

**Minutes of the
North Carolina Charter School Advisory Board
Via Teleconference
April 6, 2020
9:00 am**

Attendance/NCCSAB	Joseph Maimone (non-voting) Joel Ford Rita Haire – <i>Absent</i> Sherry Reeves Cheryl Turner Lynn Kroeger	Alex Quigley Jeannette Butterworth Steven Walker Heather Vuncannon Bruce Friend
Attendance/SBE/DPI	<i>Office of Charter Schools</i> Dave Machado, Director Ashley Baquero, Consultant	<i>Attorney General</i> Tiffany Lucas Stephanie Lloyd <i>SBE Attorney</i> Eric Snider – <i>Absent</i> <i>Charter School Teacher of the Year Advisory</i> Doug Price

CALL TO ORDER

- The North Carolina Charter School Advisory Board (CSAB) meeting was called to order at 9:04 am, via conference call, by Chairman Alex Quigley who read the Ethics Statement and CSAB Mission Statement. Mr. Quigley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion: Approve the March 2020 CSAB minutes.

Motion: Sherry Reeves

Second: Cheryl Turner

Vote: Unanimous

Passed Failed

Motion: Approve the March 2020 CSAB committee minutes.

Motion: Sherry Reeves

Second: Cheryl Turner

Vote: Unanimous

Passed Failed

Motion: Approve the April 2020 agenda.

Motion: Alex Quigley

Second: Sherry Reeves

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

AMENDMENTS

- Ms. Ashley Baquero, OCS Consultant, stated there are three amendment requests before the board.

NC Virtual Academy

- Ms. Baquero stated that NC Virtual Academy is seeking an amendment to maintain enrollment above the statutory minimum, at 2,945 students for the 2020-2021. She explained an enrollment increase was approved last year for this academic year, and the school wants to maintain that enrollment.
- Ms. Cheryl Turner confirmed this request is for NC Virtual Academy and not NC Cyber Academy. Ms. Baquero stated yes.

Motion: Approve the amendment request.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Bruce Friend

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

Longleaf School of the Arts

- Ms. Baquero stated that Longleaf School of the Arts is requesting an amendment to change its mission statement. She stated the request is bundled with requests to clean up some old language from the charter application and amend its graduation requirements as part of the Educational Plan. She stated those requests do not require CSAB and State Board of Education (SBE) approval, but the mission statement request does require this approval.
- Ms. Baquero reviewed the mission statement revisions. She stated the graduation requirements have been revised to better align with NC requirements and other local high schools.

Motion: Approve the amendment request.

Motion: Sherry Reeves

Second: Steven Walker

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

Kaleidoscope High School

- Ms. Baquero explained the school is currently in a one-year delay after having difficulty finding a facility location. She explained the school originally intended to locate in Morrisville. She stated the school is now requesting to relocate to a temporary location in a church facility off Spring Forest Road in Raleigh.
- Ms. Sherry Reeves stated she has major concerns with enrollment, especially given the fact has already had a one-year delay.
- Mr. Bruce Friend asked how far the new location is from the original location. Mr. Steven Walker stated about twenty miles. Mr. Friend stated that concerns him due to recruitment needing to be completely different with that type of distance.
- Ms. Turner stated she is very concerned because the school has already been in delay and she believes this school had previously stated it could get the projected enrollment due to its location near several K-8 schools. Mr. Quigley stated he agrees and now he wonders if the school can even open given the challenges to recruitment with a new location.

Motion: To not approve the amendment request.

Motion: Sherry Reeves

- Ms. Turner stated we should table until next month's meeting when the school appears for enrollment updates.

Motion: To withdraw the motion.

Motion: Sherry Reeves

- Mr. Quigley stated we are operating in unchartered territory and the bar needs to be very high for opening schools.
- CSAB members discussed tabling the motion until next month.

Motion: To table the amendment request until next month.

Motion: Cheryl Turner

Second: Steven Walker

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

EASTSIDE STREAM ACADEMY (fka Charlotte Choice) UPDATE

- Mr. Gregory Davis, school leader, spoke about the school's current academic data.

- Mr. Quigley asked about the budget and the current COVID-19 health crisis. Ms. Sherida Stevens, Business Manager, stated the situation has saved the school significant expenses due to no transportation or meal costs. She stated the school has been doing remote learning since March 16, 2020. She stated there is a reduction in other expenses such as school materials, printing, etc. She stated the staff are still working except for two bus drivers who have found other employment.
- Ms. Reeves asked about the new facility status. Mr. Jason Guffey, Board Vice Chair, stated that all plans have been reviewed and they are waiting for final approval for construction. He stated that the school has renegotiated the current lease so they can stay in that current building. Ms. Reeves asked when they anticipate moving into the new facility. Mr. Guffey stated it is in the hands of the Department of Transportation (DOT) and it is a 21-week construction cycle. He stated they are just waiting for DOT approval.
- Ms. Reeves asked for anticipated enrollment for next academic year. Ms. Stevens stated there are 100 returning students and 62 applications for new students. She stated they are projecting 190 students if they stay in the current location. She stated they anticipate a higher number of students if the new building is ready. Ms. Stevens stated they have received over 200 applications, but some parents have stated the enrollment is contingent on the new facility. She stated 62 applications are for students that want to enroll regardless of the new location.
- Mr. Joel Ford stated the school has been working very hard to gain support in the community. He wants to encourage the school to continue their energy because there is a high need for a successful charter school in East Charlotte.
- Mr. Quigley asked about enrollment caps for the school. Mr. Dave Machado, OCS Director, stated they would be capped at 20% enrollment growth due to their low-performing status. Ms. Stevens stated they are aware of the cap, however they have the staff allotted for the 20% increase knowing that only CMS would pick up funding for the additional students over 20%.

ESSIE MAE KISER FOXX CHARTER SCHOOL UPDATE

- Ms. Tina Foxx Wallace, Board Chair, asked the school leader Mr. James Fisher to give an update regarding academics.
- Mr. Fisher spoke about the latest benchmarks that were taken prior to the COVID-19 closure. He stated there have been struggles in ELA data. Mr. Fisher spoke about professional development among staff to improve academic achievement.

- Ms. Wallace stated the audit has been started and projected to be complete by the end of April. Ms. Latesha Feamster spoke about the audit process and complications that led to the late audit. Ms. Feamster stated that there were incorrect entries in LINQ that needed to be corrected. She stated there had to be manual data entry to give to the auditor.
- Mr. Quigley asked about the School Improvement Plan and why it had not been posted in NC Star. Ms. Wallace stated she believes it was uploaded last week and to Epicenter this week.
- Ms. Reeves asked about why the lottery was indicated as not applicable in the update summary. Ms. Wallace stated they are waiting on some intents to return and have 22 new applicants. She stated the projection for next year's enrollment is 150.
- Mr. Quigley asked if they were worried about recruitment given the COVID-19 crisis. Ms. Wallace stated they are anticipating a large kindergarten enrollment and had started recruitment prior to the pandemic.

THREE RIVERS ACADEMY UPDATE

- Mr. Don McQueen and Dr. Holland introduced themselves. Dr. Holland is the school's principal.
- Dr. Holland spoke about the academic progress of the school. She stated that parent conferences were scheduled for students at risk and plans were developed to help the students become successful. She stated no additional school-wide data is available given the pandemic event. She stated data showed the students making incremental progress. Ms. Forsyth, teacher, spoke about changes to the classroom including implementation of exit tickets and standards alignment.
- Mr. McQueen spoke about remote learning plans during the pandemic.
- Mr. Walker asked if the school still intends to move. Mr. McQueen stated yes. He stated there are a few more items to complete prior to receiving the Educational Certificate of Occupancy.
- Ms. Reeves stated the projected enrollment for next year is 345 and current ADM is 67. Mr. Machado stated that according to the original application for assumption, 345 was the projected enrollment, so it is allowed based on the original application.
- Ms. Baquero reminded the school that an amendment was needed for relocation and the process could take three months. She asked the school to reach out for assistance when ready to request relocation. Mr. McQueen stated he would do that.

NC CYBER ACADEMY UPDATE

- Mr. Martez Hill, Interim Superintendent, and Ms. Jill Hammergren, Board President, were introduced to the CSAB.
- Ms. Hammergren spoke about new hires to for the school including the new Interim Superintendent. She stated new committees have been developed for the board. She spoke about new service alignment for students and families. She continued to speak about surveys from stakeholders being conducted to obtain feedback to continue improvement.
- Mr. Mullins stated enrollment was 2330 as of last Friday. He stated there has been an increase of over 200 students in the last two months. He stated they have received some calls about enrollment, but it is past the enrollment period. He stated there are 378 applications for the next school year. Mr. Mullins stated the intent to return process has begun and the enrollment team is reaching out to students that have not yet returned those intent to return forms.
- Mr. Hill stated that there have been some changes to operation based on the pandemic. He stated the previous face to face gatherings have been changed to virtual. He stated they are still trying to determine whether to hold the June 11th graduation. He stated they may have a virtual graduation or delay graduation to a later date.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION – CSAB ADMIN

- Mr. Machado spoke about recent State Board of Education (SBE) actions. He reviewed SBE amendment approvals and discussions at its April meeting.
- Ms. Baquero stated she believes the May 2020 meeting will be an abbreviated meeting similar to today’s meeting.
- Mr. Machado spoke about the NC ACCESS Covid-19 Stimulus Plan to help subgrantees with additional funding for Covid-19 related activities such as deep cleaning buildings and remote learning expenses.
- Mr. Machado spoke about OCS communication to the field during this closure and pandemic period.

ADJOURNMENT

- **Mr. Quigley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:24 pm. The meeting adjourned via acclamation.**