

**Minutes of the
North Carolina Charter School Advisory Board
State Board Rm. 755
March 9, 2020
9:00 am**

Attendance/NCCSAB	Joel Ford – <i>Absent</i> Joseph Maimone (non-voting) Rita Haire Sherry Reeves Cheryl Turner Lynn Kroeger	Alex Quigley – <i>Arrived 9:19am</i> Jeannette Butterworth Steven Walker Heather Vuncannon Bruce Friend
Attendance/SBE/DPI	<i>Office of Charter Schools</i> Dave Machado, Director Ashley Baquero, Consultant Shaunda Cooper, Consultant Claire Porter, Consultant Darian Jones, Consultant Joseph Letterio Maimone, Consultant	<i>Attorney General</i> 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 9:00 am 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 February 2020 minutes.

Motion: Lynn Kroeger

Second: Jeannette Butterworth

Vote: Unanimous

Passed Failed

- Mr. Freebird McKinney introduced himself as the new Legislative Coordinator for the State Board of Education. He spoke about his experience and his goals in the position.

Motion: To approve the March 5, 2020 Policy Committee minutes.

Motion: Cheryl Turner

Second: Lynn Kroeger

Vote: Unanimous (Policy Committee)

Passed Failed

Motion: To approve the March Agenda.

Motion: Heather Vuncannon

Second: Lynn Kroeger

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

**PRESENTATION OF THE DRAFT 2020 CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION
TIMELINE AND PROCESS**

- Dr. Darian Jones introduced the draft 2020 Charter School Application Timeline and Process document. He stated the goal is that by December 2020 or January 2021 all applicants would have SBE decisions on their applications. Dr. Jones stated that the ability to stick to the timeline would depend on the number of applications received. Mr. Walker asked about the April date in the timeline. Mr. Dave Machado, Director of the Office of Charter Schools (OCS), stated the later date in the timeline is based on having a large amount of applications, but the hope is to get approvals from SBE by December 2020.
- Mr. Maimone suggested that final approval would take place in February 2021 if there is no pushback from SBE.
- Ms. Turner asked if interviews would take place in August. Mr. Walker stated it looks like it. Mr. Machado stated traditionally we haven't met in August, and OCS wants to work with leadership to determine if July or August would be best for interviews.
- Mr. Walker suggested putting some flexibility in the application timeline to allow for changes based on the number of the applications received.
- CSAB members discussed the best time in August to meet if needed. CSAB members that operate schools discussed the difficulties in meeting in the beginning of the month due to school openings.
- Mr. Friend confirmed that if an applicant applies for acceleration or fast-track in the application that is locked-in and schools cannot change. The CSAB stated that is correct and if they are denied, they cannot enter the traditional timeline pool for the same year.
- Dr. Haire asked about the new terminology "Round 1" and "Round 2." Mr. Walker stated this will take the place of clarification interviews. Mr. Walker explained you would either deny, send to Round 2 interview, or approve based on the merits of the application. Mr. Machado stated it would be a full interview one and if needed a full interview two.

- Ms. Reeves asked about the dates for requesting Epicenter access. The CSAB discussed and stated both acceleration and traditional applicants need to request access by June 22, 2020.
- Mr. Quigley asked if we would start meeting on applications in July. Mr. Machado stated yes. He stated we could add it to the July agenda at the annual NC Association of Public Charter Schools conference.
- Mr. Quigley asked when we would have applications available to review. Dr. Jones stated that applications would go to the external evaluators on July 6th, so there would be time to get back to CSAB at the July meeting. Ms. Turner stated that does not give the CSAB much time to review prior to the July meeting. Mr. Walker stated the idea is to have a workday to discuss applications as a board. Mr. Quigley asked if interviews would start in July. Mr. Machado stated no, that would be the workday.
- Mr. Walker stated he believes that we have flexibility with the process so long as the due date is set.
- Mr. Quigley asked if we do letters of intent. Mr. Machado stated we haven't done letters of intent for at least five years and OCS believes there is no need.
- Mr. Quigley stated his preference would be to have a workday to allow more depth as a team.
- Ms. Turner wondered what would happen if during the initial discussions, before the interview, issues arose in discussion about the application, could the applicant state the board had its mind made up before the actual interview. CSAB members discussed the issue. Mr. Quigley stated he believes this is a more transparent process and gives the applicants a lot of information about how to prepare for the interview. Dr. Haire agreed.
- Mr. Quigley asked if we should tentatively agree to the workday date being at the July meeting. Mr. Machado stated we could discuss that internally.
- Dr. Haire asked if the external evaluators are going to have to review applications from the June 29th deadline through July 6th. Dr. Jones stated yes.
- Mr. Friend asked if OCS expects to add more requirements to the Ready to Open process. Mr. Machado stated no.

Motion: To enter closed session to discuss attorney client privilege at 9:38AM.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Cheryl Turner

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

Motion: To leave closed session and enter open session at 10AM.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Alex Quigley

Vote: Unanimous

Passed Failed

- Mr. Quigley asked OCS to pull together a structure for the work session pre-work requirements and the actual work session process. Mr. Quigley stated we could decide if we need to assign certain board members certain areas of the application, depending on the number of applications received.

Motion: Approve timeline contingent on revising the due date to request access to the online portal.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Rita Haire

Vote: Unanimous

Passed Failed

AMENDMENTS

Team CFA: Community Public Charter

- Ms. Ashley Baquero, OCS Consultant, explained the school's request to change its name and terminate its CMO agreement with TeamCFA.
- Dr. Haire asked if there would be additional changes to the budget. She explained the CMO fee is struck from the budget, but no additions were made. Ms. Baquero stated she was unsure, but it was her understanding the CMO was transitioning out of the business during this school's first year, so the school probably never paid that fee or received those services.

Motion: Recommend approval of this amendment request to the SBE.

Motion: Sherry Reeves

Second: Steven Walker

Vote: Unanimous

Passed Failed

Endeavor Charter School's Request to Increase Enrollment

- Ms. Baquero explained the school's request to increase enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year. She explained the school serves grades K-8 in Wake County and is a high-performing

school with no compliance issues. The school is requesting to increase over 30% (which requires SBE approval) due to a facility expansion.

Motion: Recommend approval of this amendment request to the SBE.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Sherry Reeves

Vote: Unanimous

Passed Failed

Achievement Charter School's Request to Implement a Weighted Lottery and Revise Lunch Program

- Ms. Baquero explained the school's request to implement a weighted lottery and revise its lunch program. She explained the school has set a goal of 60% economically disadvantaged students to mirror the local LEA. She explained changes to the lunch program the school is proposing.
- Ms. Reeves asked about lunch program budget. Ms. Baquero directed the CSAB to the submitted budget that showed 40k budgeted for lunch in the first year.

Motion: Recommend approval of this amendment request to the SBE.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Jeannette Butterworth

Vote: Unanimous

Passed Failed

Alamance Community School's Request to Increase Enrollment

- Ms. Baquero explained the school's request to increase its enrollment next year in Kindergarten from 100 to 160.
- Ms. Haire asked if there are any budgetary changes due to this increase. Ms. Baquero stated a new budget was submitted with the request, but she would ask the school for specifics about budgetary changes.

Motion: Recommend approval of this amendment request to the SBE.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Sherry Reeves

Vote: Unanimous

Passed Failed

Commonwealth High School and Stewart Creek High School's Request to Change EMO

- Ms. Baquero explained the schools’ request to change its EMO. She explained that the change is essentially a change in name as the current EMO has agreed to sell its charter management company another company. She stated the current management team will remain the same and the current CEO is retiring so the current President will become the new CEO.

Motion: Recommend approval of this amendment request to the SBE.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Rita Haire

Vote: Unanimous

Passed Failed

Central Wake High School’s Request to Change EMO

- Ms. Baquero explained the schools’ request is the same as the previous request, but a different board.

Motion: Recommend approval of this amendment request to the SBE.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Rita Haire

Vote: Unanimous

Passed Failed

The Institute for the Development of Young Leaders

- Ms. Baquero explained the schools’ request to expand to high school. She stated the school currently serves K-8 in Durham County. She stated the school cannot expand without approval because it is designated continually low-performing. She explained the school’s high school academic and support plan.
- The CSAB discussed concerns with this request. Mr. Walker asked if the school had an interim leader. Ms. Baquero stated yes. Mr. Walker stated this is a period of transition which makes it risky. Ms. Turner stated in addition, the K-8 program is struggling. Mr. Walker stated that gives me a lot of pause. He stated they are trailing behind Durham in proficiency scores. Ms. Turner also spoke about financial concerns as high school is a very expensive program. Ms. Reeves agreed. Dr. Haire stated she does not see the school as successful on its initial objectives for improvement submitted in 2017. Mr. Quigley stated he agrees with the concerns discussed. Mr. Quigley also believes the SBE would not approve this request.

Motion: Recommend that the SBE not approve this amendment.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Rita Haire

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

POLICY COMMITTEE UPDATES

- Mr. Walker gave an update on the March 5, 2020 Policy Committee meeting that took place regarding Charter Agreement revisions.

GIRLS LEADERSHIP ACADEMY OF WILMINGTON

- Ms. Laura Hunter, Principal, and Ms. Kim Nelson, Board Chair, introduced themselves to the CSAB. Ms. Hunter stated the school is a single-gender public charter; the only single-gender public charter in North Carolina. She stated the school serves middle and high school students and began its high school program this year. She stated the school serves predominantly low-income students, 80% qualify for free or reduced lunch. She stated the school is part of a nation-wide alliance of schools that share a similar model.
- Ms. Hunter spoke about the school's wrap around services. She spoke about extracurricular activities and the holistic approach to educating the school's students. Ms. Hunter continued to speak about the school's program offerings including coding and culinary options.
- Mr. Quigley asked if the facility was fundraised. Ms. Hunter stated about half was fundraised and the remaining was borrowed.
- Mr. Maimone stated it would be awesome for the school to offer a tour during this summer's charter conference in Wilmington. He asked for more information regarding the academic data.
- Ms. Hunter reviewed the school's academic data from the last three years. She stated that there are several areas that are meeting growth, but others that are having trouble meeting growth. She spoke about last year's eighth grade data.
- Ms. Hunter spoke about the school's academic growth goals. She stated there has been a heavy investment in working with individual teachers to improve performance. Ms. Hunter reviewed NC Check-In data.
- Ms. Hunter reviewed areas of growth and challenge. She spoke about building a robust high school program and transitioning from a small to large campus. She spoke about math growth and supporting teacher growth.
- Ms. Vuncannon asked what the sixth-grade cohort retention averages. Ms. Hunter stated it varies. She stated that last year the school retained 87% sixth graders. Ms. Vuncannon asked if they have a waiting list. Ms. Hunter stated no. Ms. Vuncannon asked about wrap around

services. Ms. Hunter spoke about daily leadership advisory. She stated that every adult in the building serves as an advisor for at least one student. She stated there is a school social worker, guidance counselor, college bound counselor, and one-to-one trauma-based therapy.

- Dr. Haire asked how long Ms. Hunter has been with the school. Ms. Hunter stated she is the founding principal. Mr. Quigley asked if the Executive Director is the same. Ms. Hunter stated yes, it is Mr. Todd Godbey.
- Dr. Haire asked about school communication. Ms. Hunter spoke about family communication efforts.
- Ms. Reeves asked for enrollment. Ms. Hunter stated 298.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION – CSAB ADMIN

- Mr. Machado announced that Mr. Jay Whalen and his wife welcomed their first child this week.
- Mr. Machado stated that Patricia has taken another position with the agency.
- Mr. Machado stated that NC Cyber Academy has a new interim superintendent. Mr. Machado reviewed recent SBE decisions regarding charters.
- Mr. Machado reviewed recent OCS school visits.
- Ms. Reeves asked how many applications were ultimately approved. Mr. Machado stated five traditional timeline and two acceleration.
- Dr. Barbara O’Neal reviewed the 2020 NC ACCESS application list. She stated there are eight evaluators reviewing four applications each. Dr. O’Neal stated last year there were 24 submissions and nine were accepted.
- Mr. Joseph Letterio Maimone reviewed the 2019 Performance Framework and acknowledged the 35 schools that exceeded Performance Framework expectations. He stated that schools that exceed are receiving graphic badges to use in marketing and/or website information.

ADJOURNMENT

- **Mr. Walker made a motion to adjourn at 11:17AM. He stated that following lunch, the CSAB committees will meet in public session in the SBE Board Room and the SBE Lounge to discuss committee work. Mr. Quigley seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned via acclamation.**