

**Minutes of the  
North Carolina Charter School Advisory Board  
Via Cisco Webex Remote Meeting  
September 14, 2020  
9:00 am**

Attendance/NCCSAB	Joseph Maimone (non-voting) Joel Ford Rita Haire Sherry Reeves Cheryl Turner Lynn Kroeger	Alex Quigley Jeannette Butterworth Steven Walker Hilda Parlér Heather Vuncannon Bruce Friend
Attendance/SBE/DPI	<i>Office of Charter Schools</i>  Dave Machado, Director Ashley Baquero, Consultant Claire Porter, Consultant Jay Whalen, NC ACCESS Barbara O'Neal, NC ACCESS Joseph Letterio, Consultant Shaunda Cooper, Consultant Darian Jones, Consultant Davida Robinson, NC ACCESS	<i>Attorney General</i> Tiffany Lucas Stephanie Lloyd  <i>SBE Attorney</i>  <i>Charter School Teacher of the Year Advisory</i> Doug Price Ashley Bailey

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**Motion: Approve the July 13<sup>th</sup> and August 12<sup>th</sup> minutes.**

**Motion: Sherry Reeves**

**Second: Heather Vuncannon**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**

**Failed**

**Motion: Approve the September 2020 agenda.**

**Motion: Steven Walker**

**Second: Rita Haire**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**

**Failed**

- Mr. Quigley thanked Doug Price for his work this year as the Charter School Teacher of the Year Advisor. Mr. Price introduced the new Charter School Teacher of the Year Advisor, Ms. Ashley Bailey from Roxboro Community School.

**AMENDMENTS**

- Ms. Ashley Baquero, OCS Consultant, explained this month’s amendment requests.

Kestrel Heights Mission Statement

- Ms. Baquero explained the school’s mission statement request. There was no discussion.

Sterling Montessori Mission Statement

- Ms. Baquero explained the school’s mission statement request. There was no discussion.

Woods Charter School Weighted Lottery

- Ms. Baquero explained the school’s weighted lottery request. There was no discussion.

**Motion: Approve the Kestrel Heights, Sterling Montessori, and Woods Charter amendment requests.**

**Motion: Lynn Kroeger**

**Second: Steven Walker**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

**INTRODUCTION TO 2020 APPLICATION CYCLE**

- Dr. Darian Jones, OCS Consultant, spoke about this year’s application cycle. He referenced the relevant charter application statutes and policies. Dr. Jones explained how the application timeline was revised this year to allow for an earlier review period. He explained the distribution of applicants by type of application and by county. He spoke about the new Edlusion charter application system used by applicants and evaluators. Dr. Jones explained CSAB/OCS responsibilities as it pertains to charter applications.
- Dr. Jones explained that this year, there will be three options after each Round 1 interview: recommend approval, recommend denial, or forward to a Round 2 interview. Mr. Quigley confirmed this change and that CSAB no longer conducts clarification interviews.
- Mr. Quigley spoke about requirements for acceleration requirements including a facility and a compelling need. He stated having a facility does not mean the need is compelling, nor

does just a need for a choice. He stated compelling need is taken seriously and can vary based on application. He stated the school must be ready and have a compelling need. Mr. Joseph Maimone stated that applicants must understand that once they've chosen acceleration, there is no option to fall back into the standard application cohort. Mr. Quigley confirmed this and that acceleration delays are rarely approved because a school that decides to apply for acceleration, especially in this environment, must be prepared for the responsibility of opening on time.

### Faith Academy

- Dr. Jones stated Faith Academy is applying for acceleration in Rowan-Salisbury. He displayed the proposed grade levels, K-12 and 940 students, at year five.
- Ms. Sherry Reeves opened the floor to discussion among CSAB members. Ms. Cheryl Turner expressed concerns about the large enrollment numbers. Mr. Joseph Maimone asked for clarification on whether there are other schools of choice in the county. Mr. Quigley stated that Essie Mae Kiser Foxx is the only one currently.
- Ms. Turner stated she needs more information regarding the facility.
- Mr. Quigley asked whether Faith Elementary is definitely closing; he wants clarity on whether the local district has made a decision. Ms. Reeves stated there is discussion about closing the school, but that decision has not been made which brings up the compelling need aspect. She stated if Faith Elementary closes, the board states that the school those students would be sent to is underperforming. She stated that is the board's stated compelling need, but Ms. Reeves is not sure that is actually a compelling need. She also expressed a concern that if the school does not close, and the charter school is approved, they would be competing for the same students. Dr. Rita Haire expressed similar concerns about the compelling need. She stated that the limbo of not knowing if a local school will close, can be a compelling need, but if the school doesn't close she wonders if the compelling need remains. Mr. Bruce Friend brought up concerns about declining enrollment in the area. Ms. Reeves stated similar concerns.
- Ms. Hilda Parlér asked what makes the school unique from the local schools. Dr. Haire wondered if the CTE program makes it unique.
- Dr. Haire asked why the school anticipates higher numbers in sixth grade.
- Ms. Turner voiced concerns about the specific pathways explained the application.
- Dr. Haire stated the instructional overview was thorough except when it comes to the high school CTE program.
- Ms. Jeannette Butterworth voiced concerns about the digital learning plans in the application.

- The board expressed no concern regarding the governance section of the application. Ms. Reeves asked for input regarding the operations plan. Ms. Turner stated she is not clear on the facility and needs more information about both the plan A and plan B. Ms. Reeves asked for more detail on the transportation and nutrition plans. Mr. Quigley wondered if the transportation costs are sufficient in the budget.
- Ms. Lynn Kroeger voiced concerns about the budget being sustainable given it rests on hefty enrollment numbers.
- Mr. Quigley stated he does not believe the standard from compelling need is met and we probably need to hear from the school's board at this point. He stated if we can't find a compelling need, the rest of the application is moot. Mr. Steven Walker wanted to confirm that if an applicant does not meet approval in acceleration, that ends the application opportunity. Mr. Quigley stated yes, that decision was made last year. Dr. Jones and Mr. Dave Machado, OCS Director, confirmed that acceleration applicants are given ample information regarding acceleration requirements and process.
- Mr. George Wilhelm, Board Chair for Faith Academy, introduced himself as a lifelong resident of Faith, North Carolina, and stated he retired as sheriff of Rowan County.
- Mr. Gene Miller, Vice Chair for Faith Academy, introduced himself and spoke about his extensive background in education. Mr. Tim William, Secretary to the Board, introduced himself as a lifelong resident of Faith, North Carolina, and stated he is a pharmacist. He has served as Mayor of the town of Faith. Ms. Liz Morrow, stated she will serve as Treasurer to the Board. She explained her experience as a Certified Public Accountant. Additional board members introduced themselves to CSAB.
- Board members spoke about how Rowan County has previously discussed closing Faith Elementary School in the local school district. Ms. Janna Griggs spoke about the county's discussions regarding redistricting and how parents feel like they have very few options and are worried about what will happen if the local elementary school closes.
- Ms. Reeves asked for the current grade levels of Faith Elementary. Mr. Wilhelm stated K-5. Ms. Reeves asked why Faith Academy would open as a K-12 school. Mr. Wilhelm stated they are opening as K-7, but will grow by a grade level each year. Ms. Reeves stated that K-7 is still a stretch. Mr. Wilhelm stated they believe parents will want to send their children to a new middle school.
- Ms. Reeves asked about the current demographics at Faith Elementary. Mr. Wilhelm stated he is not positive.
- Mr. Quigley asked if the district submitted an impact statement. Dr. Jones stated the district was notified but did not submit an impact statement. Mr. Wilhelm stated the district knows and has been supportive in past discussions.

- Mr. Miller stated that although the enrollment appears to be declining in the area, the population is not declining but parents are sending students to options outside the district. Ms. Griggs stated students are moving to charter schools outside the county, private schools, and homeschools.
- Ms. Reeves stated she understands that this board has proposed to purchase land and also build a facility while operating with modular buildings. Ms. Reeves stated the back-up facility is a youth center. Mr. Wilhelm stated that the contractor stated they should be able to get started in the spring. He stated there is already water and sewer. He continued that they really need to get started soon. Ms. Reeves asked about the funding. Mr. Wilhelm stated a financial backer will fund the school if the school gets acceleration approval. The backer would purchase the land and pay for the construction. Ms. Reeves asked about possible issues to arise. Mr. Wilhelm stated the land is already zoned for a school. Ms. Reeves asked about the back-up option. Mr. Wilhelm stated they have church and may have a second church available if needed for enrollment proposes that is a quarter mile from the first church. Ms. Reeves asked if the facilities have certificate of occupancies for educational purposes. Mr. Wilhelm stated he is unsure. Ms. Griggs spoke about the contractor for the modular buildings.
- Ms. Reeves asked if they will lease or purchase modular buildings. Mr. Wilhelm stated they have options to do either. Ms. Reeves posed some concerns regarding enrollment. Ms. Griggs stated that the local school closure is coming down the road and those students will need somewhere to go. She stated they are not trying to compete with the school but want to be an option when the school does in fact close. Ms. Griggs spoke about community interest and stated the board feels very confident about the enrollment projections.
- Mr. Bruce Friend stated he is confused about the timeline for the Faith Elementary closure. Ms. Reeves stated it may be on the agenda as early as today in the county, but it sounds like the board is not clear on the exact state of closure. Ms. Butterworth stated it sounds like it's been in discussion for some time, but there is not definite closure status. Mr. Friend stated he understands the board's passion for the school, but the compelling reason is based on the belief that the school will be closed but when and if the school will close is not certain. Mr. Walker stated he believes that if Faith Elementary closes will probably depend a bit on what happens today with this applicant.
- Ms. Heather Vuncannon wondered if the school is innovative as opposed to being just an alternative to the local school.
- Mr. Wilhelm stated the property will be gone if they don't get approved which makes it compelling to the board. He stated the board is certain that Faith Elementary will be definitely close this year and if this board doesn't get acceleration, the school will be years behind in terms of opening.
- Mr. Maimone expressed support for the application and stated the board is very strong.

- Ms. Sarah Hensley stated she is the school administrator and would like to speak. Mr. Walker stated he thinks this application seems strong and could come back next month. Ms. Turner stated she agrees because she would like to wait a month and see if the local district makes a decision on the school closure. Several CSAB members expressed agreement.

**Motion: Move Faith Academy to Round Two interviews in October.**

**Motion: Rita Haire**

**Second: Hilda Parlér**

- Mr. Friend stated a supporting statement from the district would go a long way. He stated CSAB must go by the application and the application doesn't speak strongly to a compelling need.
- Mr. Quigley stated he will not support the motion because he doesn't believe the application is particularly strong and there is not a compelling need evident, but a letter from the Superintendent supporting a charter school would be very compelling. He stated he looks forward to hearing what occurs over the next month.

**Vote: Jeannette Butterworth, Bruce Friend, Rita Haire, Lynn Kroeger, Hilda Parlér, Sherry Reeves, Cheryl Turner, Heather Vuncannon, Steven Walker**

**Opposed: Alex Quigley**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

School of the Arts for Boys Academy (SABA)

- Dr. Jones stated SABA is applying for acceleration in Chatham County. He displayed the proposed grade levels, 3-12 and 412 students, at year five.
- Dr. Jones stated there are currently three charter schools in the county. He stated there was no LEA impact statement received.
- Ms. Turner and Ms. Reeves expressed concerns about the mission that focuses on race. Ms. Turner stated that a legal review will need to take place given race is a protected class. Ms. Turner stated she sympathizes with the mission but the board needs confirmation that the application will pass legal standards. Ms. Butterworth agreed.
- Ms. Turner suggested they move the school to October so legal has time to review the legal issues. She stated if the mission statement is not legal, the application will need to be completely revised. Ms. Felicia Watson, Board Chair, introduced herself. SABA board members introduced themselves and their respective backgrounds.
- Ms. Turner asked CSAB members to express any other concerns so the school can be prepared to address those next month. Ms. Reeves and Ms. Turner expressed concerns about whether the facility is large enough to meet student capacity. Ms. Turner would like to see a floor plan.

- Ms. Reeves expressed concerns about the number of programs in the application and whether teachers will be able to effectively implement those all at the same time. CSAB members expressed concern about the fact that the school starts at third grade, rather than Kindergarten. Ms. Turner stated that starting with tested grades, when you know students will come in below grade level, will make it more difficult to keep your charter. Ms. Turner listed the programs in the application and stated that is a lot to expect teachers to be able to do well. Dr. Haire agreed and needs clarification regarding teacher quality and expectations.
- Ms. Kroeger stated she wonders how conflict of interest will be handled given there are two spouses on the board, and one will become the administrator. She stated the board is very strong, but she has conflict of interest concerns. Ms. Turner stated she agrees and sometimes board members don't feel comfortable expressing viewpoints even when the person directly conflicted is recused. Mr. Walker stated he thought the governance section was the weakest section of the application.
- Ms. Reeves asked for more detail about the transportation and nutrition plans. Ms. Reeves stated she wasn't clear if the school would participate in the National School Lunch Program. Ms. Kroeger agreed and stated it was difficult to determine if the budget was adequate due to a lack of detail in the plans.
- Ms. Kroeger raised several concerns about the budget. Ms. Turner and Ms. Reeves voice similar concerns including expenditures for professional learning and the arts. Dr. Haire stated that she agrees and the enrollment is critical to making the budget work, but they are targeting a specific population that restricts enrollment pools. Ms. Reeves stated that the waitlist data is not reliable because the populations would be different than what this school proposes to target.

**Motion: Move the School of the Arts for Boys Academy to Round Two interviews in October.**

**Motion: Sherry Reeves**

**Second: Hilda Parlér**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**

**Failed**

Falcon Academy

- Dr. Jones stated Falcon Academy is applying for acceleration in Cumberland County. He stated there are currently two charter schools in the county. He displayed the proposed grade levels, K-12 and 139 students, at year five. He stated there was no LEA impact statement submitted. Ms. Reeves confirmed this is both an accelerated conversion and alternative application and asked for the parameters governing alternative status.
- Ms. Reeves stated this school is currently operating as a private school and is on the grounds of the Falcon Children's Home. She stated this would be a conversion as well as an alternative status application.

- Ms. Reeves stated the facility is in place, so CSAB can start with the compelling need standard. Ms. Turner stated the compelling need seems to be based on serving kids that are not necessarily at the children's home, which negates the alternative status. Ms. Turner stated the enrollment is very low and she wondering how the school could ensure that the children's home residents actually gets into the school. Dr. Haire thought the school was seeking to reach out to at-risk students in the community. She asked if the parents in the community who could not afford to send their child to the school had been informed about the Opportunity Scholarships or the Disability Grants. Has anyone in the school considered that option? Rather than give up their faith-based mission to become a charter, scholarships for students with disabilities or the OSP could help families afford to send their child. The Falcon Board did not provide an answer.
- Ms. Reeves stated she is not sure the school meets the requirements of an alternative school. Dr. Haire voiced concerns including conversion and teacher qualifications. Ms. Reeves voiced concerns about how this school would be separated from the corporation with which it currently operates. Mr. Friend stated that while there may be a compelling need for this type of school, that does not make a compelling need for a charter school. He also echoed concerns that low enrollment numbers make it likely that the residential students may not get accepted through the lottery.
- The Falcon Academy board members introduced themselves. Mr. Michael Stewart stated that the Board Chair had a medical emergency and was unable to attend. Mr. Stewart spoke about his background in education and nonprofit work. Mr. Joseph Leggett introduced himself as the CEO of Falcon Children's Home. Other board members introduced themselves.
- The board was asked if they understood that by becoming a charter, the residential students may not get a spot through the lottery process. The board stated it understood, but CSAB members expressed concern that the lottery process may push out the residential students the school seeks to assist. Mr. Leggett stated the school intends to expand and reach more community members. He stated it would not just be a children's home school.
- Ms. Turner stated the school would not qualify for alternative if it expanded into the community. Mr. Stewart believes that many students would qualify. Ms. Turner stated that having an IEP or 504 does not necessarily meet the alternative status requirements.

**Motion: Recommend that Falcon Academy is not moved forward to Ready to Open status.**

**Motion: Cheryl Turner**

**Second: Jeannette Butterworth**

- Mr. walker stated there have been some good points raised, but he feels like the application should move forward.



**Vote: Jeannette Butterworth, Bruce Friend, Rita Haire, Lynn Kroeger, Hilda Parlér, Sherry Reeves, Cheryl Turner, Heather Vuncannon, Alex Quigley**  
**Opposed: Steven Walker**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

**ADJOURNMENT**

- **Mr. Walker made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:45PM. Ms. Parlér seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned via acclamation.**

**Minutes of the  
North Carolina Charter School Advisory Board  
Via Cisco Webex Remote Meeting  
September 15, 2020  
9:00 am**

Attendance/NCCSAB	Joseph Maimone (non-voting) Joel Ford Rita Haire Sherry Reeves Cheryl Turner Lynn Kroeger	Alex Quigley Jeannette Butterworth Steven Walker Hilda Parlér Heather Vuncannon Bruce Friend
Attendance/SBE/DPI	<i>Office of Charter Schools</i>  Dave Machado, Director Ashley Baquero, Consultant Claire Porter, Consultant Jay Whalen, NC ACCESS Barbara O’Neal, NC ACCESS Joseph Letterio, Consultant Shaunda Cooper, Consultant Darian Jones, Consultant Davida Robinson, NC ACCESS	<i>Attorney General</i> Tiffany Lucas Stephanie Lloyd  <i>SBE Attorney</i>  <i>Charter School Teacher of the Year Advisory</i>

**CALL TO ORDER**

- The North Carolina Charter School Advisory Board (CSAB) meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by Chairman Alex Quigley who read the Ethics Statement and CSAB Mission Statement. Mr. Quigley led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Mr. Quigley, Mr. Bruce Friend, and Ms. Hilda Parlér recused themselves from the renewal discussions.

**Motion: Approve the September 15<sup>th</sup> agenda.**

**Motion: Jeannette Butterworth**

**Second: Bruce Friend**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**

**Failed**

## **2021 RENEWAL UPDATE**

- Dr. Shaunda Cooper, OCS Consultant, stated that there will be 18 schools up for renewal votes this year. She stated, as CSAB discussed before, CSAB will use the data available, which could be between two and three years.
- Dr. Cooper explained the process of virtual site visits taking place this year. She stated the visits are going very well.
- Dr. Cooper confirmed that a renewal report will be presented, with all available data for each school, at October's meeting. She stated that data will be provided to CSAB at least a week before a report is given and she provides the data to each school prior to the meeting as well.

## **NC CYBER ACADEMY MONTHLY UPDATE**

- Mr. Martez Hill, Superintendent, introduced Shirley Arrington as the Vice Chair of the Board. Dr. Arrington spoke about her background.
- Mr. Bo Mullins, the Chief Operating Officer, stated the school is at 2,472 enrolled students with about 3,000 students on the waitlist and hope to pull about 550 from the waitlist with the additional enrollment increase granted by the General Assembly. He stated about 1,400 computers have been ordered and they are arriving in waves. He stated the audit results should be available this week and the transition with the financial services has gone well.
- Mr. Quigley asked if DPI has given the school any information about funding for students that may move to NC Cyber Academy (NCCA) after being enrolled elsewhere for twenty days. Mr. Mullins stated he is not aware and Mr. Hill stated he has also not been given guidance. Mr. Quigley stated it seems like it will be the same as before so if a student is pulled from a school after twenty days, the funding stays with the original school.
- Mr. Mullins spoke about supporting any students transitioning into the school from brick and mortar schools. Mr. Mullins stated that enrollment will end by September 30<sup>th</sup> and then provide the extra support needed to catch students up.

## **NC ACCESS**

- Mr. Jay Whalen, NC ACCESS Program Director, introduced new NC ACCESS team members Ms. Davida Robinson and Ms. Lakisha Robbins. He stated that 34 grants were awarded in Cycle Two and one school has decided to decline the award, so now there are 32 subgrantees for that cycle. He updated CSAB on the fellowship program.

- Mr. Whalen spoke about the Educational Equity Aspiring Minority School Leaders Program. Mr. Whalen spoke about the eligibility requirements being aligned to requirements through Appalachian State.
- Mr. Whalen explained the update timeline, application, and rubric.

**Motion: Approve the NC ACCESS timeline, application, and rubric.**

**Motion: Heather Vuncannon**

**Second: Hilda Parlér**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**

**Failed**

### **THREE RIVERS ACADEMY**

- Mr. Don McQueen stated that the Educational Certificate of Occupancy (ECO) should be received in the next day. He stated the inspector just left the building and everything is prepared.
- Ms. Turner asked when school will start. Mr. McQueen stated as soon as the ECO is in hand, which should be tomorrow. Ms. Turner asked how the school will meet minimum hours. Mr. McQueen stated that they will use a combination of extended days and calendar revisions. CSAB requested the new calendar.
- Ms. Reeves asked about communication with parents. Mr. McQueen stated parents have received constant communication and students have received educational enrichment prior to the official calendar. He stated they have been in that mode with parents, so it feels a lot like regular school. He stated things have been smooth with parents. He stated staff are being paid during this enrichment period. He stated Torchlight has made all expenditures needed to keep the school running.
- CSAB requested the remote learning plan, revised calendar, enrollment information, and the ECO to be submitted to OCS. CSAB requested another update at the October meeting.

### **2020 OPENING SCHOOLS UPDATE**

- Ms. Claire Porter, OCS Consultant, gave an update on the new charter schools that opened this school year. She reviewed current enrollment numbers. She stated most schools met or exceeded capacity which was good news in such a difficult time period to open a new school. She stated that many schools used their back-up facility option which is a reminder as to the importance of schools having a contingency facility plan.

## **VIRTUAL CHARTER SCHOOL PILOT PROGRAM REPORT**

- Ms. Ashley Baquero, OCS Consultant, introduced the Virtual Charter School Pilot Program (VCPR) Report. She explained the history and background of the VCPR. She explained that as part of the original pilot legislation there was a reporting requirement which is being fulfilled through this report.
- Ms. Baquero explained that there are some differences in terms of accountability and operational requirements as opposed to brick and mortar charter schools, but that the VCPR schools are subject to the charter school statutes in Article 14A.
- Ms. Baquero explained the enrollment provisions within the pilot legislation. She described recent updates in that regard that were passed through a COVID related Session Law. She continued by displaying the enrollment trends among the two virtual charter schools.
- She continued by explaining the withdrawal rates legislative requirements unique to virtual charter schools. She explained that the schools must have a withdrawal rate no higher than 25% and that there are several exclusions that do not count toward the schools' withdrawal rates.
- Mr. Maimone asked how finite enrollees are counted for funding purposes. Ms. Baquero stated she doesn't believe it impacts the funding because the school, rather than DPI, actually keeps those records.
- Ms. Baquero discussed the course offerings of each school.
- Ms. Baquero explained the virtual schools' accountability requirements and the fact both schools are subject to the State Accountability Model. She stated the schools are both continually low-performing. She displayed the growth trends for each school as well as School Performance Grades (SPG).
- Ms. Baquero explained that subgroup data became available starting in the 2017-2018 school year and displayed the academic data for each school's subgroups.
- Ms. Baquero spoke about the graduation rates at both schools as compared to North Carolina and national averages. Mr. Maimone asked if there was data regarding participation rates considering virtual schools have more transient student populations. Ms. Baquero stated she would look into that.
- Ms. Baquero spoke about the teaching requirements in the pilot legislation including certification and professional development requirements.
- Ms. Baquero presented data on student demographics and stated that as the pilot program has progressed, the demographics more closely mirror traditional public and brick and mortar charter demographics. She spoke about the Economically Disadvantaged and Students with Disabilities demographics.

- Ms. Baquero spoke about the three major differences in state funding for virtual charter schools.
- Ms. Baquero stated the legislative reporting requirement included a mandate for recommendations on the program. She stated the recommendations presented are focused on academic improvement and gathering more data to better inform decisions regarding the program. Ms. Baquero presented the five draft recommendations.
- Mr. Walker asked if the letters from the schools would be added to the report. Ms. Baquero stated, yes, as an appendix.
- Mr. Joel Ford stated he would like more information regarding the management and leadership of the two schools. Mr. Ford stated the two schools need to know their performance is not acceptable. He said the schools need a sense of urgency. He would like more information about their school improvement plans.
- Mr. Friend stated there is a lot to digest in terms of these recommendations. Mr. Ford and Ms. Turner requested the schools' improvement plans. Mr. Machado stated he questions whether this goal of this report is to hold leadership accountable. He stated we can make recommendations for improvement, but the boards of the school should hold leadership accountable. Mr. Ford stated he would like to include the leadership and management of the programs in our accountability. Mr. Quigley stated he worries about getting into the weeds or micromanaging the schools and CSAB has put a lot of pressure on the schools in various ways. He stated we have seen improvements from both schools. CSAB members discussed creating an ad hoc committee to revise recommendations prior to the SBE meeting in October. Ms. Turner agreed to chair the meeting.

**Motion: Table the 2020 Virtual Charter School Report discussion pending the ad hoc committee meeting and recommendations.**

**Motion: Steven Walker**

**Second: Hilda Parlér**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**

**Failed**

### **CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION INTERVIEWS**

- Dr. Darian Jones, OCS Consultant, asked if there were any questions about yesterday's process. There were none. Dr. Jones stated that one applicant planned for today withdrew its application last night, Spartan Charter School. He read the letter submitted that explained the withdrawal.

## Old Main STREAM Academy

- Dr. Jones stated that Old Main STREAM Academy (OMSA) is applying for acceleration in Robeson County. He displayed the proposed grade levels, K-8 and 440 students, at year five.
- Dr. Rose Marie Lowry-Townsend introduced herself as the Board Chair for OMSA and spoke about her extensive experience in education. The remaining board members also introduced themselves.
- Ms. Reeves stated she believes the board has put together a clear demonstration that there is a compelling need due to the lack of quality choices in the county. She stated she has questions about the facility. Mr. Walker stated he agrees with the compelling need and believes the facility will work out. He stated the application is much improved over last year and was glad to see the RED pedagogy removed.
- Ms. Reeves wondered where the specific student projections came from in terms of students with disabilities and English language learners.
- Mr. Quigley stated the application was still very academically written so he would like to hear what the board would tell potential parents in order to explain and market the school to parents.
- Mr. Quigley stated there was a clear facility that seems to be an excellent starting place for the school, there is partnership with a local university, and the board has improved and come back after denial. He spoke about what makes this school right for acceleration and wanted to name those things for potential applicants to understand what CSAB is looking for in acceleration applications.
- Ms. Brenda Deese stated that the board would explain the ties of economics and job opportunity to the STEM curriculum. She stated that is very much of interest to the community. She spoke about reading proficiency gaps. She spoke about academic identity and believes these will be selling points to parents. Another board member stated they would help parents understand charter schools and using the standard course of study. Ms. Deese stated STEM supports active learning. She stated there are many instructional strategies that are complementary to underserved students and STEM.
- Ms. Turner stated the board needs to work on the elevator speech. She stated the hands-on learning is appealing and the types of instructional strategies, so the board needs to communicate that to parents. Mr. Quigley stated the board needs to get this concise and clear for parents. He asked if someone could explain connectivity movements referenced in the application. Ms. Deese stated it is developed by DPI and the Friday Institute and is part of the overarching principles they want to see daily in the school. Ms. Deese spoke about the classroom environment and sense of belonging. She stated you also want teachers to integrate content.

- Mr. Walker asked the board to confirm that RED pedagogy is no longer part of the educational plan. The board stated yes, that is correct.
- Mr. Walker asked the board to explain the school's reading plan. Ms. Deese stated that students in the county enter into the schools with a deficit in reading. She stated reading is integrated into STEM and want to start the reading process immediately. She continued to explain and Mr. Walker stated that if he were a parent, a lot of that would go over his head. Ms. Deese explained that the school will take care of what they need to take care of with programming and communicating. She spoke about low reading proficiency in the county.
- Ms. Reeves stated she thinks that the board knows what they want and what they envision, but you are not answering the question for the lay person. She continued that you must be able to relay to the parents the school's mission and programs. She stated the board needs to work on putting the vision into terms that the recipients will be attracted to. Ms. Turner agreed. She stated that initially the board will be selling the school and they need to understand what you will do for their child. She stated it is clear in the application, but you must be able to break it down to lay terms.
- Mr. Quigley stated this is the exact issue that came up last year in interviews. He stated the board must improve the ability to relay the school's vision and strategies to parents. Mr. Quigley gave an example.
- Ms. Deese stated that was not an elevator speech and that Mr. Quigley just did what they did. She stated he used the same verbiage. She voiced her frustrations with the questions from CSAB.
- Ms. Turner stated it is very important that CSAB is confident that you can enroll the number of students projected in the application and the concern is that the board has not been able to articulate why the school would be a good fit for a parent. Ms. Turner stated that will make recruitment difficult.
- Ms. Deese stated she understands that and have been engaging the community. She stated CSAB is pinning the board against the wall with questions about an elevator speech.
- Mr. Quigley stated that the response given did not answer the question about how to relay reading instruction to a prospective parent. Mr. Quigley stated that was not sufficient and that it's important that you can answer these questions and that he will need to defend your program in front of the SBE. He stated the board must be able to articulate it.
- Ms. Deese stated she understands that. She stated she was taking high illiteracy rates into account and when you speak to parents, they won't know the terms of reading instruction. She stated it can be difficult when you know your community and trying to navigate both audiences of the community and CSAB.
- Dr. Haire stated she believes the educational plan was strong, but data was missing to support the plan. She stated even the most basic data can be helpful to communicating the plan.



- Mr. Friend asked which board member has financial experience to work with the new principal. The board stated they are working to get that experience on the board and will hire an auditor.
- Mr. Friend asked if the principal will have full autonomy to hire staff. The board stated yes.
- Ms. Reeves asked about transportation. She wondered why there is a 45-day contract and then buses will be purchased. She also had questions about teacher assistants being drivers.
- Ms. Reeves needs clarity on the lunch program. She stated a vendor, Campbell Soup partnership, and CEP were all mentioned in the application.
- Ms. Deese stated the county is CEP so that would be the first option. She stated they have also explored other options such as packed meals for purchase. She stated Campbell Soup will partner with the school to create a pantry for the school. She stated there is a lunchroom available on site.
- Ms. Deese stated many students will not need busing, so they were going to use the forty-five days to make a determination on purchasing buses.
- Dr. Haire asked why an Exceptional Children (EC) staff is half-time, but a media staff member is full-time. Ms. Deese stated the media is important to the STREAM concept. She stated she believes that the EC population will be low and EC students are overrepresented in the county. She also stated some students are not identified.
- Ms. Deese stated there is a 70k surplus in the budget in case it is needed for hiring a full-time EC staff member.
- Ms. Reeves cautioned the school not to short-change the EC budget. She also stated that the administrator and teacher salaries seem very low and there are no benefits offered.
- Ms. Kroeger stated she is concerned with the budget because of the aggressive enrollment and there seem to be things that are underfunded such as staffing. She stated it makes her nervous.
- The board spoke about possible grants and other funding. Mr. Friend stated he understands that but he doesn't know how you can find someone to work for 40k and no benefits, especially on the heels of COVID. Ms. Deese stated the majority will be new or retired teachers.
- Ms. Reeves stated she believes they need to come back with an adjusted budget and some other areas tightened up.

**Motion: Move Old Main STREAM Academy to Round Two interviews in October.**

**Motion: Sherry Reeves**

**Second: Jeannette Butterworth**

- Mr. Walker stated that at the beginning of the interview he was prepared to move the applicants through, but he's now trying to get a grasp on the hostility and he doesn't believe anyone on the CSAB has said anything to disparage the board. He hopes that is not a sign of things to come when there is criticism or feedback down the road because a working relationship is important.
- Ms. Parlér would like to hear more about the middle school next month.
- Mr. Quigley requested that the school present a slide show next month demonstrating how the board would explain the school's vision to prospective students.

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**

**Failed**

#### **DIRECTOR'S UPDATE**

- Mr. Machado spoke about recent State Board of Education (SBE) actions including approval of amendment requests and the 2019 Performance Framework Report. He spoke about the NC ACCESS presentation given at the last SBE meeting. He stated it was very well-received by the SBE.
- Mr. Machado spoke about OCS Office Hours and OCS staffing plans.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

- **Ms. Parlér made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:37PM. Ms. Turner seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned via acclamation.**