

**Minutes of the
North Carolina Charter School Advisory Board
Via Cisco Webex Remote Meeting
June 8, 2020
9:00 am**

Attendance NCCSAB	Joseph Maimone (non-voting) Joel Ford – <i>Arrived 11:47am</i> Rita Haire Sherry Reeves Cheryl Turner Lynn Kroeger – <i>Absent</i>	Alex Quigley Jeannette Butterworth Steven Walker Heather Vuncannon Bruce Friend Hilda Parlér
Attendance SBE/DPI	<i>Office of Charter Schools</i> Dave Machado, Director Ashley Baquero, Consultant Claire Porter, Consultant Shaunda Cooper, Consultant Darian Jones, Consultant Jay Whalen, NC ACCESS Barbara O’Neal, 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

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.
- Ms. Cheryl Turner recused herself from discussion and voting on matters related to B.L.U.E. G.R.E.E.N. Academy.
- Ms. Hilda Parlér recused herself from discussion and voting on matters related to Wake Preparatory Academy.
- Chair Alex Quigley and Advisor Mr. Doug Price both presented statements regarding racial equity in education. Board members discussed a desire to move forward with tangible steps to improve equity in charter education.

Motion: Approve the May 2020 CSAB minutes.

Motion: Bruce Friend

Second: Sherry Reeves

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

AMENDMENTS

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

The Hawbridge School

- Ms. Baquero introduced the school's request to increase enrollment by 85% in the 2021-2022 school year. She reminded the CSAB that the board discussed this amendment last month and asked for further information. Mya Ciccotti, Head of School, is present to answer questions.
- Ms. Baquero explained the school's plan to construct a new campus and expand to K-3 (the school currently serves 4-12). Ms. Baquero stated the school is not low-performing and meets statutory requirements.
- Ms. Parlér asked how confident the school is it can meet the enrollment targets. Ms. Ciccotti stated she is 100% confident and spoke about the waitlist numbers. Mr. Quigley asked about the number of sibling enrollments the school receives each year. Ms. Ciccotti explained those numbers and that the enrollment increase would allow for greater diversity by opening up seats to a greater number of new families.
- Ms. Reeves asked about the budget and some key positions that were eliminated. Ms. Ciccotti explained that the school has never had a data manager and the school has managed. She stated the positions that are not filled are more of a wish list. She stated class size is a big component of the charter and so teacher positions were very important. She stated the lower school will get two new administrative positions focused on curriculum, assessment, and remediation.
- Ms. Ciccotti stated the budget is based on borrowing the full USDA amount, but the school expects to borrow \$1.5M less than what the budget reflects so some positions may be added. Ms. Reeves asked how many Exceptional Children students are enrolled at the school. Ms. Ciccotti stated 11-12%.
- Mr. Quigley asked if the school plans to apply for the NC ACCESS grant. Ms. Ciccotti stated yes, the board has been discussing that, but got sidetracked with the COVID situation. She stated it will be an ongoing discussion for the board and the weighted lottery is being discussed.

- Mr. Quigley asked if there is precedent for requests like this. Ms. Baquero stated there have been several schools that have previously requested enrollment increases a year prior to growth due to similar situations like construction schedules. She stated each year the OCS brings requests to the State Board of Education (SBE) that are similar in size and reminded the board, while the percentage growth is high, the individual student numbers are not as high as one might expect.
- Mr. Quigley expressed support for the motion and thinks the school has done the right thing in coming to the board early and with adequate planning. Mr. Walker expressed similar support.

Motion: Approve the amendment request.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Bruce Friend

Vote: Unanimous

Passed **Failed**

The Telra Institute

- Ms. Baquero introduced the school’s request to increase enrollment, implement a weighted lottery, and relocate. She explained the school’s desire to increase enrollment by 1% in Year 1, 4% in Year 2, and 19% in Year 3 to create opportunities for more students, including educationally disadvantaged (ED) students. She explained the 19% increase represents 0.09% of Charlotte Mecklenburg enrollment and 0.35% of Union County Public Schools enrollment.
- Ms. Baquero explained the weighted lottery request with a goal of 20% educationally disadvantaged students.
- Ms. Baquero explained the school’s request to move approximately 1.5 miles across the county line to Union County.
- Ms. Turner stated she has concerns with the relocation because the area in Union County the school is seeking to relocate to is a very affluent area. She stated she finds it hard to believe they will be able to find 20% ED students, especially economically disadvantaged populations.
- Mr. Bruce Friend and Dr. Rita Haire asked about an LEA impact statement. Ms. Baquero stated that could be requested. Dr. Haire made that request.

- Dr. Ronak Bhatt, Board Chair of Telra Institute, spoke about the school’s real estate search and the school’s transportation plan.
- Ms. Turner suggested the CSAB table the request and revisit it once Union County has a chance to submit an LEA impact statement. Ms. Reeves also requested an updated transportation and lunch plan.

Motion: Table the amendment request until the next CSAB meeting.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Cheryl Turner

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

2020 CALENDAR REVISIONS

- Ms. Baquero reviewed revisions to the 2020 CSAB calendar.
- Board members discussed the calendar and the upcoming charter school application cycle. Mr. Dave Machado, OCS Director, stated that currently there are thirteen applications in the application portal.

Motion: Approve the revised 2020 calendar.

Motion: Sherry Reeves

Second: Hilda Parlér

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

RENEWAL PROCESS FOR 2021 RENEWAL COHORT

- Ms. Shaunda Cooper, OCS Consultant, reviewed the proposal for the 2021 charter school renewal process.
- Mr. Quigley recused himself from discussion and voting on this matter. Mr. Friend recused himself from discussion and voting on this matter. Ms. Parlér recused herself from discussion and voting on this matter.
- Ms. Cooper stated the proposal is for the CSAB to review the most recent three years of data available, along with other reported information, to make a renewal decision. She continued that any renewing school that feels it is not receiving the most favorable outcome without current data, will be given the option of a one-year extension of the Charter Agreement.
- Ms. Turner asked how requests for the extension would be handled. Ms. Cooper stated that once a preliminary recommendation was made by the CSAB, the school would have the option to ask for the extension. She stated the school would make that choice. Ms.

Butterworth asked if it would be guaranteed or if the CSAB would vote on the extension. Ms. Cooper stated she would yield to the CSAB, but it would most likely be an option on the school's part, not a CSAB vote.

- Mr. Walker stated he thinks this would allow the best of both worlds and give schools options in this unusual year with no data. Mr. Walker stated the CSAB will assume the best of the schools that opt for a one-year extension.

Motion: Approve the 2021 Renewal Process recommendations.

Motion: Jeannette Butterworth

Second: Sherry Reeves

Recused: Alex Quigley, Bruce Friend, Hilda Parlér

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

NC ACCESS ANNUAL REVIEW AND SUBGRANT RECOMMENDATIONS

- Mr. Jay Whalen introduced the NC ACCESS Annual Review. He spoke about the program timeline and highlights from the 2020 NC ACCESS Program. He spoke about the funding amounts and subgrant awards. Mr. Whalen explained the 2019-2020 financial review of the program.
- Mr. Whalen spoke about the program's progress towards goals and objectives. He discussed weighted lottery enrollment targets and whether subgrantees met those targets or not.
- Mr. Whalen continued by presenting the 2020 Subgrant Recommendations. He stated there are 35 subgrant recommendations; one of the 36 applicants did not meet minimum requirements. He stated there are a total of six planning and implementation, 11 implementation only, and 18 expansion grants for a total of almost \$18M in funding.
- Mr. Whalen explained each school's award recommendation and year 5 educationally disadvantaged enrollment target.
- Mr. Walker asked if Telra's amendment request would impact the grant award at all and if the school doesn't open what happens. Mr. Whalen stated that if a school is reimbursed and doesn't open, there are avenues to try and recoup that money, and that is a larger issue in the CSP program. He stated monitoring and assistance helps to keep schools on track. He spoke about restrictions on the funds on year one. Mr. Walker asked if the move to another county would affect the award. Mr. Whalen stated the move would not affect the subgrant; he stated Telra's application was very strong. Mr. Whalen stated the 18% target was high when compared to school demographics in the area. He stated the demographics in the proposed relocation are similar to those in the application.

- Ms. Turner asks what happens if a school on the list ends up on a delay. Mr. Whalen stated the award could be held and there are conversations that can take place regarding helping schools in the planning year. He continued the awards could be held for that year, or schools could get access to some funding during the planning year. Dr. Barbara O’Neal stated situations like this would be subject to individual conversations with schools regarding the delay and possible funding for things like marketing and recruitment. She stated it would be a very strict process to access those funds. Mr. Whalen stated the school would need clear and compelling reasons to access the funds.
- Mr. Whalen continued by discussing the 18 expansion subgrant recommendations.

Motion: Approve the 2020 NC ACCESS Subgrant Recommendations.

Motion: Rita Haire

Second: Jeannette Butterworth

Recused: Hilda Parlér, Cheryl Turner

Vote: Unanimous

Passed **Failed**

****Mr. Bruce Friend and Ms. Heather Vuncannon were absent for this vote.**

2020 READY TO OPEN (RTO)

- Ms. Claire Porter, OCS Consultant, reviewed the 2020 RTO Progress Report. Ms. Porter explained the history of the CSAB Minimum Guidelines used to determine which schools must appear before the CSAB prior to sending final recommendations to the SBE.
- Ms. Porter stated the final recommendations will go the SBE for a vote at its July meeting.

Elaine Riddick

- Ms. Porter stated the school is insufficient in enrollment, liability insurance, lunch program, and facility. Ms. Porter provided details on all areas to the CSAB. Ms. Porter stated school staff has not been completed.
- Dr. Mary Felton, Board Chair, stated there are currently 53 enrollments in the school. She presented an update on the progress toward ready to open in the fall. She stated they are in the process of hiring a school leader that will attend the June 10th required training.
- Dr. Haire asked if the administrator is in place for the training. Dr. Felton stated to her understanding, yes. Dr. Haire asked if she can identify the leader. Dr. Felton stated there will be an update soon.
- Ms. Leslie Otts, NC DPI Child Nutrition, stated they have not received an application from the school for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). She stated DPI received an

email, which she replied to, but not an application. Ms. Turner asked if that means the board has not yet applied for NSLP. Ms. Otts stated that is correct.

- Mr. Walker asked if a one-year delay has been discussed because he has major concerns. Dr. Felton stated no, and they are confident they can reach 80 students in 30 days. Mr. Tony Riddick spoke about the need for the school in the area and spoke about recruitment efforts.
- Mr. Quigley and Mr. Walker both expressed concerns with this school being able to open, especially in terms of having required enrollment.

Motion: Recommend to the SBE that Elaine Riddick Charter School be approved as Ready to Open with the following stipulations:

(1) Elaine Riddick must meet all minimum requirements to open by July 6, 2020 at 5PM and

(2) must have a school leader at the June 10th OCS training

and if the school does not meet stipulations, the SBE require a one-year delay.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Hilda Parlér

- Dr. Haire asked if that means the school must have 75% projected enrollment and all insufficient ratings moved to emerging or quality on the rubric. Mr. Walker stated yes, that is correct.
- Mr. Machado asked if the Educational Certificate of Occupancy must be received by July 6th. Mr. Walker stated they must show they are substantially close to receiving that CO and have a contingency plan.

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

Kaleidoscope Charter High School

- Ms. Porter stated that Kaleidoscope Charter High School (KCHS) is appearing today to address insufficient ratings in enrollment, facility, EC, handbook, key staff, and lunch plan. She explained the school was denied a second one-year delay last month that was confirmed at the SBE's June meeting last week.
- Board members for KCHS gave a presentation to the CSAB regarding their need for a delay. Ms. Reeves expressed confusion regarding the presentation as the delay was previously denied. Ms. Janet Littlejohn, Board Chair, stated the board wants the CSAB to hear the presentation so the CSAB understands why they are not prepared to open this fall. Mr. Quigley allowed KCHS to complete their presentation.
- Ms. Turner asked for clarification on information given to the KCHS board from OCS. Mr. Machado stated he had conversations with the KCHS board to discuss different scenarios. He stated he never told the board "do not" ask for certain amendments, but he gave them his

opinion that a relocation may be a difficult approval because of difficulty charters have had in the North Raleigh area.

- Mr. Walker asked what was happening during the 21 months that were not during the pandemic. He asked what was happening with enrollment and facility during that time. He stated there was very little progress in those month pre-COVID.
- KCHS board members spoke about difficulties faced with recruiting and facility.
- Mr. Quigley stated he will not reconsider the delay, but he will give a moment for other board members to bring that to the table.
- Dr. Haire asked for clarity and discussion among the board regarding the negative consequences of revisiting the delay request. Mr. Quigley stated the ability to meet the timeline to get the school opened is a proxy for your capacity to operate a charter school. He stated this applicant was already give several years to get it done and it is not happening. Mr. Walker expressed similar concerns.
- Mr. Ford asked if all information presented today is the most current. OCS staff confirmed that all information presented today was up to date and accurate.
- Ms. Ginger Cash, NCDPI Exceptional Children, stated that the division has not heard from the school since providing the RTO rubric, so the division has nothing new to add.

Motion: Recommend to the SBE that Kaleidoscope Charter High School not be approved as Ready to Open unless KCHS can meet all minimum requirements to open by July 6, 2020 at 5PM.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Rita Haire

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

Wilmington School of the Arts

- Ms. Porter stated that Wilmington School of the Arts (WSA) is appearing today due to insufficient ratings in enrollment.
- Ms. Lily Nelson, Board Chair, spoke about enrollment and recruitment strategies they believe will improve enrollment in the next month.
- Ms. Porter provided clarification on the progress report stating that the insurance and signed lease have been provided, as well as a solid contingency plan for a facility with an educational certificate of occupancy.
- Ms. Turner suggested the same motion that was made for Elaine Riddick. Ms. Nelson asked for clarification about the break-even number. Ms. Reeves explained that the break-even

number is the minimum number of enrolled required to remain fiscally sound. Ms. Reeves clarified that 80 is required by state law. Ms. Nelson stated they have a revised budget for 110 students.

- Mr. Walker discussed revisions to the first-year maximum enrollment. The board and Ms. Nelson agreed a better first year projection would be 140 students. The board discussed that means WSA must provide evidence of 105 enrolled students which equals 75% of maximum enrollment.

Motion: Recommend to the SBE that Wilmington School of the Arts (WSA) be approved as Ready to Open with a revised first year maximum ADM of 140 and the following stipulations:

- (1) WSA must meet minimum enrollment requirements by July 6, 2020 at 5PM and
- (2) Provide an adjusted budget for the 140 enrollment.

and if the school does not meet stipulations, the SBE require a one-year delay.

Motion: Sherry Reeves

Second: Hilda Parlér

- Mr. Quigley confirmed the school must have 105 enrolled students by July 6, 2020 at 5pm.
- Ms. Butterworth confirmed the school would then require a one-year delay.

Vote: Unanimous

Passed Failed

****Mr. Bruce Friend and Mr. Joel Ford were absent for this vote.**

Motion: Recommend to the SBE that the following schools be approved as Ready to Open:

- (1) Achievement Charter Academy
- (2) Alamance Community School
- (3) Cardinal Charter Academy at Wendell Falls
- (4) MINA Charter School of Lee County
- (5) Revolution Academy

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Heather Vuncannon

Vote: Unanimous

Passed Failed

****Mr. Bruce Friend and Mr. Joel Ford were absent for this vote.**

Motion: Recommend to the SBE that Movement School Eastland be approved as Ready to Open.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Jeannette Butterworth

Recused: Cheryl Turner

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

****Mr. Bruce Friend and Mr. Joel Ford were absent for this vote.**

LOW ENROLLMENT SCHOOL UPDATES

- Ms. Baquero reminded the CSAB that these schools had been asked to appear today to provide enrollment updates due to low enrollment numbers for the 2019-2020 school year.

B.L.U.E. G.R.E.E.N. ACADEMY

- Ms. Cheryl Turner recused herself from discussion and voting on the matter.
- Ms. Daye Brake, School Director, stated the school is projecting 80 students for the 2020-2021 school year. Ms. Brake stated they currently have 43 enrolled students. She stated they are making an amendment request to include 8th grade a year earlier than planned to allow for more enrollment opportunities.
- She stated that all but one student is returning this year. She stated they have received interest in eighth grade. Ms. Brake spoke about staff and plans to hire more teachers. She stated they had four staff members this year and all but one are returning.
- Ms. Brake stated the budget at a projected 80 students allows for a surplus around \$37k. She spoke about the school's marketing and recruitment activities.
- Ms. Butterworth asked how many 7th graders will transition to 8th grade. Ms. Brake stated they only had 5th and 6th graders this year, so 7th and 8th graders would be new students.
- Dr. Haire asked about radio advertising. Ms. Brake stated they have been doing interviews as opposed to advertisements, because of funding.
- Ms. Reeves expressed concerns about enrollment. Ms. Brake stated they have been concerned as well, but they have had a lot of success this year including graduating the first fifth grade class.
- Mr. Quigley stated he has concerns as well but if they want to continue driving toward reaching the minimum threshold, but the school has to understand how important the enrollment numbers will be as we look ahead.

Motion: Recommend to the SBE that B.L.U.E. G.R.E.E.N. Academy's amendment request be approved.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Hilda Parlér

Recused: Cheryl Turner

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

****Mr. Bruce Friend and Mr. Joel Ford were absent for this vote.**

Three Rivers Academy

- Mr. Don McQueen stated that the school is projecting enrollment between 80-90 students. He spoke about the marketing plan. He stated he believes people are excited about being back in Windsor and will market that once it is approved.
- Ms. Reeves asked for projected ADM. Mr. McQueen stated between 80-90 students. Ms. Reeves asked if he expects drawdown to be based on that. He replied, yes thereabouts.
- Ms. Turner asked what number is in CSADM. Mr. McQueen stated he would need to look. Mr. McQueen stated there was a much larger number previously, but it has been modified. Ms. Turner reminded him it is due Friday.
- Mr. Machado updated the CSAB on the SBE's discussion regarding the amendment request.

Monroe Charter Academy

- Ms. Camela Ford, Principal, gave an overview of projected enrollment. She stated they currently have 127 enrolled students for the next school year. She described enrollment in grade level. She stated they retained all but four students due to relocations.
- School representatives spoke about the budget.

Tillery Charter Academy

- Ms. Teresa Harrison, Principal, gave an overview of projected enrollment. Ms. Harrison stated the school currently has 99 enrolled students. She stated 97% of students are returning this next year and those not returning are moving.
- Ms. Harrison spoke about staffing. The budget was discussed.
- Ms. Reeves requested updated information when school starts.

NC CYBER ACADEMY UPDATE

- Mr. Martez Hill, Superintendent, and Ms. Jill Hammergren, Board Chair, gave an overview of school updates. They spoke about summer planning and improvement projects.
- Mr. James Mullin spoke about projected enrollment for next year.

CSAB ADMIN – PLANNING

- CSAB members discussed next steps for low enrollment and RTO schools. Ms. Reeves expressed concerns about both schools and continuing to fund schools that are on life support. Mr. Quigley agreed. Ms. Reeves stated the RTO schools need to be held to the 75% threshold. She is happy that both Monroe and Tillery have improved enrollment.
- The board decided to hold a called meeting on July 7, 2020 to make final decisions regarding the RTO schools with stipulations for opening. At this time, the board would also like to hear updates from Three Rivers Academy and B.L.U.E. G.R.E.E.N. Academy.

DIRECTOR’S UPDATE

- Mr. Machado spoke about recent State Board of Education (SBE) actions. He reviewed SBE amendment approvals and discussions at its June meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

- **Ms. Turner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:00pm. The meeting adjourned via acclamation.**