

Minutes of the North Carolina Charter School Advisory Board

State Board Room 755, Department of Public Instruction

October 10, 2022

9 AM

Attendance – CSAB Members	
Jamey Falkenbury (non-voting) Rita Haire John Eldridge -- Absent Cheryl Turner -- Remote Hilda Parlér -- Remote Shelly Bullard -- Remote	Eric Sanchez -- Absent Terry Stoops Bruce Friend Dave Machado Todd Godbey -- Remote Bartley Danielsen
Attendance – Other	
<i>Office of Charter Schools</i> Ashley Baquero, Director Joseph Letterio, Consultant Melanie Rackley, Consultant Jenna Cook, Consultant Darian Jones, Consultant – absent Jay Whalen, NC ACCESS Davida Robinson, NC ACCESS – remote Barbara O’Neal, NC ACCESS Lakisha Robinson, NC ACCESS	<i>Attorney General</i> Forrest Fallanca <i>SBE Attorney</i> Allison Schafer <i>Teacher/Principal of Year</i> William Storrs – absent Maria Mills – remote Jeremy White – remote

Call To Order

Pledge of Allegiance: Mr. Machado

Mission and Ethics Statement:

- Mr. Friend read the Mission and Ethics Statement. Ms. Hilda Parler recused from Riverside Leadership Academy.

Approval of the Agenda and Minutes

Motion: Dr. Haire motioned to approve the agenda for the October Meeting

Seconded By: Mr. Stoops

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

Motion: Mr. Stoops motioned to approve minutes for September meeting.

Seconded By: Dr. Danielsen

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

October Charter School Advisory Board Meeting

- Apprentice Academy High School (Union County)
 - Ms. Dillingham gave a presentation on the ‘Truist Shining Star Innovation Award’. Apprenticeship Academy High School in North Carolina won the award and received \$5,000 for their school.
 - Dr. Barry Ross (Founder/Principal of Apprenticeship Academy) introduced his school and his vision of innovation. A video was played and then statistics were presented that made the school ‘stand out’ - in the eyes of Dr. Ross – when compared to other schools in NC.
 - Questions (Responses by Dr. Ross):
 - Dr. Haire: How old is Apprentice Academy?
 - 5 years old but 4th year with students.
 - Dr. Haire: What CC do you partner with? Is that the path that apprentices can get paid?
 - SPCCC, Charlotte, Stanly County. It is mainly dependent on where the programs are located.
 - Yes, Community Colleges house the program
 - Dr. Haire: Did you envision this before you founded this school?
 - I think you envision what it will be a few years from now but obviously things have changed and there’s things going on every day. I’ve learned a lot and met a lot of businesses.
 - Ms. Turner Q: Where are you relocating too relative to where you were?
 - Permanent answer hopefully in a few months. Church down the street but we’re waiting on the county to do a sewer assessment due to Sewer moratorium.
- 2021-2022 Academic Data Review --> Ashley Baquero
 - First time in 2 years, State Accountability Data
 - Summary
 - 204 charter schools received accountability data for the 2021-2022 school year.
 - First state data since the 2018-2019 school year.
 - Two charts presented based on the 204 schools chartered last year.
 - Broken down into growth and proficiency (how the grade is given to the school).
 - Stated each school that exceeded. Henderson Collegiate was top school for growth.
 - Subgroup breakdown
 - 129/204 schools met or exceeded with EDS (63%)
 - 50/204 with EL (24.5%)
 - 106/204 with SWD (52%)
 - School Performance Grades chart was presented with numbers for each letter grade.
 - Top performers were also introduced.
 - Low performing schools vs. Continually Low Performing definitions; summary of data presented.
 - 67 low performing schools and 66 currently operating (Uproar closed in 2022)
 - 35 CLPs with 34 currently operating.
 - Overall, LP/CLP schools make up 32.8% of operating charter schools.
 - Deeper dive into those LP or CLP schools (letter grades, growth standards, etc.)
 - Opportunities for Growth
 - NCSTAR Training (Requirement for Low Performing Schools)
 - LP and CLP Site Visits
 - Will resume once OCS fills vacant roles
 - Transformative Executive Leadership Program
 - NC Access Programming
 - NC Instructional Leadership Academy (NC ILA)

- Timeline – LP/CLP Requirements
 - 10/06/2022 SBE Certifies Data
 - 11/04/2022 Preliminary School Improvement Plan due to school’s BOD and parent notice due
 - Nov/Dec: NCStar prep, plan revisions, staff training, stakeholder input.
 - 12/04/2022 BOD must approve plan
 - 12/09/2022 SIP due in NCStar
- All data in this presentation is in the ‘Accountability Tab’ of DPI’s website.

Introduction to October Charter School Application Interviews (Ms. Melanie Rackley)

- Introduction of duties, as well as what CSAB did in September.
- Application Summary Feedback discussed.
- Reviewed application process.

Flat Rock Classical Academy

Introduction

- Ms. Rackley gave an introduction on the school (located in Henderson County). Stated the number of schools in the region as well as proposed subgroup and demographic data.

Opening Remarks

- Mr. Bill Miller and Ms. Tricia Hunsader introduced the board, their credentials and why they chose the model of school. Presented data on student/parent interest as well as reasons why the county needs this school. Also talked about the Mission of the School.

Questions / Discussion

- What areas do board members want to talk about:
 - Mr. Friend has issues with transportation, facilities and the connection with Learning theaters.
 - Mr. Stoops wants to learn more about the partnership with Hillsdale.
 - Dr. Haire wants to learn more about the partnership as well; facility, budget, and how other things will be affordable based on the line item.
 - Mr. Machado is wondering what professional development plans are, as well as plans for social services (counselors, etc.), what is the enrollment zone as well, did they do research in NC
 - Ms. Parler is having questions on equity, and if they could explain the ‘western heritage/American experiment’ stated in the application. Also has questions on instructional method with lectures. Ms. Turner also has concerns about ‘Western Heritage’.
 - Dr. Danielsen has questions about the partnership and what success rate they have had (since they’ve chosen to partner with you)?
 - Mr. Friend Q: Is there a relationship with the group helping you (Leaders Building Leaders)
 - Mr. Miller said there is no EMO/CMO and they do not have any familial relationship (it was suggested as a recommendation).
- Mr. Friend Q: Talk to us about the partnership with Hillsdale
 - Ms. Hunsader stated that the application for this partnership was submitted in July and since this application was due prior, they didn’t have an answer from Hillsdale by the time the application for the charter was due; and they didn’t want to mention something they didn’t have. She also discussed how Hillsdale came to their school and the resources/benefits they will provide (Such as Professional Development, Trainings for Leaders, Conferences, Networking opportunities). She stated no money changes hands in this relationship. She stated they will provide 80 hours of PD free of charge. The program is completely donor funded.

- Dr. Danielsen Q: Is there any information on the success those other schools using Hillsdale have? Have any closed down, etc.
 - Ms. Hunsader A: Two Member schools have been disaffiliated (Hillsdale severed that relationship). Hillsdale is very protective of reputation. Stated data that showed difference in public school data vs. those who went through the Hillsdale program. Explained data showing the benefits of the program for academics.
- Mr. Friend Q: Can you update us on your facility? Modular expansion after year 1?
 - Mr. Miller A: Gave the facility dimensions that they have had and noted the plans for expansion. Stated they already meet in the facility, occupy part of the facility, and will add modulars as needed as well. Will start with 11000 square feet K-4.
- Mr. Machado Q: Was that a county school/old school that was vacant?
 - Mr. Miller A: Was a county school that was vacant, remodeled interior, talked about the fact it would serve communities as well as the diversity of the board. He stated it is in a low income area of the county with a high Hispanic population. He stated overall Hendersonville is a retirement area and rural farm workers, nearly all white and Hispanic. He spoke about how the owner of the building supports the school and mission which is why rent is so low. He stated they have a new Hispanic member of the board with legal experience as well.
- Ms. Parler Questions:
 - Ms. Hunsader: There is not a desire to create an elitist school; talked about how the Hillsdale programs will bolster equity and strong performance.
 - Mr. Rick Bauroth: Talked about the ways they will judge the success of their enrollment.
 - Ms. Kelli Campbell: Talked about her relationship with the Hispanic Community through her dad, as well as her relationship with the Boys and Girls Club of Hendersonville. Stated how, through conversation, there is a demand for affordable high-quality education.
- Mr. Machado Q: Do you have any plans to increase racial diversity of board?
 - Ms. Hunsader: Staff and Faculty of the school should reflect the population of the school so they will hire the staff to reflect that. Talked – with add-ons from Board Members – about the hiring of a Hispanic individual to the board.
- Mr. Friend Q: Transportation of 2 busses as well as Counselors/Guidance counselors?
 - Ms. Hunsader: We haven't mapped the cluster zones yet, yes, we still plan to use two busses, we think the counselor/guidance counselor position is in the budget.

Closing Statements

- Ms. Hunsader gave closing remarks. Stated the demand for the school based on preliminary studies; stated that Hillsdale partnership; stated the money saved as well as how they are growing. Waiting on 501(c)3 status to approve for donors. They spoke about support from community members.
- Mr. Miller stated that each board member has visited schools that Hillsdale is partnered with. It was stated that data would be presented/given to CSAB.

Deliberation

- Mr. Stoops: Super strong board, went and got someone from the Hispanic community to lead outreach there.
- Dr. Danielsen: Are there any other Hillsdale models? Mr. Falkenbury with Mr. Miller stated that Dogwood was a model.
- Mr. Falkenbury: Respected the board for not mentioning partnership with Hillsdale until they got the partnership. Looking at Dogwood, they see the well-rounded curriculum and he thinks very highly of the application. Dr. Haire agrees with the sentiment and Mr. Friend does as well.
- Mr. Friend: I wish there was more time to talk about the budget. Stated things they'll need to consider / hash out before they get the school opened.

- Dr. Danielsen: Likes the fact they have a mix of businesspeople who are likely to help guide the business operations; and educators who can obviously teach/guide the education operations. You mention the possibility of raising money? Is that in your budget now?
 - Mr. Miller: There's a \$60,000 annual donation allocated in the budget but that's not factored in the budget. Additionally, we have not allocated in the \$80,000 that Hillsdale will give us for Professional Development. Frustrating that marketing team can't tell them where to write the check but they're waiting on all things to line up first.
- Mr. Machado: I think we need to get some better answers on how they will intentionally reach out to these communities.
- Ms. Turner: I'm much more confident with this Hillsdale application, increase Hispanics on the board, other things I'd like to know about but it's not something that will negate my support for the application.
- Ms. Shelly also has questions on the budget but also supports the application.
- Mr. Falkenbury: We have major gaps in the state especially in rural areas, a lot of that work is through contract work so we shouldn't hold that against them considering that is what they may be doing. Talked about his time as the Hispanic Outreach Director at DPI and the struggles outreaching to them due to language / cultural opinions and barriers. Challenges the board to take his experience and go out and do the networking.

Motion: Dr. Danielsen moves to forward application with recommendation for approval.

Seconded By: Mr. Stoops

Discussion:

- Mr. Friend: I will support the motion but there needs to be work done on the budget.
- Mr. Machado: I will support this motion, but you need to make sure that your community knows it's for all students.

Vote: Unanimous (TS, BF, RH, HP, SB, CT, TG, DM, BD)

Passed Failed

Riverside Leadership Academy

Introduction

- Ms. Rackley gave an introduction on the school (located in Craven County). Stated the number of schools in the region as well as proposed subgroup and demographic data.

Opening Remarks

- Ms. Amy Hobgood gave an introductory statement on the board. Stated her credentials as well as her children's successes in project-based learning programs in the triangle-based school.
- Ms. Siobhan Brewer gave her credentials and what she is doing currently in regards to education. Also touched on her community engagement and involvement.
- Mr. Damien Perez introduced himself and gave his credentials and how he got to the education field.
- Ms. Dee Taylor (online) introduced herself and gave her credentials.

Questions/Discussion

- Ms. Cheryl Turner: Has concerns about the starting ADM (480 is ambitious); 10 hours of mandatory volunteer hours. Question about the meal program (what do the free and reduced lunch children receive) and budget.
 - Ms. Hobgood on Volunteer Hours: We are looking for parents to be involved in student's education. That includes coming into volunteering in the school (field trip, etc). But also attending

events like PTA events, Parent – Teacher Conferences, Curriculum Nights, etc. She stated they are looking for involvement, not necessarily volunteering. If they don't, they are encouraged and supported and the ultimate beneficiary is the child.

- Ms. Hobgood on FRL Program: They would be receiving the same meals and are aware of confidentiality issues.
- Ms. Hobgood on Budget line items: Partnering with Charter Success partners where they would have a back-office support staff which includes CFO and other members of the financial, tech, executive, and legal teams.
- Ms. Brewer on ADM: There is a vast need for choice in Craven County and the surrounding areas. Students leaving to attend these schools in Pamlico and other areas, Board member they are looking to bring on has a background in marketing. The need is there and so they think they will get to that 480. She spoke about teacher support as well.
- Mr. Stoops: The board is a small board, do you have plans to recruit other board members and if so have they been identified, etc. And are they able to support a school of that size.
 - Ms. Taylor: We had another member who was from Craven County and she chose to step down due to her plate being very full. Commends the individual who was very good but stepped down since she saw the level of work required to build something of this scale. In the interview process for one more; goal is 5-6 and is open to looking at people with a specific school set. Anyone who has passion and time, we would be open to considering them.
 - Dr. Haire asks the chair to comment on that. Are you looking for certain areas?
 - Ms. Hobgood: We want to expand our board, at least one more in addition to the one who has been interviewed (but not voted in yet). Has to be someone who can bring support to the project. We're looking for legal expertise. She stated they've heard that an ideal number is 7-9 members.
- Mr. Friend: Update on the facilities as well – if they have one. He would like to know more about the operational and financial support in the budget.
- Mr. Machado: Does anyone on the board look to work for the school?
 - Ms. Hobgood: No sir they do not plan to work for the school.
- Dr. Haire: Technology budget. Very low budget for that.
 - Ms. Hobgood: Initial budget would be for Chromebooks; would be placed in the classroom for day-use. Have program in place for students who need to use it after school. Will not require homework online due to low connectivity in the rural county.
- Mr. Perez on things questioned:
 - Volunteer Hours: They are open to different involvement and it could count in things that are not on-campus (Gave examples).
 - FRL: It would be the same as what other people will get so they won't know the difference between the two.
 - ADM: Based on data and experience from other schools. Think it will work.
 - Project Based Learning: Not a set curriculum you can buy but a mindset you have to train the teachers and students in.
- Mr. Falkenbury: What if a parent does not participate in the voluntary hours?
 - Mr. Perez: They will take into account of what they are doing, opening up dialogue with the family and seeing how we can work.
- Mr. Falkenbury: There's never going to be a situation where you are going to get parents to do this legally?
 - Mr. Perez and Mr. Machado: No consequences if not; language says 'MUST' not 'Is Required'. Stated how it'll just be ways that people can choose how they want to get involved.
- Mr. Falkenbury: Professional Development costs associated with Science of Reading Training, do you have a plan for that?
 - Ms. Hobgood: Charter Schools have been afforded the opportunity to use LETRS training, and that we could continue to have Charter Schools get slots. If not, she stated 22k training would not be in their budget and they would have to lean on those already trained to help train staff.

- Mr. Friend: Do you have plans in place / personnel in mind that will truly sustain this type of education method (PBL) throughout the year? He stated you may train folks, but you need to make sure it is sustained and consistently implemented.
 - Ms. Hobgood: We had to do a PBL reboot after COVID, is an issue with many other schools. Plan to have teacher leaders on each team that will meet with for further professional development and interaction with other schools that are implementing this model well.
- Mr. Friend: Is this all going to be teacher-based curriculum?
 - Ms. Hobgood: We will use the 'I-Ready' program and the 'Teachers Toolbox' as well as Reading and Math K-8 Curriculum.
- Dr. Haire: Lot of funding into support you need, I still have concerns though about the operation dollars. Tech budget would only but 140 of the 480 chromebooks needed by students. I don't see interest (42 respondents for a 480 ADM, interest seems lean, need to see more interest).
- Mr. Friend: Looks like you've done some community outreach events, are parents showing up?
 - Ms. Hobgood: We kinda piggy-backed off of events that were already taking place, we are also trying to educate community on what a charter school is and what it means to be a charter school (Since it's the first one in the county). Looking to get into local churches as well as town-hall meetings to help properly educate individuals.
- Ms. Turner: Two of you – on a very capable board – are running a full-time school; are you able to do that with a very small board.
 - Ms. Hobgood: We are grateful for Charter Success who does our marketing to help with getting the word out.

Closing Statement

- Closing Statement provided by Ms. Brewer.

Discussion

- Ms. Turner opened up by re-outlining the three choices for CSAB – recommend approval, recommend denial, or second interview.
- Mr. Falkenbury Q: When they would come back if we didn't approve them today?
 - Ms. Turner: December.
- Mr. Falkenbury: I am just concerned about the interest level for a school as big as this; likes the board though. Mr. Friend agrees with that sentiment and agrees that it's a tremendous amount of work. He questions whether they can pull this off with the small number of board members who are providing boots on the ground. If we gave them two more months, are we going to get more data on interest and board members?
- Ms. Turner: Sees the need for a school in this county but also knows that rural counties with no other school are more difficult to start up. She said the board is already small and two are running schools themselves. Also has concerns in the budget with the total amount of money they're going to spend on operational and financial for the number of students. She stated she has more than twice the number of students at year 6 and she doesn't spend that much on contracted financial. She stated they have the budget, but it's concerning.
- Mr. Stoops: Overriding philosophical question; do we anticipate these questions we've brought up will be improved or do we give them leeway and give them two more months? Haven't made up in my mind and we have in the past required all materials. Ms. Turner agrees to give them more time and see if they can beef up their responses before making a final decision on them.
- Dr. Danielsen: If a school doesn't hit that 75% and they need a delay, why is that a major concern?
 - Ms. Turner: It's not necessarily a big issue for us as a charter community, but from a SBE standpoint we are not doing a good job if many schools have an enrollment issue/delay. Makes us look bad because it creates skepticism from the SBE.

- Dr. Haire: Talks about issues within the budget but there are lapses that she doesn't know if they can ameliorate them in the two months, but she would be open to that.
- Dr. Danielsen: One of the things that would make me more comfortable is if there are businesses that support this type of thing because they can help with this process. Mr. Machado agrees.
- Dr. Haire: Please clarify year one transportation budget.
 - Mr. Perez: Stated four busses will be used Year 1; stated cost of those busses as well as connections that help them with acquiring busses. He stated they can purchase two buses for about 5k. He stated his school operates 8 buses now. Also talked about how they are planning to expand board members with the help of Charter Success Partners, as well as the fact their charter allows up to 9 board members.
- Dr. Haire and Mr. Friend discussed the dilemma the members are facing again – will more information strengthen the application? Mr. Friend wishes more of that educational work would be done today. Doesn't want to diminish what they've done so far though.
- Dr. Haire stated the partnerships haven't been discussed. Ms. Turner stated though that those would all be high school partnerships that would mainly take effect in Year 3 or Year 4; they are starting K-7.
- Mr. Friend stated he understands the difficulties in educating people in a community with no charter schools. That takes time but he wishes more would have been done.
- Dr. Danielsen: So we've seen this issue before in rural communities? My concern is there are no boots on ground that will provide comfort level to show that they will be ready to go by time schedule.
 - Several board members stated that it's not just a rural issue.
- Mr. Falkenbury: Hypothetical. Say this exact application came to us as 'Ready to Open' status with 2,000 interests would we still be having this conversation. But do we think they have 2 months to figure all that out?
 - Mr. Friend stated that it would cross off one of my question marks. In 2 months, they could have expanded their board to 7, etc.

Motion: Mr. Friend motions to bring back board for 2nd interview.

Seconded By: Mr. Stoops

Discussion:

- Mr. Friend: I make that motion because I think the board has heard us.
- Ms. Turner: I don't know if questions is really what we're looking for. Mr. Friend and Dr. Haire added potential questions that they could ask. Ms. Turner agrees with that.
- Mr. Friend: Everything I think about when it comes to a 2nd interview, is it more worth their time or our time. With this one, I'm feeling like there's enough there to want to have them come back.

Vote: Unanimous (TS, BF, RH, SB, CT, TG, DM, BD)

Recused: Hilda Parlér

Passed

Failed

ADJOURN FOR LUNCH UNTIL 1:30 PM

MINA Onslow

Introduction

- Ms. Rackley gave an introduction on the school (located in Onslow County). Stated the number of schools in the region as well as proposed subgroup and demographic data.

Opening Statement

- Dr. Shawn Williams introduced himself and gave his credentials. Each board member – there are 12 total – introduced themselves. Dr. Williams introduced all the ‘Friends of the Board’ that are present as well.
- Dr. Williams stated the model of instruction as well as the mission statement of what MINA would be for that region.

Discussion and Q&A

- Mr. Friend Q: Interested to know more about the educational plan. Do any of the employees plan to work for the school?
- Mr. Falkenbury and Mr. Stoops: Delineation between who’s from MINA Lee and who’s from Onslow
 - Dr. Williams gave the locations of each of the board members.
 - Mr. Friend: How many are on the board of Mina of Lee County?
 - Dr. Williams: 3 of us.
- Dr. Haire: Budgetary questions; explain the looping protocol / status. Reflecting the composition of the LEA.
- Mr. Machado: 37 responses, is there any demand? Looping? 5% something. When you’re doing tutoring/other programs how are you doing that with a year-round approach?
- Mr. Machado: Are the Williams related?
 - Dr. Williams: Yes, married.
- Mr. Stoops: Restorative Justice and how that works? Has it worked in other districts/areas?
 - We didn’t start out using Restorative Justice approach but received training. Explained the benefits they’ve seen and how it works.
- Dr. Williams on Looping:
 - Gave an explanation on looping (teacher will be there from K-1; 2-3; etc...) and there will be classroom rotation.
- Dr. Haire: Can someone touch on how this school is an engineering school?
 - Dr. Williams: Touched on connection with Pitt Co and the fact they have a lab.
- Mr. Stoops: Why not a replication?
 - Ms. Williams: Gave the reasoning why per requirements. School doesn’t meet academic requirements.
- Mr. Friend: Talk about knowing the demand exists?
 - Dr. Williams:
 - Ms. Wells knows a lot about that.
 - We did the survey, hit community events, through communication at these events we know we need this school. Talks to other pastors. Small online, but larger face-to-face.
- Mr. Machado: What’s your involvement during the school once it opens?
 - Dr. Williams: More as an advisor. I would still be the chair of the Mina board.
- Dr. Haire: Stream Goal and the dual language / specialty programs; so correct me if I’m wrong, these teachers will be teaching in a subject where they feel the most confident? She is not seeing the positions in the org chart.
 - Dr. Williams: He stated they should be in chart, but the classroom teacher does not do those specials. He stated they would be elective teachers and they should have been in budget.
 - Dr. Haire: So it’s not the classroom teacher? I was looking at staffing chart.
 - Dr. Williams: No, No.

- Ms. Cheryl Turner: How much time is spent in the alternate language? She stated there is only one dual language teacher K-6.
 - Dr. Williams: K gets 90 mins every other day; 1-5 is 45 mins a day exposure. He stated kindergarten gets the most.
- Mr. Machado: What are academics like in the Lee County MINA?
 - Dr. Williams: F School Proficiency; Exceeded growth in reading, met growth in Math.
- Mr. Friend: Planned facility updates?
 - Dr. Williams: We're looking at a facility and it still has a for Sale sign on the front. It's almost an exact replica to what we have right now but it is coded the same and fits the requirements of this building.
- Mr. Friend: 3 of you are on an 'F' school – although it has meant growth. What are the lessons learned there that you will take to your new school?
 - Dr. Williams: Number 1 we opened up during COVID, presented updates on how this system would be different. Also discussed flaws / things they would improve on from the other school 3 board members are on.

Closing Statement

- Ms. Best gave the closing remarks. Touched on the goals and objectives of the school and her experience in Onslow county.

Deliberation

- Mr. Friend gave outline of decisions board could make.
- Ms. Turner: As Mr. Friend was saying MINA Lee is on the right path towards improving but she does not believe that this is the right time to be split between two schools. I think it's a bit premature. Dr. Haire's thinking is in that area as well and also touched on a desire to talk about items that were not talked about in the application.
- Dr. Danielsen: Isn't their fault COVID messed everything up, but he feels that the board should have taken more time to refine the model to make more comfortable. Mr. Falkenbury agrees. Mr. Friend agrees and is struggling with that himself.
- Mr. Machado: Awful lot of respect for Dr. Williams and think you are on the right track in Sanford; I agree however that it would be to your advantage to get MINA out of the 'F' category in Sanford.
- Mr. Friend: A lot of our concerns are about the performance of the school that they aren't replicating exactly and is under the time period of the pandemic.
- Ms. Turner: I think it's a little more than just that. I think they need to focus on that. I think no one benefits from people's energy being split. Focus on that school in Lee County, they can get that out within the year. Since they are not Continually Low Performing they can get out of the Low Performing category this year.

Motion: Ms. Turner motioned to not move MINA Onslow forward.

Seconded By: Ms. Hilda Parlér

Vote: 7-1 (TS, RH, HP, SB, CT, DM, BD; BF opposed)

Passed

Failed

ADJOURN until 2:30

Granite State Charter Academy

Introduction

- Ms. Rackley gave an introduction on the school (located in Chatham County). Stated the number of schools in the region as well as proposed subgroup and demographic data.

Opening Statement

- Ms. Holly Fraccaro gave opening statements. She introduced the other board members as well as their credentials. Gave a personal statement stating she is the Chief Executive Officer of a local homebuilder's association. She spoke about her many family members who are teachers and her struggles academically.
- Mr. Steve Griffin spoke about his involvement in Charter Schools in multiple states. Also touched on his credentials and work experience as the President of Insurance People. He serves on the homebuilder's association board which is how he met Ms. Fraccaro. He spoke about his work in CTE which is the model of the proposed school.

Discussion / Q&A

- Ms. Turner: What is your commitment to Alliance moving forward? Are there HS in Chatham that can continue your mission? Can I hear more about the involvement of parents? She stated she did not see a lot of work with parents, but a lot of business partnerships.
- Ms. Parlér: What is the rationale for seeking community support vs. Parents? How will granite be different from other schools offering similar programs?
- Mr. Falkenbury: I think this is an incredible idea, but just a little concerned about K-5 aspect. We're looking at career development; since it's so skilled base how are you going to do that so it's age appropriate? How are you going to find the workforce that administers the age-appropriate program? How is this success going to carry on into HS? Why not carry it through K-12?
- Dr. Haire: None of those teachers / coding / robotics are in the budget? Maybe it's not happening in the first 5 years, but where is the budget? What was the Spanish vs. English Survey difference in interest?
- Mr. Machado: Any services that they (Alliance) will provide you? No Fee? Transportation plan and workshop model, could you explain? Does the Elementary school start at 7:30?
- Mr. Stoops: Bus service ends at a 10-mile radius but plans to pull from much farther areas. I'd like to know a little bit more about the process / barriers potentially to finding an area in an industry – rich area.
- Mr. Falkenbury: how can you ensure the work will continue as they move into high school and why wouldn't you make this a K-12?

Answers from Board

- Mr. Randolph Vollers on Facility: Chatham is incredibly hot market; Have a property in mind, gave details on other proposed sites that would be buildable. He stated there are three suitable sites in the correct zoning. He spoke about his experience in site work.
- Mr. Griffin on Alliance: Alliance seems to run high-performing academic charter schools; we do not have a signed contract with them, they are just giving guidance.
 - Ms. Turner: Will you sign a contract if chartered?
 - Mr. Griffin: We haven't decided that, but we are under no obligation.
- Dr. Danielsen: Any conflict with your model of CTE and your goal of high-performing academics?
 - Mr. Griffin: Gave an example of how his dad didn't know what he wanted to do after HS, he helped build the brick wall around Duke and then became a dentist. Students are unprepared to move on from MS to HS and there is demand for this model. He doesn't believe their model has been done yet in NC. He spoke about the growth in Chatham Park. He spoke about waitlists in similar schools. Deficit is not in business support it's in parents support but they are also coming along. Stated connection with Hispanic community as well.

- Ms. Fraccaro: Will likely expand to the K-12 but we're just looking to grow conservatively. Transportation will be provided to all, just working to look at that more; looking at grants to supplement their funding.
 - Mr. Machado: Are you going to look at where your parents are going to and then offering transportation or vice versa?
 - Ms. Fraccaro: Look for areas that are Economically Disadvantaged. Explained why that was important to her and recruitment efforts in neighborhoods where need is greatest.
 - Mr. Vollers: Looking at census tract data and looking to expand to those who are in those more rural counties. Intention is to look for that update to come out soon and then make plans off of that data for marketing. He stated that there is a great diversity of income in the area. He spoke about his work with previous transportation plans and intention to create a robust system.
- Mr. Falkenbury: It's not going through HS, see partnerships with CC. Is it Dual-Enrollment? How does that work?
 - Mr. Vollers: Relationship between CCCC and Public Schools. Talked about the perks of that program and that relationship. Looking to cooperate with what's going on vs go in a different directions. He stated there is something called Chatham Promise with CCCC. He stated that is going on right now.
 - Mr. Machado: Will you be part of that?
 - Mr. Vollers: Yes, we would want to.
 - Ms. Turner and Mr. Falkenbury: It's a high school program though. Why would a Charter School need to do this if the local schools are already doing this?
 - Mr. Vollers: He stated they aren't doing what we would be doing. He stated that we would have all kinds of programs such as programming/technology and how construction would actually be more tech based in the future. Gave another explanation of demand / need for these types of work. Mr. Falkenbury said about 70% of jobs in the future (2048) will require computer science. Mr. Vollers spoke about Governor Cooper's visit to Chatham and the industry coming into the area.
- Mr. Falkenbury: How are you going to do this k-5 and 6-8; 7:30 start. Didn't get that in the application.
 - Ms. Gittens and Ms. Howell touched on the 6 purposes as well as the 7:30 start time. They stated you must start at the K level and then build up to either have high school or partner with one.
 - Ms. Howell stated they meant to check the four purposes, not six. Stated that 7:30 is typical start time for elementary school and would have staggered times for middle school starting in second year.
 - Spoke about workshop model of instruction and lego robotics engineering elective.
- Dr. Haire: there is nothing in the budget – which she knows is fluid – but there is nothing in there for technology.
 - Ms. Fraccaro: Touched on her experience researching curriculum; has to align with NC standards (Mr. Falkenbury stated that NC doesn't have curriculum, they can pick whatever). Ms. Fraccaro clarified she would want it to be something that is approved by the state if necessary. Resources are available and they will select curriculum that has unique focus in the areas they want to highlight and is not being done in other schools.
 - Ms. Fraccaro: Budget for Tech would have to be raised by board members as well. She stated she's had great interest and support from the 600 businesses in her association. She has learned that 5th Graders don't know what they want to be, but they do know what they don't want to be. We want to show them they can be anything they want in this world – women build homes, Hispanics own businesses, we want to show an array of diversity. Talked about a program she started in Orange County for Summer Career Academy which was hugely successful and widely diverse.
- Dr. Danielsen: Has Homebuilder Association supported this in any fashion?
 - Ms. Fraccaro: Yes. There is a letter of support in the application.
- Mr. Machado: Any board members from Siler City?
 - Ms. Fraccaro: No but many from Chatham County.

- Mr. Falkenbury: Why Granite State?
 - Ms. Fraccaro: Granite is the State Rock.
- Dr. Haire wanted to clarify enrollment.
- Ms. Turner stated 308 in K-6.

Closing Remarks

- Mr. Edson gave closing remarks and stated how he would like to make a difference in kids lives. Show them they can do anything they want to.
- Mr. Vollers reiterated support from GA, Governor, and County on growth and urges that CSAB move forward to help fill the gap in talent.

Deliberation

- Ms. Turner: The stuff they are talking about is phenomenal, but all of that is high school related with no plans to have high school programming.
- Mr. Falkenbury: I was hoping there was a high school as well; high schools are very expensive as charter schools and with all the support why is there not a HS fundraising ability.
- Dr. Danielsen: If they got approved through 8th grade and they want to expand to HS, do they have to come back?
 - Ms. Turner and Mr. Machado gave answers to that question. Not if they meet requirements and grow one year at a time.
- Mr. Friend was concerned about them not having a curriculum planned out yet. He stated it is very innovative. He stated he doesn't recall an interview with no curriculum chosen.
- Dr. Danielsen: They went out and found people that were good at different areas and can let them handle the process.
- Mr. Machado: Innovation in regard to the application is there and relevant to workforce needs. I'm not sure about the transportation plan and whether it is robust enough. Need to improve if you want to get families into that school.
- Dr. Haire: I think they have determined that it's important because of the large line item expenses for transportation; they just haven't communicated that to the parents yet.
- Mr. Stoops: I think technology and the points Dr. Haire brought up are important.
 - Mr. Friend, Ms. Turner and others agreed. Mr. Friend didn't see any line items for the technology.
- Dr. Danielsen: How expensive are certain things needed for the programming? Dr. Haire stated they are looking for donors and with that business support they should hopefully have funding.
- Mr. Falkenbury: Minimum is they should come back.
- Ms. Turner: Since they're starting K-5 and if kids don't understand how to read, you aren't going anywhere with this model. Not a lot of family support a ton of business support.
- Mr. Friend: How many other charter school boards if asked what is your curriculum and they said we'd figure it out, we'd let them go.
- Ms. Turner: I see a lot of work on the end goal, but I want to see more development.

Motion: Mr. Friend motioned to bring back for a 2nd Interview

Seconded By: Ms. Turner

Vote: Unanimous (TS, BF, RH, HP, SB, CT, DM, BD)

Abstain: Todd Godbey (was absent part of interview)

Passed

Failed

Ms. Ashley Baquero gave office updates and spoke about previous and upcoming SBE meetings.

Motion: Mr. Friend motioned to adjourn at 3:32PM

Seconded By: Ms. Turner

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed