academy Bunker Hill

- Dr. Williams 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 submitted. She stated due diligence was completed on the proposed management organization. She stated the applicant is planning on partnering with Charter Development Solutions (CDS) and no fee was provided.
- Ms. Alexandra Valencsin introduced herself as Board Chair. Mr. Derrick Hawkins introduced himself as Board Vice Chair. Remaining board members introduced themselves and spoke briefly about their backgrounds. CDS staff members also introduced themselves.



- Ms. Kakadelis opened discussion on the proposed management company. Ms. Reeves stated the management company has not managed any other schools. She wonders what resources the management company has to assist the school. Mr. Walker stated the CSAB really needs to drill down into the capacity of this Charter Management Organization (CMO).
- Ms. Valenscin stated they would be sister schools with the other school managed by the CMO. She stated this is not a replication. She stated the board chose CDS because the members of the CMO have very strong reputations in the county. She stated this would be the first school that CDS would manage, but members of CDS have experience opening other charter schools.
- Mr. Quigley asked what the school would receive for the \$2M+ fee that CDS will receive from the school. Ms. Valenscin stated CDS will oversee the basic day to day operations. Ms. Valenscin stated that the board believes that CDS will help take the burden of daily operations off the board. Mr. Quigley stated so you have marketing and day to day operations. A representative from CDS stated the CMO would provide transportation and food services program. Mr. Quigley clarified the CMO would manage, not provide these services. The CDS representative stated the CMO would contract out transportation and handle day to day operations. Ms. Turner asked why the principal wouldn't handle the daily operations. The CDS stated the staff members will be jointly employed by the CMO and by the governing board.
- CSAB members voiced concerns over why this board would need a CMO, especially given the high fee. They also discussed the fact that CDS has stated the CMO will not support the school if it falls behind financially.
- Applicant board members spoke about the confidence the board has in CDS. They also spoke about the built-in flexibility of the contract regarding the outflow of dollars.
- CSAB members discussed whether this school would really need a CMO. Members voiced concern about the high fee when the CMO is not actually providing anything upfront for the school. Mr. Quigley stated it sounds like money is being passed through to other vendors. He continued the actual work takes place at the school level. Mr. Walker and Mr. Quigley stated the board is strong. Mr. Walker stated he doesn't want to second guess the board's decision to use a CMO.
- Ms. Valenscin spoke about the application's stated goals and mission. Ms. Kakadelis clarified that the application has a weighted lottery for 25%. Ms. Valenscin stated that is correct. Mr. Quigley stated he believes the goals are low. Ms. Turner stated yes, particularly since the applicants stated that the school will be like Cornerstone or Piedmont. Ms.

Valenscin stated the demographics will be very different than those schools. Ms. Kakadelis stated the applicant wants to open first year with K-6. Ms. Kakadelis asked if the board anticipates students coming in below grade level. Ms. Valenscin stated yes. Another board member spoke about the programs the school proposes to look at student individual needs by looking at previous testing and at beginning of the year assessments. He continued by speaking about interventions the school will implement for students in need.

- Mr. Quigley continued to express concerns that the goals are not very ambitious.
- Ms. Haire asked how the proficiency goals were determined. A board member stated that the proficiency goals were determined by looking at the surrounding public schools' proficiency scores. He stated the board used those scores and elevated them because the board believes the school can improve those scores.
- Ms. Valenscin spoke about the educational plan including Core Knowledge and character education and the school's pillars.
- Mr. Quigley stated that the application didn't appear innovative. Ms. Valenscin stated there is no other Core Knowledge school within the area.
- Ms. Reeves voiced concerns about the professional development allotted for the main educational components. A representative from CDS spoke about her experience with the application's curriculum programs at Cornerstone. She spoke about how the curriculum was revised to ensure alignment with state standards.
- Ms. Kakadelis asked for clarification on bonus pay for teachers. A board member stated that CDS will handle that program, but the board will determine the merit pay based on performance. Ms. Turner asked who from the CMO will be placed in the school to do things like evaluate teachers. The board member replied that the principal will be accountable to both the CMO and to the governing board. Ms. Turner stated that means the CMO is not actually evaluating the teachers. He stated that CDS has created rubrics to help the principal evaluate the effectiveness of teachers.
- Ms. Haire asked if the rubric has anything to do with student performance or just teacher performance. A CDS representative stated she is not sure if the current rubric accounts for both.
- Mr. Quigley asked the board treasurer to explain the value add of the CMO. The board treasurer stated that many board members do not have day to day knowledge of running charter schools, but the CMO does. He stated the board has put a lot of faith in the CMO in getting the school running.

- Mr. Maimone stated the fee structure in the CMO agreement is very confusing and asked if the board attorney reviewed the fee structure clearly. The board attorney spoke about the discussions the board had regarding the CMO agreement. He stated that because CDS drafted the agreement, any ambiguity would be seen in favor of the applicant in a court of law. The CSAB expressed some additional concerns and the board attorney stated they can look into those issues.
- Mr. Quigley asked if anyone with CDS has been a director or principal. A CDS representative stated no, but Mary Katharine Sauer, who is involved with CDS has run a charter school. Mr. Quigley stated he doesn't believe the board is giving itself enough credit to handle the operations. He pointed out what positions could be hired with the amount of money being spent on the CMO agreement. The board members spoke about how the CMO will provide the expertise needed to get the school up and running. They also stated the contract is not set for life.
- A CDS representative spoke about experience opening a fast-track charter school as a board member. She stated the board really worked with the administration in the first few years to make sure the school ran. She stated that experience will help this board get the school off the ground. She stated that after a year, if the board doesn't feel the CMO is providing a service, the board could terminate the contract. CSAB members stated that the contract provided does not allow for that.
- Ms. Turner spoke about her continued concern with the similarities in names between the two Revolution Academies.
- Ms. Reeves asked if there is a contingent facility. Ms. Valenscin stated there are several options and the board is looking in the Browns Summit area of the county.
- Ms. Reeves expressed concern with the ability to start as K-6 with an academic program that is classical and rigorous.
- Mr. Quigley expressed concern with the CMO partnership when the CMO is not bringing significant experience or capital to the table. Ms. Turner agreed. She stated we've seen boards and CMOs end up in court.
- Mr. Walker stated he has confidence in the board to hold the CMO accountable. Mr. Walker does see issues with what the CMO is providing and doesn't know if it is necessarily a good deal for the board. Ms. Kroeger stated that may be the case, but the contract is not written in the charter school's favor. Ms. Kroeger continued that the CMO has no skin in the game in terms of financial support. She stated there are a lot of questions about whether the CMO is

accountable to the board and what exactly the CMO is providing to the school. Ms. Vuncannon expressed concern about the school needing significant support for older students arriving to a classical education for the first time and yet there is no budgeted support for those students. Ms. Haire agreed with stated concerns and stated that she would like to see more data on how those proficiency targets were determined. She stated she does believe there are some aspects of innovation in the program. Mr. Friend shares similar concerns and some confusion with terminology used in the application. He stated he does have an appreciation for the experience of the CMO having been a former charter school board member that worked with a CMO.

**Motion: Full CSAB motion to not forward applicant to Ready to Open.**

**Motion: Sherry Reeves**

**Second: Lynn Kroeger**

**Vote: Cheryl Turner, Lynn Kroeger, Heather Vuncannon, Alex Quigley, Jeannette Butterworth, Joel Ford, Sherry Reeves (7)**

**Opposed: Lindalyn Kakadelis, Steven Walker, Bruce Friend, Rita Haire (4)**

**Passed**

**Failed**

#### Oak Grove Charter Academy

- Mr. Quigley has recused from discussion and voting on this matter.
- Dr. Williams 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 an LEA impact statement was submitted. She stated this is not a repeat applicant and this is a replication applicant (Wake Forest Charter Academy). She stated the applicant plans to partner with National Heritage Academies (NHA).
- Mr. Gerald McNair introduced himself as the Board Chair. He spoke about his professional and personal background. He stated he lived in Durham for seven years and is extremely active in the Durham community. He spoke about his passion for the proposed charter school. Dr. Iris Garner introduced herself as a board member. She spoke about her professional background in education. Remaining board members introduced themselves and spoke about their backgrounds and connections to Durham.
- Ms. Turner stated that she wonders why the applicant chose to name the charter school Oak Grove when there is a local elementary school in the area with the same name.
- CSAB members spoke about although the board has connections to Durham, the board should try to get local representation.

- Ms. Kakadelis wants to know what makes this application innovative.
- Ms. Reeves expressed concerns about saturation in the area. Mr. Walker stated if the waitlist numbers in Durham County are accurate, they should be okay. Ms. Reeves expressed concern about transportation for the targeted population. Ms. Kroeger stated she has the same concerns.
- Mr. McNair stated the board didn't realize there was already a school with that name, and the board would be open to change the name. He stated they could certainly consider it. Mr. McNair stated they are recruiting Durham County residents to join the board.
- Ms. Vuncannon asked for more information on the transportation plan. Ms. Kakadelis asked for more facility information. Mr. McNair stated they haven't finalized the location but are looking at the area near Walmart. He stated they would rely heavily on recruiting students from the Gorman neighborhood. He stated if the board determines transportation is a need, they would provide it. Ms. Reeves asked if that means buses. He responded that is not typically the NHA model, but if it is determined as a need, they would consider it.
- An NHA representative spoke about academic supports that NHA provides its school to meet the needs of economically disadvantaged students and students struggling academically. She spoke about front-loading funds for school nutrition until schools know the exact number of students in need.
- Mr. Walker and Ms. Kakadelis stated the board is strong. Ms. Kakadelis asked how the school will be unique from the local schools. The NHA representative spoke about new math curriculum aligned to math standards. She spoke about strategies used to move students below grade level to higher proficiency.
- Ms. Turner stated a lot of credit needs to go to NHA for making improvements and persisting in helping students grow. She stated the CSAB gave them a hard time when they first appeared and NHA has shown persistence in making sure the schools serve their students well.
- Ms. Reeves asked if there were any familial connections on the board. Mr. McNair stated yes, his son. Mr. Maimone asked if they have any board members that plan to work with the school. Mr. McNair stated he would consider that a conflict of interest and therefore no.

**Motion: Full CSAB motion to forward applicant to Ready to Open with condition that the board change the name of the school.**

**Motion: Cheryl Turner**

**Second: Lindalyn Kakadelis**

**Recused: Alex Quigley**

- Ms. Kakadelis stated the name change should happen before the recommendation goes to SBE if possible.

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

**CLOSED SESSION AND LUNCH**

**Motion: Move into closed session to discuss attorney privileged matters, adjourn closed session, and have lunch. 12:30PM.**

**Motion: Alex Quigley**

**Second: Steven Walker**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

**FULL INTERVIEWS CONTINUED**

City Charter Academy

- Dr. Williams 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 an LEA impact statement has not been submitted. She stated this is not a repeat applicant and is seeking replication (Greensboro Academy). She stated the applicant plans to partner with NHA.
- Mr. Jeff Hyde introduced himself as Board Chair. Accompanying board members introduced themselves and spoke about their backgrounds and passion for the application.
- Mr. Hyde stated he also serves as Board Chair for Gate City Charter. He spoke about why the board has chosen to replicate Greensboro Academy. Mr. Quigley asked if he will chair both boards. He replied that he would like to be on both boards but would step down as an officer on the Gate City Board.
- Mr. Quigley asked what the board has learned from being involved with NHA. A board member spoke about the organization and financial assets that NHA represents for its schools. He spoke about the moral and value-based education that NHA provides.
- Mr. Quigley asked if there were any concerns regarding saturation. Mr. Hyde spoke about waitlists at other charter schools. He stated there is no doubt they can fill enrollment. He stated that parents in local schools are very concerned about the school performance.
- Ms. Reeves asked for information about the survey data. Mr. Hyde stated the surveys went out to any family on a waitlist in a Guilford County NHA school. Ms. Reeves expressed

concern with that procedure. Mr. Hyde spoke about the low performing schools in the area and the board's belief that families would be attracted to any other possibility.

- Mr. Quigley stated Brightwood was a "D" and met growth. He continued that the other school mentioned was a "C" and met growth.
- Ms. Turner asked for confirmation that the school is not just targeting other NHA waitlist students. Mr. Hyde stated no, the school is open to all families.
- Mr. Quigley asked the NHA representative what NHA does internally to make sure NHA is partnering with the right board in an area of need. She stated that NHA looks at population density in the area, NHA waitlist data, among other factors. Mr. Quigley asked what NHA does when enrollment figures do not pan out. She stated that NHA may cut out a class or reduce teaching staff but add assistants to larger classes. She stated they have not needed to do that yet. Mr. Quigley asked if NHA principals collaborate. She spoke about monthly principal meetings and regular professional development.
- Ms. Reeves asked for more information about the proposed location. Mr. Hyde states the board is determined to locate in the area that is most disadvantaged.
- Ms. Turner asked if the school is prepared to make sure any possible transportation needs are met. The board stated that transportation would not be a barrier. Ms. Turner stated you may not know it is a barrier because parents that can't provide transportation won't even apply. Ms. Turner stated the board needs to be sensitive to the community and listen carefully to any families that may show interest but feel they can't attend because of transportation difficulties. Mr. Hyde stated they will do everything in their power to make sure needs are met.
- Mr. Quigley asked about the facility size. Mr. Hyde stated 48,000 square feet. Mr. Quigley and Ms. Reeves stated that seems small.
- Mr. Quigley continued to question how NHA utilizes the school's budget. Mr. Hyde spoke about what NHA provides and its success. The NHA representative spoke about the marketing efforts NHA conducts for the school with a full-time position. Mr. Quigley stated that position is already in the budget. Mr. Hyde stated he couldn't think of a better partner to come into this area and be willing to put a school in a challenging area.

**Motion: Full CSAB motion to forward applicant to Ready to Open.**

**Motion: Lindalyn Kakadelis**

**Second: Steven Walker**

- Ms. Reeves stated she hopes the board will stay true to what the CSAB is hearing today and serve the disadvantaged population in Greensboro. Mr. Hyde stated he understands and that no one on this board has children or grandchildren that would attend a school in this area. He stated they are doing this to reach the children in this area that have a need for a great school.

- Mr. Quigley stated he will support the school. He stated that NHA has a lot of schools in North Carolina now and would like to invite and request that the corporate NHA office come to CSAB to speak about the company. He thinks it would be beneficial to all as a way to learn about how NHA is doing what they do so efficiently. Ms. Kakadelis stated she would love to learn about the construction process and costs.

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**

**Failed**

**PAUL R. BROWN LEADERSHIP ACADEMY**

- Mr. Leroy Purdie, Board Chair, introduced himself. He stated the school has made some progress since the school’s presentation last year. Mr. Carl Lloyd, Commander of Cadets, introduced himself. He stated there has been significant change in culture and personnel. The new Head of School, Ms. Keisha White, introduced herself.
- Ms. White spoke about the school moving from “not met” in growth to “met” growth. She stated personnel changes were made and educational consultants hired to assist the school. Ms. White spoke about her 90-day plan when beginning her role this fall. She spoke about the school’s demographics and academic performance.
- Ms. White continued by discussing the school’s current academic goals: increase school reading performance from “D” to “C,” increase school math performance from “F” to “D,” and increase stakeholder involvement.
- Ms. White spoke about the use of MAP testing and data reviews by staff. She stated that in previous years, teachers did not analyze student data. She spoke about staff changes including removing retired teachers that were restricted in the number of hours they could work.
- Mr. Maimone asked for confirmation that there are only 12 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Ms. White stated that is correct.
- Ms. Turner asked for information regarding the cohorts. Ms. White stated the largest cohorts are 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grades. She stated there are probably 30% proficient 8<sup>th</sup> graders currently. The CSAB discussed benchmark data presented by Ms. White.
- Ms. Turner asked about remediation of students. Mr. Lloyd spoke about Saturday school and remediation processes.
- Mr. Quigley asked what happened after the CSAB almost closed the school. Mr. Lloyd stated the school took a close look at what was happening in the school and what needed to change.



He spoke about getting rid of in-school suspension, so students stay in class and instead using afterschool detention. He stated the school decided to stick with remediation that had been stopped because of complaints and lack of belief in its effectiveness.

- Ms. Butterworth asked for the number of board members. Mr. Purdie stated seven and are getting a new member that has previously led a school.
- Mr. Walker stated the growth this year is good, but the school has got to keep pushing. He stated if you keep it up, you can make great progress.
- Ms. Reeves asked Ms. White if she has any ideas why the ADM dropped this year. She stated she believes some families did not want to conform to the structure of the military school. She stated the drop was across the board. Mr. Lloyd stated that the hurricane two years ago and then the hurricane last year caused a drop in enrollment as well.
- Ms. Kakadelis stated she believes this school will have a great story if it keeps up the progress. She stated she would like to see the data of students that come in at 6<sup>th</sup> grade and stay at the school.
- Mr. Lloyd spoke about the 75% 4-year graduation rate and how some students come in during high school with very few credits and expect to just walk through, but they don't allow that.

### **NC CYBER ACADEMY**

- Mr. Walker asked if there has been any administrative turnover. Mr. Nathan Currie, Superintendent, stated that Ms. Robinson has moved, but otherwise no. Mr. Walker asked if there have been any furloughs. Mr. Currie stated no. Mr. Friend asked how many teachers and administrators the school has hired. Mr. Currie stated twelve administrators and 104 teachers. He stated that is up by six administrative staff. Ms. Turner stated that salaries have increased for administrative staff but decreased for teachers. Mr. Currie stated that is because administrative staff have taken on roles that Pearson once handled. Mr. Friend asked about the budget for administrative staff. Mr. Currie stated the budget also includes seven clerical staff members.
- Mr. Quigley asked for current enrollment. Mr. Currie stated around 2200.
- Ms. Domina Blount, Director of Academics, and Dr. Rebecca Smith, Assistant Superintendent, presented academic data to the CSAB. Ms. Blount spoke about challenges the school faced while working with Pearson and the limitations of the system.

- Ms. Blount spoke about the key areas of low performance. She stated those include math, biology, AIG subgroup growth, white subgroup growth, and economically disadvantaged subgroup growth. She spoke about what the school is doing to try and address these challenges.
- Dr. Smith spoke about trends the school has identified in academics. She stated data reveals that math and ELA instruction for all grade levels/subgroups have not met proficiency or growth requirements. She stated EC and AIG learners have not met proficiency and growth requirements and ELL students did not attain growth in 2018. Dr. Smith explained that math at all grade levels continues to be the primary source of deficit. She continued that the school must use benchmark and formative assessment to adjust lesson delivery and improve student mastery.
- Ms. Turner asked if the school has looked at how Edgenuity aligns with state standards. Ms. Blount stated that Edgenuity has a North Carolina group that helps with alignment and NC Cyber has the ability to make adjustments. Ms. Kakadelis asked about remediation. Ms. Blount spoke about “in-house” remediation with teachers and MTSS program remediation.
- Ms. Blount presented the school’s math goals. She continued by explaining benchmark data from the Fall 2019 Benchmark utilizing Case 21. Ms. Kakadelis asked about Case 21. Ms. Turner stated that she has used it but does not now because the projections were usually too high. Ms. Blount stated they haven’t used NC Check-ins because of the logistics of making that happen.
- Ms. Blount spoke about Math I Foundation classes. She continued to speak about the many reasons students seek an alternative to the brick and mortar school. She stated there are a lot of adjustments that the students have to make to get acclimated. She spoke about the social-emotional needs students have.
- Ms. Blount explained the Edgenuity reports displayed that demonstrate mastery, engagement, pacing, and completeness of each enrolled course.

### ADJOURNMENT

- **Mr. Quigley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:17pm. Meeting adjourned via acclamation.**

**Minutes of the  
North Carolina Charter Schools Advisory Board Meeting  
December 10, 2019  
NC Department of Public Instruction  
State Board Room 755 – 9:00AM**

Attendance/NCCSAB	Joel Ford – <i>absent</i> Bruce Friend Joseph Maimone (non-voting) Sherry Reeves Cheryl Turner Lynn Kroeger	Alex Quigley Jeannette Butterworth Steven Walker Heather Vuncannon Lindalyn Kakadelis Rita Haire
Attendance/SBE/DPI	<i>Office of Charter Schools</i>  Dave Machado, Director Ashley Baquero, Consultant Jay Whalen, Consultant Joseph Letterio Maimone, Consultant Claire Porter, Consultant	<i>Attorney General</i>  <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.
- Ms. Turner has recused herself from voting and discussion on the Movement East amendment.

**AMENDMENTS**

**Bear Grass Charter School**

- Ms. Ashley Baquero, OCS Consultant, introduced this amendment request. The school is seeking to amend its mission by adding one additional term to clarify collaboration with other institutions of learning.

**Motion: Recommend SBE approval of this amendment.**

**Motion: Steven Walker**

**Second: Bruce Friend**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

Movement School East

- Ms. Baquero stated the school seeks to revise its previously approved weighted lottery policy, change grades served from K-8 to K-6, and change the name to Movement School Eastland.
- Ms. Baquero explained the school would like to implement a weighted lottery with the goal of mirroring Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools' economic diversity of 60% students qualifying for free and reduced lunch and 40% which do not.
- The CSAB discussed the difference between this policy and other weighted lottery policies. Ms. Baquero explained the policy is modeled after lotteries used in other states to encourage economic diversity. Mr. Eric Snider stated he would review the policy prior to SBE presentation.

**Motion: Recommend SBE approval of this amendment.**

**Motion: Steven Walker**

**Second: Jeannette Butterworth**

**Recused: Cheryl Turner**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

Enrollment Requests: STARS and Piedmont Community Charter School

- Ms. Baquero stated two schools are seeking an increase above the statutory allowed 30% enrollment growth for the school year 2020-21. She explained both STARS and Piedmont Community Charter School seek to grow by 40%. She stated both schools meet the statutory requirements.

**Motion: Recommend SBE approval of this amendment.**

**Motion: Steven Walker**

**Second: Rita Haire**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

Sallie B. Howard High School Expansion

- Ms. Baquero introduced this amendment request. The school seeks to expand to high school and because it would like to add two grades in one year (9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> in 2020), the expansion requires SBE approval. Ms. Baquero explained the history and academic success of the school and its arts-based curriculum.
- The CSAB discussed the success of this school in meeting the needs of economically disadvantaged students.

**Motion: Recommend SBE approval of this amendment.**

**Motion: Sherry Reeves**

**Second: Steven Walker**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

Hobgood Charter School High School Expansion

- Ms. Baquero introduced this amendment request. Hobgood Charter School opened this year and serves 225 students in K-8. The school is seeking approval to expand to high school.
- Ms. Baquero explained the school has included a revised budget and will follow the NC Future-Ready Core Study requirements. She spoke about additional staff the school plans to hire including additional EC staff and a guidance counselor to assist high school needs.

**Motion: Recommend SBE approval of this amendment.**

**Motion: Steven Walker**

**Second: Lindalyn Kakadelis**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

**FULL INTERVIEWS**

Carolina Royal Academy

- Dr. Williams 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 is not a repeat applicant and the applicant received assistance from Gregg Sindors.
- Mr. John Norwood introduced himself as Board Chair. Additional board members introduced themselves.

- Mr. Norwood stated that they have chosen to have a small board, and no board member is from Chatham County, but they are seeking local residents to join the board. He stated they have advisory members from Chatham County. He explained meetings that have taken place with Chatham County organizations. He spoke about marketing the board has conducted.
- Mr. Norwood spoke about possible facility locations. He spoke about the curriculum including Core Knowledge and Singapore Math.
- Ms. Turner stated she believes the numbers are ambitious and she didn't see the demand to support high student enrollment. Mr. Friend stated that area of Chatham County is growing very quickly.
- Ms. Butterworth stated there appear to be pieces missing from the educational plan and she is not sure the CSAB has the full picture.
- Ms. Reeves stated she would like more information about the global education component.
- The CSAB discussed how difficult this area is to get through zoning.
- Ms. Reeves asked why Chatham County was chosen. Mr. Norwood stated that there is no K-8 charter school in that area of Chatham County. He stated the board believes there is a need in that area. Ms. Reeves asked why there are no local residents on the board. He stated the board may be outside the county, but feel the county is very close and have met extensively with Chatham County residents.
- Mr. Gregg Sinderson spoke about the board's intent to apply for the CSP Grant. He spoke about marketing efforts that will take place. Ms. Kakadelis asked why no surveys were conducted. Mr. Sinderson stated part of it has to do with the timing and trying to find the right location.
- Ms. Butterworth asked about the student teacher ratio. Mr. Sinderson stated that class sizes are not the biggest concern of parents. He stated he has opened several charter schools with class sizes of 25 with no problem.
- The CSAB asked for a summary of the educational plan. Mr. Norwood stated that the board is planning to hire a principal to handle the educational plan and the board is primarily for governance. Mr. Walker stated the board still needs some sort of knowledge of the educational plan in order to hold the principal accountable for academic goals. Board members were unable to summarize the educational plan.
- Ms. Haire asked if someone could explain the computer science component. A board member spoke about the fundamental subject of computer science. Ms. Kakadelis asked if he envisions students receiving this instruction every day. The board member replied yes and stated it is important to teach the basics at the beginning. Ms. Kakadelis asked what the 18k technology expenditure in the budget would entail. The board member spoke about possible expenses.

- Ms. Reeves asked about the targeted population. Mr. Norwood stated the process for the NC ACCESS grant has begun and the school is hoping to use that funding for marketing. He stated they are targeting 35-40% economically disadvantaged students and that the board understands that population will require transportation assistance. He stated the board cannot rely solely on state and local funds and feel the school will be attractive to companies in the Research Triangle Park area to donate funds and goods. Ms. Turner stated the grant is not guaranteed, so what is the alternative plan. Mr. Norwood stated the board will pinch where needed and outreach to good corporate citizens. He stated the board is hoping to utilize a highly successful grant writer.
- Ms. Kroeger asked what the three student operation positions in the budget entail. Mr. Sinderson stated that would include the business manager and PowerSchool manager. Ms. Kroeger stated those are also in the budget. Mr. Sinderson asked for more information from the budget and clarified those positions would be instructional support and coaches.
- Ms. Vuncannon discussed the importance of a board understanding the application and educational components. Mr. Walker stated he doesn't expect the board members to be experts in Core Knowledge, but they should be able to give a brief summary. The CSAB discussed the importance of the board being able to at least explain why they chose the curriculum in the application. Ms. Vuncannon stated getting the application through is the easy part, it gets much more difficult going forward. Ms. Butterworth expressed concern that the board is not local to Chatham County. Ms. Kakadelis and Mr. Friend stated they could work on improving that with the relationships they've built in the county.
- Mr. Quigley spoke about the burden and responsibility on a board. He stated the board is strong and should not underestimate its ability to learn the curriculum and educational components of the application.

**Motion: Full CSAB motion to not forward applicant to Ready to Open.**

**Motion: Jeannette Butterworth**

**Second: Cheryl Turner**

**Vote: Cheryl Turner, Lynn Kroeger, Heather Vuncannon, Steven Walker, Alex Quigley, Lindalyn Kakadelis, Sherry Reeves, Jeannette Butterworth, Rita Haire (9)**

**Opposed: Bruce Friend (1)**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

Telra Institute

- Dr. Williams 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-5 with 318 students. She stated an LEA impact statement has been submitted. She stated this is not a repeat applicant and has not received third-party assistance.

- Mr. Bhat introduced himself as the Board Chair and spoke about his background in physics and education. He spoke about his experience in management and on other nonprofit boards. Ms. Judith Ellerbee introduced herself as a board member and spoke about her background in education. Mr. Dhat introduced himself as a board member and spoke about his professional background. Mr. Harold Ryder introduced himself as a board member with extensive education experience focused on gifted education.
- Mr. Bhat spoke about identifying gifted students. He stated it is difficult to identify gifted students and therefore the board thought it would make more sense to not have an admissions requirement but allow families to self-select. He stated the board would be intentional in marketing, so the program is clear. Mr. Ryder spoke about how Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools (CMS) identifies gifted students and that it doesn't occur until 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. He stated that the trend is to label programs and servicing, rather than students. He stated the identification process should really be about targeting resources.
- Ms. Turner asked what the programming looks like. The board member stated enrichment or acceleration. Mr. Friend asked how that is different than personalized learning. The board member stated the focus on acceleration makes it different. Mr. Friend spoke about the importance of clarifying this for parents.
- Mr. Quigley asked if the school will have a screening test. Mr. Bhat stated no. Mr. Bhat explained concerns with traditional screening tests.
- Mr. Bhat spoke about differentiation of instruction and professional development of teachers to understand gifted instructional strategies. Mr. Quigley asked for clarity on the staff structure. Mr. Bhat stated fourteen teachers and at least one Exceptional Children teacher. CSAB members voiced concerns that it will be difficult to find gifted instructors at the salary levels in the budget. Ms. Turner asked if they plan to start with all new teachers. Mr. Bhat spoke more about the board's recruitment plans.
- Mr. Quigley asked how the school will handle serving students that are struggling. Mr. Quigley gave an example of a student with significant learning struggles. Mr. Bhat spoke about the school's plan to offer remediation and the commitment would be to grow the student. Mr. Quigley asked a hypothetical question about a student that is far above grade level. Mr. Bhat and Mr. Ryder spoke about the importance of the student being excited in the learning environment and students learning from each other.
- Mr. Quigley asked if the board has spoken to other schools about how gifted students are identified. Mr. Bhat spoke about the screening that CMS schools use. He spoke about the Metrolina screening test.



- Mr. Walker stated he feels good about the school, but there are two places the school is hurting financially – teacher salaries and transportation. Mr. Walker stated the transportation cannot be a barrier even though they are not required to bus. Mr. Walker stated the school could have a student with an IEP that could require major transportation funds. Mr. Bhat spoke about the school’s plan to contract with a third-party bus provider. He stated the school would subsidize bus fare for students that qualify for free and reduced lunch. He stated the students that can afford the bus fare essentially subsidize those that cannot. He spoke about the revenue neutral model for both transportation and meals. Ms. Turner asked for clarification on how the parents pay for busing. Mr. Bhat stated the fee would go directly to the third-party provider, not to the school.
- Mr. Quigley asked how the school would amend the budget if needed. Mr. Bhat stated the class sizes could grow without adding significant staff.
- Mr. Quigley asked the board to convince CSAB of the need for a gifted student school. Mr. Bhat spoke about the myth in education that gifted students will do just fine in any environment. Mr. Quigley asked if there is a cap in traditional schools for gifted schools. A board member stated that gifted numbers can range from 0 to 80% in schools, but the state only funds 4% ADM. A board member spoke about limitations in the traditional public school settings. Mr. Bhat spoke about waitlist numbers for gifted schools in the area.
- Ms. Turner asked why the school chose a 68% proficiency goal in year one. Mr. Bhat stated the goal is exceeding MAP. Mr. Quigley stated the school may want to consider revising the goal criteria to College and Career Ready.
- Mr. Quigley asked about the organizational chart and why there is a CEO and Head of Instruction. Mr. Bhat spoke about the decision to split the operational and academic responsibilities between two roles.
- Mr. Walker and Ms. Turner expressed support and felt the board was very strong in speaking about the application today. Ms. Turner stated the enrollment projections are also conservative and she doesn’t believe they will have trouble reaching enrollment.
- Mr. Quigley appreciated the various board members’ ability to speak about the application knowledgeably. Mr. Quigley warned about trying to be all things to all people. Mr. Quigley advised the board to be very clear on the vision and able to communicate that to parents. Mr. Quigley stated this is innovative.

**Motion: Full CSAB motion to forward applicant to Ready to Open.**

**Motion: Steven Walker**

**Second: Bruce Friend**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**

**Failed**

\*CSAB adjourned for lunch at 11:55AM.

### **FULL INTERVIEWS CONTINUED**

#### Clara Science Charter Academy

- Dr. Williams 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-6 with 650 students. She stated an LEA impact statement has been submitted. She stated this is a repeat applicant that received a full interview last year. Dr. Williams stated the applicant received assistance from Acadia NorthStar and Adrian Sundiata and Company. Dr. Williams stated she recently received letters of absence from two board members.
- Mr. Muhammad introduced himself as Board Chair and stated his is the applicant's fourth year before the CSAB. Accompanying board members introduced themselves. Ms. Muhammad introduced herself as Secretary of the board and spoke about her experience in K-12 education.
- Mr. Maimone and Ms. Turner expressed concerns about the ability of the school to meet enrollment given saturation and difficulties other charter schools have faced in the same area.
- Ms. Reeves asked what improvements have been made to the application. CSAB members also asked for information regarding educational plan, board members, potential family relationships on staff, weighted lottery, and transportation plan.
- A board member spoke about community engagement and event attendance to market the school. Mr. Maimone asked how many completed the enrollment interest form. Ms. Muhammad stated she doesn't have that data, but each month 25 hits have taken place on the website enrollment interest survey.
- Mr. Walker asked how the application has improved. Ms. Muhammad spoke about engagement with potential parents. She stated the board has added board members with a diverse range of experiences. She stated the board has selected a principal.
- Dr. Mohammad Adnan Alghorani, who is also a Clara Science Board Member, will become the principal of Clara Science Academy. He spoke about the curriculum program. He spoke

about STEM education and project-based learning. Ms. Reeves asked if the literacy piece is all digital. A curriculum representative stated no; it is primarily print-based. He stated Core Knowledge and Amplify Science will be used.

- CSAB members asked about family relationships on the board. Ms. Muhammad stated that her and her husband are both on the board, but they do not plan on supervising each other in the school. She stated the board will ensure the principal is in place. Mr. Walker asked if the 501(c)3 status has been received. She stated not yet. She stated there is a conflict of interest policy in place.
- Ms. Reeves asked about the transportation plan. Mr. Muhammad stated the board has added a bus to the plan bringing the total to three purchased buses. He stated the 30k for buses is included in the budget. Ms. Reeves asked for information regarding school nutrition. Mr. Muhammad stated they have allotted money for the school lunch program and plan to do the program in-house.
- Ms. Reeves asked for facility options. A board member stated a facility has been chosen. He stated it can accommodate about 500 students. He stated the board can afford the facility and it is located in central Charlotte. CSAB members discussed the exact location of the proposed facility. Ms. Turner stated it is closer to where Charlotte Choice is located. CSAB members expressed concern about the location being close to other charter schools. He stated the facility is currently a private religious school, Intellicor International Academy (“Intellicor”). Dr. Alghorani stated it is a very small private school and most students use opportunity scholarships to attend. Board members explained the current principal of Intellicor, Dr. Alghorani, will become the principal of Clara Science Academy. Dr. Alghorani stated that Clara Science Academy would share space with the upper grades from Intellicor. He stated it would be structured in such a way that there would be two separate wings. Ms. Reeves asked who will take over Intellicor if Dr. Alghorani becomes principal of Clara Science Academy. Dr. Alghorani stated his current vice principal.
- Mr. Maimone stated it looks like a nice facility. He asked for the history of the building. Dr. Alghorani spoke about services the facility provides to the community including medical services which is why it comes up as a medical facility in some web searches. Ms. Haire asked if the building is shared by the Muslim American Society. Dr. Alghorani stated no. Ms. Turner asked how many classrooms would be on the Clara Science Academy. Dr. Alghorani stated about ten. Ms. Kakadelis if the facility has an educational certificate of occupancy. Dr. Alghorani stated yes and all required permits. Ms. Haire asked who owns the building. Dr. Alghorani stated the Muslim American Society but it is run by the Muslim Education Organization. Ms. Haire asked for the square footage. Dr. Alghorani stated over 55k. CSAB members stated the facility is very nice. Dr. Alghorani stated there are sports fields and parking.

- Ms. Kroeger asked for information regarding the working capital line item in the budget. Mr. Muhammad stated some is from Clara Foundation and a loan. He stated Clara Foundation is a nonprofit to support the school. Ms. Kakadelis asked if the foundation is up and going with funds. Mr. Muhammad stated the foundation is working on federal paperwork.
- Ms. Reeves voiced concern about the charter school sharing space with a parochial school. Ms. Vuncannon stated she supports a STEM curriculum with Core Knowledge if it is done with fidelity. Mr. Walker stated the application is better than in prior years, but he is concerned about enrollment figures in Charlotte. Ms. Kakadelis stated she is concerned with saturation in the area. Mr. Maimone stated the major concern is enrollment, but the board seems very connected to that community which softens some of his concern. Ms. Vuncannon stated given the facility, it may make it easier if there are any enrollment issues.
- Ms. Turner stated it's unlikely the current Intellicor students will remain at a private school if they can go to a charter school next door. Dr. Alghorani stated that currently Intellicor serves K-12, but if this charter school is approved, Intellicor will focus on middle and high school. Mr. Quigley stated he has concerns that this information was not in the application and this seems a lot like a conversion. Dr. Alghorani stated he understands but the schools will be totally different entities.
- Ms. Haire asked for enrollment at Intellicor. Dr. Alghorani stated around 120.
- Ms. Reeves stated the missions of the two schools are very different. Dr. Alghorani stated that is correct, but STEM education and a safe environment, are similar to Clara Science Academy and will draw parents. Ms. Kakadelis stated it seems like the charter school will be a feeder to the private school. Ms. Muhammad stated it is not a feeder to the private school and the two missions are completely different. She stated based on the low enrollment, the private school will probably not be able to sustain itself, so it is actually an advantage to Clara Science to be able to market to those students. Mr. Quigley stated that is the problem. Mr. Quigley asked if OCS staff was aware of this fact because it wasn't in the application. OCS staff stated no.
- Mr. Friend asked if any board members overlap. Board members stated no. Mr. Friend asked if any teachers from Intellicor plan to go to Clara Science Academy. Board members stated no.
- Mr. Quigley stated the CSAB was blindsided by this information. He voiced concerns that this seems like a conversion even though it is not a technical conversion. Mr. Muhammad stated the Clara Science Academy board approached Intellicor about the facility, not the other way around. Mr. Muhammad stated the board has been truthful. Mr. Quigley stated he

is not suggesting they aren't being honest. Mr. Maimone asked when the board approached the private school. Mr. Muhammad stated after the application last year was rejected, before this year's application. Mr. Muhammad stated the private school has a daycare and Clara Science is targeting all daycares and Headstart in the area for enrollment. Mr. Quigley voiced concerns about how this will be perceived. Ms. Reeves stated perception is reality.

- Ms. Turner stated it is possible others will perceive the charter school is a private religious school. Mr. Friend confirmed there is no financial interest of the principal or board in the facility.
- Ms. Turner asked if Clara Foundation has funding. Mr. Muhammad stated the foundation has 20k and 10k is coming from a Charter School Capital loan.

**Motion: Full CSAB motion to forward applicant to Ready to Open.**

**Motion: Steven Walker**

**Second: Heather Vuncannon**

**Vote: Steven Walker, Heather Vuncannon, Cheryl Turner, Lynn Kroeger, Jeannette Butterworth, Bruce Friend (6)**

**Opposed: Alex Quigley, Lindalyn Kakadelis, Sherry Reeves, Rita Haire (4)**

**Passed**

**Failed**

### **UPROAR LEADERSHIP ACADEMY**

- Ms. Genesis Newsome, Head of School, introduced herself and accompanying staff members introduced themselves.
- Ms. Newsome began by reviewing academic data from the last two years. She stated in reflection the school realized PLC teams, curriculum implementation, and coaching had not been effective. She stated the school is now doing daily observations with immediate feedback and using NCEES. She stated the school has started weekly assessments from the beginning of the school year.
- Ms. Newsome spoke about data utilization at the school. She stated the school is implementing Uncommon School curriculum and Teach Like a Champion strategies.
- Ms. Newsome presented the 2019-20 academic goals: performance score of 54, performance grade of "D," and to exceed growth.
- Ms. Newsome spoke about the rebranding of the school to help the community understand the school is not an alternative school. She spoke about family engagement.
- Ms. Newsome presented current year assessment data.

- Mr. Walker asked for 1<sup>st</sup> month ADM. Ms. Newsome stated 122. Ms. Reeves asked about current enrollment. Ms. Newsome stated 93. She stated the school knows they must improve enrollment, but they are focused on building a solid culture.
- Ms. Turner asked if the military components are still part of the school. Ms. Newsome stated the values are still there, but uniforms are different due to the cost for families.
- Mr. Quigley asked for a breakdown in grades. Mr. Quigley asked for full-time employees. Ms. Newsome stated nineteen total but fifteen full time. She stated there are four administrators and two take on classes as well. She stated they have a registrar, front desk staff, EC director, and lunch staff. Mr. Quigley asked if the EC director is also teaching. Ms. Newsome explained she services the EC students.
- Mr. Quigley asked how the school is doing financially. Ms. Newsome spoke about making cuts in staff and saving money on food costs to make it to the end of the year. Mr. Maimone asked what positions were cut. Ms. Newsome stated four instructors were laid off.
- Ms. Reeves asked about student retention. Ms. Newsome stated around 70% retention.
- Mr. Walker asked when the school is up for renewal. Ms. Newsome stated in two years.
- Ms. Butterworth asked for the suspension rate listed on the state's School Report Card. Ms. Newsome stated there were a lot of suspensions and this year they are trying to utilize other interventions.
- CSAB members gave the school advice on moving forward and building culture so academics can improve.
- Ms. Kakadelis asked if the board is aware of the urgent need to improve. Ms. Newsome stated yes. Ms. Kakadelis asked when the next benchmark will take place. Ms. Newsome stated in January.
- Mr. Quigley stated the problem is there is a combination of low academic data and behavior difficulties. Ms. Turner stated unfortunately you are going to need to make improvement quickly. She stated it will be very difficult to justify renewing this school.
- Ms. Reeves asked why the school needs to stay open. Ms. Newsome stated they are making improvement and the scholars consider the staff family. Another staff member spoke about the commitment of the scholars and the staff members. He also spoke about the changes the school is making to improve culture.
- CSAB requested updates on benchmark data during the year.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

- **Mr. Walker made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:00pm. Meeting adjourned via acclamation.**