

**Minutes of the  
North Carolina Charter School Advisory Board  
State Board Rm. 755  
April 8, 2019  
9:00 am**

Attendance/NCCSAB	Alan Hawkes Joseph Maimone - <i>Absent</i> Phyllis Gibbs Sherry Reeves Cheryl Turner - <i>Absent</i> Lindalyn Kakadelis Lynn Kroeger	Alex Quigley – <i>Arrived 9:23am</i> Tammi Sutton Steven Walker Heather Vuncannon – <i>Absent</i> Bruce Friend
Attendance/SBE/DPI	<i>Office of Charter Schools</i>  Ashley Baquero, Consultant Shaunda Cooper, Consultant Danielle Allen, Consultant Jay Whalen, Consultant	<i>SBE</i>  <i>Attorney General</i> Tiffany Lucas Stephanie Lloyd  <i>SBE Attorney</i> Eric Snider

**CALL TO ORDER**

- The North Carolina Charter School Advisory Board (CSAB) meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by Vice Chair Steven Walker who read the Ethics Statement and CSAB Mission Statement. Mr. Walker led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Ms. Lindalyn Kakadelis recused herself from discussion on Douglass Academy.

**Motion: Approval of the March CSAB meeting minutes.**

**Motion: Sherry Reeves**

**Second: Lindalyn Kakadelis**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

**Motion: Approval of the April CSAB Agenda.**

**Motion: Bruce Friend**

**Second: Lynn Kroeger**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

## **APPLICATION UPDATES**

- Dr. Danielle Allen, Office of Charter Schools (OCS) Consultant, gave an application update. She reviewed the application timeline and process. She explained that this is the last month of full interviews. Dr. Allen reviewed the interview process. Dr. Allen stated that on March 18, 2019 three applicants were notified of their interviews. She stated that on April 2, 2019, CFA Pender withdrew its application. She stated rubrics were released to applicants on April 1, 2019. She stated neither applicant appearing today has submitted a special request.
- Dr. Allen reviewed the schools that have been approved thus far in the application season. She stated three application have been approved by the State Board of Education (SBE) for acceleration. She stated following today's interviews, the CSAB application recommendations will be forwarded to SBE. She explained that six schools withdrew from the application process this year. She stated that in the past three years the CSAB has recommended between 12-15 schools to move to Ready to Open status.

## **CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICANT INTERVIEWS**

### *Wake Preparatory Academy Full Interview*

- Dr. Allen stated the school is proposed to locate in Wake County. Dr. Allen gave a brief introduction of the school's proposed enrollment and grade levels. There was no LEA impact statement for this applicant. A due diligence report was completed. Dr. Allen reviewed the pass/fail ratings for this applicant. She stated there are no special requests and the application was deemed complete. She stated this is a repeat applicant that withdrew last year before clarification interviews. The applicant is planning to partner with Charter One.
- Board members introduced themselves.
- Mr. Walker stated he believes the application was really well written. Mr. Walker stated his questions regard the enrollment projections.
- A board representative stated that Charter One held four events prior to making enrollment projections. She stated the board met 357 families at these events. She stated there are several over-crowded schools in Wake County where students attend schools in trailers. She stated population growth also contributed to enrollment projections. She spoke about interest survey results and social media interest.
- Mr. Bill Guttery of Charter One introduced himself. Mr. Hawkes asked if this would be the first NC school for Charter One. Mr. Guttery stated yes. Mr. Hawkes asked how many schools are managed in Arizona. Mr. Guttery stated twelve. He spoke about the success the EMO has seen in Arizona.

- Mr. Hawkes asked if Charter One is confident they can manage the number of students projected for enrollment. Mr. Guttery stated he has done it personally and has confidence in the team to do it successfully. Mr. Guttery stated he also has extreme confidence in the board. He stated the public has also shown support for the school, so he is confident they can do this successfully.
- Mr. Hawkes asked about the financial health of Charter One. Mr. Guttery stated the financial ability is one of the greatest assets of Charter One.
- Mr. Walker asked if a development group will build the building and then lease it to the school. Mr. Guttery stated yes. Mr. Guttery stated it is a very common practice.
- Mr. Walker asked what type of services will be contracted out of Charter One. Mr. Guttery stated building services. He stated very little school management services will be contracted out because Charter One has its own HR, finance, and marketing departments. He stated Charter One can do most everything in-house. Mr. Walker asked about marketing efforts that will take place. Mr. Guttery stated Charter One does a lot of public events and social media. He stated they will also do mailings to every single household in the area. He stated they sent out twenty-two thousand mailers to families in the area.
- Ms. Kroeger stated she was impressed with the marketing plan. She asked about the square footage of the building. Mr. Guttery stated the 144k square footage is for the first year only and the school will grow each year. Ms. Kroeger asked if the 144k square footage will house 1600 students. Mr. Guttery stated yes.
- Mr. Hawkes asked for the salary of the core teachers. Mr. Guttery stated \$45,000.
- Ms. Kroeger asked if \$40,000 will be enough for professional development for the projected 74 teachers. A board representative stated that some professional development will be provided by Charter One and other professional development will be contracted out.
- Mr. Quigley asked about the management fee. A board representative stated the management fee is 12% plus a 3% incentive fee if the school reaches its goals. Mr. Quigley asked what the school gets for that fee. A board representative stated back house management, staff management, administrative support services, HR. Mr. Quigley stated he thinks the \$1.9 million-dollar management fee would include marketing, but the budget has \$150,000 allocated to marketing.
- Ms. Kroeger asked if the employees are employees of the school or Charter One. A board representative stated Charter One will bring recommendations for hiring to the board and the employees will be staff of the board of the school. Mr. Quigley stated he would expect Charter One to do staff development for the \$1.9 million fee.
- Mr. Guttery stated Charter One will provide site management. Mr. Quigley asked what site management means. Mr. Guttery stated Charter One will also help with IT, health services,

data, HR, public relations and marketing, and grant writing and fundraising. Mr. Quigley asked why the school would need grants and fundraising. Mr. Guttery stated Charter One would do research to find grants to support the school. Mr. Guttery stated Charter One also helps with health services including compliance and providing a nurse. Mr. Quigley stated the board needs to know what it is getting for \$1.9 million-dollar management fee. Mr. Hawkes asked if the board has read the management agreement carefully. A board representative stated they have spent several meetings going over the agreement. He stated in other budgets the board researched, management fees weren't disclosed. He continued that he didn't see any other management contracts with ceilings or incentive fees like this management contract contains.

- Ms. Sutton asked how many staff from Charter One are located in NC. A board representative stated at this point there are three. The three staff members introduced themselves and explained their roles in getting the school prepared to open.
- Mr. Walker asked about the academic outcomes that Charter One has seen in their other schools. Mr. Guttery stated that all the schools in Arizona are "A" rated and have better outcomes than the public schools in the area. Mr. Guttery stated there is a Chief Academic Officer that works on curriculum and professional development.
- Mr. Quigley asked about curriculum. Mr. Guttery stated Core Knowledge and Saxon Math are used in Arizona. A Charter One representative stated they are looking at the best programs to bring to NC to ensure alignment with standards.
- Ms. Kakadelis asked what the school will use for the early literacy program. A Charter One representative stated they are still looking for that program.
- Mr. Walker clarified that the board makes the hiring and terminating decisions for staff. A board representative stated yes.
- Mr. Friend asked if Charter One has faced difficulty in reaching enrollment targets in other schools. Mr. Guttery stated there are always one-offs that face enrollment issues and Charter One has had to go after enrollment to make it work.
- Mr. Hawkes expressed concern with building school culture with a starting grade span of K-10. Mr. Guttery stated Charter One has a progressive discipline system that works. He spoke about the values of the school and leadership training for students.
- Mr. Quigley expressed concern with the EC budget. A board representative stated it is hard to say if four will be enough at this point. She stated if the school needs more, they will hire more. She stated the school will primarily use the inclusion model. Another board representative stated they could take money from the regular teacher budget to hire more EC teachers if needed.
- Mr. Quigley asked if any board members visited the schools in Arizona. A board representative stated yes.

- A board member stated they have decided to ask for an amendment for a weighted lottery during the RTO period.
- Ms. Kakadelis stated the numbers are very aggressive, but she thinks the board and the management company are smart enough to adjust as needed. She stated that she reached out to charter school contacts in Arizona and received positive reports about Charter One and the success of the EMO.
- Mr. Walker stated that there are no for-profit charter schools in NC. He stated every charter is held by a non-profit board of directors. He stated that any school – traditional or charter– is contracting with providers that make a profit.

**Motion: The CSAB moves Wake Preparatory Academy to Ready to Open on a regular timeline.**

**Motion: Phyllis Gibbs**

**Second: Lindalyn Kakadelis**

- Ms. Gibbs, Mr. Hawkes, and Mr. Friend expressed support.
- Ms. Reeves expressed concern about the grade span. Mr. Friend stated it is interesting that there are several K-8 charter schools in the area. He stated that gives him more comfort for those high numbers.
- Mr. Quigley stated he believes the weighted lottery will help it pass the State Board. He expressed concern over whether this is needed. He stated with these enrollment numbers, this should be the best application he has ever seen. He stated he believes this would be the biggest start for any charter school in NC. He stated if this passes the school should consider an increase in the transportation budget.

**Vote: Steven Walker, Phyllis Gibbs, Alan Hawkes, Lindalyn Kakadelis, Lynn Kroeger, Sherry Reeves, Bruce Friend.**

**Opposed: Alex Quigley and Tammi Sutton.**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

*Alamance Community School Full Interview*

- Dr. Allen stated the school is proposed to locate in Alamance County. Dr. Allen gave a brief introduction of the school’s proposed enrollment and grade levels. There was no LEA impact statement or due diligence for this applicant. Dr. Allen reviewed the pass/fail ratings. She stated there are no special requests and this is not a repeat applicant. Assistance was provided by Charter Success Partners, but no direct fee was provided.
- Ms. Natalie Turner introduced herself as the President of the board. Ms. Leslie Painter introduced herself as Vice Chair of the board. Ms. Cyndi Jones introduced herself as Treasurer of the board. Remaining board members introduced themselves.

- Mr. Quigley asked if there is a relationship between Ascend, Voyager, or any other school. Ms. Painter stated there is no relationship. Mr. Quigley asked if she would be principal. Ms. Painter stated that is a possibility. Mr. Quigley asked if any other board members were planning on being staff at the school. Ms. Painter stated no.
- Mr. Quigley asked what percent of the district’s enrollment the school plans to enroll in year one. Ms. Reeves stated one percent. Ms. Painter spoke about demand in the area. She stated the closest charter schools are twenty to thirty minutes away. She stated they also looked at Alamance County proficiency data. Mr. Walker clarified the percent of each district from which the school would pull.
- Ms. Painter stated she researched schools in the county and found that no school offered project-based learning and responsive classroom.
- Ms. Kroeger asked if there were plans to expand the board and diversify professional experiences. A board representative stated they plan to do a grass-roots campaign to get local board members and community involvement.
- Ms. Kakadelis asked about vendor partnerships. Ms. Painter stated Charter Success Partners would provide the business/HR services, but does not act as a management company.
- Ms. Reeves asked about the plans to make 60 the lowest possible score on report cards. Ms. Painter spoke about the use of MTSS and tracking students to provide support as needed.
- Mr. Quigley asked about K-3 literacy. Ms. Painter spoke about the state’s reconsideration of using mClass and Amplify. She stated she is waiting to see what the state decides.
- Ms. Reeves asked about EC projections. Ms. Painter stated that she’s seen most charter schools around 13-15%. She stated they are planning on that at this point. She stated they are planning for 2.5 EC teachers, but will adjust as needed.
- Ms. Reeves asked about the part-time status of teacher assistants. Ms. Painter stated she has used part-time teacher assistants at her current school. She stated the classroom itself has a full-time assistant, but the positions are part-time. She stated this allows the school to save money and employ staff that may not want a full-time position.

**Motion: The CSAB moves Alamance Community School forward for Ready to Open on a regular timeline.**

**Motion: Steven Walker**

**Second: Sherry Reeves**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**

**Failed**

## **2019 CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION PROPOSED CHANGES**

- Dr. Allen explained the 2019 application timeline and process was approved at the April State Board of Education meeting. She stated there is currently pending legislation that directly impacts the application process in terms of background check stipulations.
- Dr. Allen explained changes to the actual application. She stated the system would change from Apex to Epicenter. She spoke about the budget being developed by Epicenter and changes to the criminal background check requirements.
- Ms. Reeves stated Dr. Allen did a fantastic job amending the application.
- Dr. Allen stated this board expressed a desire to go away from the pass/fail system and she is proposing a new rubric for application evaluation. Mr. Walker stated he still has reservations about the external evaluators using this system and prefers to just have the external evaluator comments. Ms. Gibbs agreed. Ms. Kroeger agreed and stated she appreciates their comments. Mr. Quigley stated he agrees, but the board will not have a score unless the board scores the applications. He stated that has been spotty in the past and the board would have to be more consistent. Mr. Quigley stated if there is going to be a scoring section, CSAB will have to be consistent in scoring sections in Epicenter. Mr. Friend asked if the scoring is required. Mr. Walker stated the scoring should take place in your committee before clarification. Mr. Quigley stated you don't necessarily need to make comments, but you have to score it or CSAB won't have a data point.
- The board spoke about concerns with the external evaluators using a rating system because of inconsistencies between the evaluators.

**Motion: The CSAB moves that external evaluators do not score the application but provide comments and questions.**

**Motion: Steven Walker**

**Second: Sherry Reeves**

- Mr. Quigley clarified that the board will need to score the applications. The board agreed. Mr. Friend cautioned against leaning too strongly on scores because opinions may change after interviews.
- Mr. Quigley proposed scoring applications after clarification interviews. He suggested using a paper sheet to score applicants after clarification and hand the scores over to OCS staff. He clarified the committee will review and then turn in final scores. He stated you would only score applications in your committee. He stated the deadline to score would be after the clarification interview. He stated he believes the score should be a number, rather than pass/fail. Mr. Walker stated the rubric Dr. Allen proposed could be changed to a 0-3 scoring

system. He states meets or exceeds could be 3, partially meets could be 2, and doesn't meet could be 1.

- Ms. Kakadelis clarified that the board would only score applications in their committee. Mr. Quigley stated yes. Mr. Walker stated after clarification is really the best time to score applications.
- The board spoke about scoring the applicants after clarification interviews. Mr. Quigley stated after clarification interviews, CSAB should build in a two minute buffer to write scores down and turn in to Office of Charter Schools (OCS) staff to input into the system. He explained that would allow all scores to be compiled at the same time. He stated that would allow for the most accurate rating.
- Mr. Friend asked if individual committee member scores are combined for one score as the committee. Mr. Quigley stated he is in favor of an anonymous average of the scores. He clarified each committee members scores the application individually and OCS staff inputs the scores and calculates the average.
- Mr. Walker asked if individual scores would be needed for public record purposes. Mr. Eric Snider stated legal could consider that question later.
- Mr. Walker stated he withdraws his motion and makes an amended motion.

**Amended Motion: The CSAB moves that external evaluators will not score the application but provide comments and questions, and that the committees will score applications after clarification interviews using the numerical scoring system created by the Office of Charter Schools and the average will be taken for each application to be used as a point of reference.**

**Motion: Steven Walker**

**Second: Lindalyn Kakadelis**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**

**Failed**

### **AMENDMENTS**

#### **Concord Lake STEAM Academy**

- Ms. Ashley Baquero, OCS Consultant, introduced the school's request to change its mission statement. The school recently received an approval from OCS to change its name (formerly Kannapolis Charter Academy 13D) and curriculum to focus more on STEAM education.
- Ms. Baquero read the old mission statement and proposed new mission statement.

**Motion: The CSAB recommends approval of this amendment.**

**Motion: Steven Walker**

**Second: Lindalyn Kakadelis**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

*Hope Charter Leadership Academy*

- Ms. Baquero reminded the CSAB that Hope Charter Leadership Academy 92Q in Wake County is in the process of closing at the end of this school year.
- Ms. Baquero stated the school needs to officially request relinquishment of the charter from the State Board of Education.
- The CSAB expressed appreciation for the work of the Hope Charter Leadership Academy board of directors in making the best decisions for the school's students.

**Motion: The CSAB recommends approval of this amendment.**

**Motion: Steven Walker**

**Second: Bruce Friend**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

*Henderson Collegiate*

- Ms. Baquero explained Henderson Collegiate's request to use its own instructional coaching model and teacher evaluation instrument in place of the North Carolina Educator Effectiveness system (NCEES) to assess teacher performance and promote teachers' ongoing growth and development.

**Motion: The CSAB recommends approval of this amendment.**

**Motion: Steven Walker**

**Second: Lindalyn Kakadelis**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

**Motion: The CSAB moves to go into closed session to discuss attorney client related matters. 11:44am**

**Motion: Steven Walker**

**Second: Lindalyn Kakadelis**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

## **CSP GRANT UPDATE**

- Mr. Jay Whalen, OCS Consultant, introduced the new CSP Grant staff members. He stated the team is in the process of hiring the last position.
- Mr. Whalen stated there were 26 letters of intent, 23 of which were eligible to apply. He stated that as of the deadline, there were twelve applications received. He stated there were no replication applicants. He stated the unused funds will be reallocated to later grant years.

## **NC CONNECTIONS ACADEMY**

- Ms. Baquero introduced NC Connections Academy's request to terminate its partnership with its management company Pearson OBL and to change its name to NC Cyber Academy. She reminded the CSAB that this discussion continued from last month's CSAB meeting.
- Board member Mrs. Jill Hammergren introduced herself and her professional background. She explained that two board members were unable to be here today and they have submitted letters explaining their absences.
- She explained the mission and goals of the charter school remain the same. She stated the board will partner with multiple vendors going forward.
- She explained the school has developed a curriculum team that has completed a curriculum audit. She explained what the teachers need to be successful. She spoke about problems with the current curriculum provided by Pearson OBL. She stated the board has identified Edgenuity as a curriculum provider. She stated Edgenuity started in 1998 and has an advanced ed corporate accreditation for everything it offers. She stated it aligns with the state standards, including the new math standards. She stated Edgenuity supports 65 NC LEAs. She stated it offers increased engagement and modeling. She continued that teacher flexibility and autonomy are embedded in the delivery system.
- Mr. Walker asked who offers the live lessons. She stated either Edgenuity teachers or supplemented by NCCA teachers. She stated Edgenuity offers monitoring of student growth.
- Ms. Blount, NCCA middle school principal, spoke about the current academic problems. She stated the current staff is pigeon-holed and unable to make the changes it needs to make the changes necessary for student achievement. She stated NCCA has no flexibility to make changes needed to grow students. She stated the school wants to do data-driven instruction but cannot change curriculum as needed. She stated the school started looking at this back in the 2016 school improvement plan. She stated the students are spending 90% of the time in pre-packaged material that doesn't allow for flexibility. She stated the school is having to go outside the platform to provide instruction needed, which is double

work for students and staff. She explained how Edgenuity will allow the school to meet the needs of the individual students without going outside the platform.

- Mr. Rodney Santor from Edgenuity addressed the CSAB. He spoke about the Edgenuity curriculum and services provided. He stated they offer new K-5 Core curriculum which includes electives. He stated Edgenuity provides on-demand tutoring services for all core subjects available Monday thru Saturday. He stated they have over 100 courses vetted and approved by the state. He stated course transcripts can be translated to 65 different languages. He continued that Edgenuity will provide full-time local support to NCCA as well as a dedicated account manager.
- Ms. Kakadelis asked if Edgenuity is partnered with virtual schools. An Edgenuity representative stated that they are partnered with virtual schools around the country. Ms. Kakadelis asked about those schools' academic performance. A representative stated the performance is good and can be provided.
- Mr. Friend asked if curriculum is the main concern with the current relationship with Pearson. Mrs. Hammergren stated curriculum is the main concern. She stated it has been a concern for a long time. She stated in 2017 they revised the contract with Pearson to take many services in-house. She stated this has been an on-going look at the EMO. Mr. Friend asked about enrollment for next year. She stated it has just begun. She explained parents have been informed of this change and town halls have been conducted with parents. Ms. Kakadelis asked if anything printed has been sent to parents. She stated yes. Ms. Kakadelis asked if those letters have been sent to the Office of Charter Schools. Mr. Nathan Currie stated no. Ms. Kakadelis asked when the parents received notice of the change. Mr. Currie stated in March 2019.
- Mr. Friend asked why this is happening now if the board has known for some time they were not satisfied with the EMO. She stated the board has asked Pearson for changes to the curriculum since the 2016-17 school year. She stated this is not something they just started. She stated they have worked with the students, families, and staff to find ways to make this work.
- Mr. Leland Davis, NCCA board member, addressed the CSAB. Mr. Davis spoke about his professional background in finance. Mr. Davis spoke about the proposed vendor partnership with Philips Management Support Services for technical support. He stated the vendor provides one to one laptops. He stated the NCCA board is working with a marketing firm, Media Partners, Inc.
- Ms. Christina Robinson, founding school leader and high school Principal, stated she agrees with everything that has been stated. She stated they are excited to go to a one to one initiative. She stated that families have called begging for additional computer resources. She stated they've partnered with Philips Management Support Services to get all the devices out to students. She stated they will also take care of enrollment, new student documentation, and intent to return process. She stated the company will also take care of technical support and student information services.

- Mr. Mark Haffley from Philips Management Support Services spoke about the company. He stated they currently support 14k laptops and have successfully transitioned a school with 9500 students. He stated the company is service oriented and will have dedicated staff just for NCCA. Mr. Quigley asked if they have done this work before. Mr. Haffley stated yes. Mr. Haffley spoke about the services it provides to another virtual school in Pennsylvania.
- Mr. Tim McKay introduced himself as a director for Media Partners. He spoke about the company's history. He explained that the company does everything tailored for the client and will provide a tailored service for NCCA. He stated the company is up for this challenge.
- Ms. Kakadelis has asked if they have worked with a charter school. Mr. McKay stated no but they have worked with other online schools and university online space.
- Ms. Jenene Seymour introduced herself as a NCCA board member. She stated she has extensive experience in nonprofit governance. She spoke about the board's diverse professional experiences. She explained what the board has done to improve board governance. She stated they have enhanced board training opportunities. She stated they are committed to being a high-functioning board. She continued that they have initiated the process to bring on a seventh board member. She stated some board members have spoken to other virtual schools that have transitioned from an EMO.
- Ms. Bridget Phifer, NCCA board chair, spoke about the 2019 budget. She stated the board projects the same revenue and then spoke about differences in expenditures. She stated compensation would increase by approximately \$3.1 million dollars. She stated this shows an area in which the school will reinvest its savings. She stated the next category is instructional program expenses. She stated the current budget is the bulk of the fees to the EMO. She stated the revised budget will allow for \$3.5 million dollar in savings. She stated the next category is revenue-based fees. She stated the projected budget will allow for an additional \$300,000 in savings. She stated pass-through expenses would increase by approximately \$50,000. She stated other expenses would increase by \$64,000. She stated the proposed 2019-20 budget shows an approximate \$1.1 million ending fund balance. She stated the board believes they have responsibility invested in compensation, supplies, and curriculum resources. She stated they look to improve and expand upon student services such as counselors and social workers. She stated increased teacher compensation shows a commitment to teachers.
- Mr. Walker stated he didn't think this could happen at first, but now he is reconsidering.
- Ms. Kakadelis asked who will oversee the vendors. Mrs. Hammergren stated the buck stops with the board. She stated the board will oversee everything that is happening with the vendors. She stated they have hired highly qualified administrators and have confidence in the administrators' ability.

- Mr. Quigley stated he is torn because he feels like these charters were brought to the state with EMO partnership. He stated in some ways this is a whole new charter application.
- Mrs. Hammergren stated that a lot of charter schools have started with large EMOs and then moved to individual vendors. Ms. Reeves and Mr. Quigley stated this is different given the complexity and how the school came into existence. Mr. Quigley stated we are also talking about more students than most charter schools have.
- Mr. Ragley, Pearson representative, confirmed they are meeting with NCCA to transition away from Pearson. Mr. Ragley asked if the board would approve this application if it was a new application. He stated that this board made zero requests for course modifications in the current school year. He stated that Pearson has made improvements to curriculum. He said every school but NCCA saw improvements in academics. He stated the budget has many holes in it. He stated the application is basically plagiarized. He stated Pearson has had to pay the teachers' salaries because NCCA used the teachers as pawns and refused to pay the invoices. Mr. Ragley stated the board has stolen images from the Pearson TV ad and used it as their own on their website.
- Mr. Ragley stated Pearson's proposal is still valid with any other board, but with this particular board there is no trust left.
- Mr. Walker stated it sounds like the only options are to approve the amendment or to revoke the charter.
- Mr. John Branch, counsel for Pearson, stated they believe the authorizing legislation (Session Law 2014-100) authorized the State Board of Education (SBE) to create a pilot program. He stated if the SBE found that the school's current board was not meeting the requirements of the pilot program, they would have the authority to require the resignation of the current board and ask that new board members be appointed.
- Ms. Donna Rascoe, counsel for NCCA, stated that the NCCA board has gone above and beyond to make this work. She stated they didn't sacrifice their teachers. She stated they refused to pay the invoices from Pearson after going over them in detail, but they didn't refuse to pay the teachers. She stated that is an egregious mischaracterization. She stated the charter was amended in 2017 and at least twelve areas of responsibility were moved from the EMO to the board.

**Motion: The CSAB moves to enter closed session to discuss attorney privileged matters.**

**2:07pm**

**Motion: Steven Walker**

**Second: Lindalyn Kakadelis**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**

**Failed**

**Motion: The CSAB moves to leave closed session and enter open session. 2:34pm**

**Motion: Steven Walker**

**Second: Lindalyn Kakadelis**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

- Mr. Walker stated this is a unique situation because the State Board of Education never made a recommendation on the two virtual schools and the legislature decided they wanted a pilot program. He continued that at that time, the State Board of Education decided this board (CSAB) would not select the two vendors. He stated that nobody on this board was involved with initiating this pilot program. He continued that he feels better after seeing the board's presentation. He stated he has serious misgivings about this transition, but that is part of a pilot program.

**Motion: The CSAB recommends approval of this amendment.**

**Motion: Steven Walker**

**Second: Phyllis Gibbs**

- Mr. Quigley would echo what Mr. Walker stated. He stated he would need to go deeper if this was an application, but this is not an application. He stated the school is up and running and has over 2000 students. He stated we charter with the board of directors, not the EMO, even when the EMO is deeply intertwined with the school as in this case. He stated the academic data was not good with Pearson, so this isn't about moving from a successful school model.
- Ms. Kakadelis stated that NCCA has pointed fingers at Pearson for low performance, and Pearson has pointed fingers at NCCA. She continued that if the amendment is approved, the NCCA board will have full responsibility for academic performance.
- Mr. Hawkes stated he will not support this amendment because this board had no responsibility in forming this school and its EMO relationship.
- Ms. Gibbs wondered if they can take no action. The CSAB discussed possibilities in terms of recommendations to the State Board of Education.
- Mr. Friend stated he is torn because the charter was given with the relationship with Pearson. He stated he doesn't necessarily think going to a different curriculum provider will fix the curriculum issues. He stated it is a heavy lift and he's not sure the charter would exist if it wasn't tied to Pearson in the first place.

**Vote: Steven Walker, Alex Quigley, Lindalyn Kakadelis, Bruce Friend.**

**Opposed: Lynn Kroeger, Tammi Sutton, Sherry Reeves, Phyllis Gibbs, Alan Hawkes.**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

**Motion: The CSAB moves that the amendment is moved to State Board of Education with no recommendation.**

**Motion: Tammi Sutton**

**Second: Sherry Reeves**

**Vote: Lynn Kroeger, Tammi Sutton, Sherry Reeves, Phyllis Gibbs, Alan Hawkes, Steven Walker, Bruce Friend, Lindalyn Kakadelis.**

**Opposed: Alex Quigley.**

**Passed**

**Failed**

### **LOW-PERFORMING SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS**

#### **G.L.O.W.**

- Ms. Laura Hunter, Principal of Girls Leadership Academy of Wilmington, spoke about the single-gender charter school.
- Ms. Hunter reviewed academic performance of the school and the current school year school goals. She spoke about the goal of making expected growth with all subgroups and to increase engagement and commitment to learning growth.
- Ms. Hunter explained the school's action steps moving forward: establish a school improvement team, establish a MTSS team, establish a PBIS team, and establish organizations teams to support instruction and student growth.
- Ms. Hunter spoke about the instructional focus of planning, engagement, and pacing. She explained the school's use of Learning Focused Framework and effective PLC teams.
- Ms. Hunter continued to speak about staff professional development.
- She spoke about the impacts of Hurricane Florence. She stated the school was out for a month and about 25% of the students were homeless. She spoke about a culture reset that took place in the school to refocus on school-wide goals.
- Ms. Reeves asked about enrollment. Ms. Hunter stated 230. Ms. Reeves asked about discipline. Ms. Hunter stated the school is working on tracking discipline incidents consistently and effectively. She explained the many supports the school provides.

#### **Douglass Academy**

- Ms. Nikki Chaney, Headmaster, addressed the board. She spoke about the history of the academy in Wilmington. She spoke about the enrollment numbers since 2013. She spoke about enrollment difficulties including seven schools within the area.
- Ms. Chaney spoke about proficiency scores over the last few years.
- Ms. Amanda Kelly, Instructional Coach, spoke about curriculum. She spoke about the classical components of the curriculum.

- Ms. Chaney spoke about key indicator successes from the 2017-18 school year. She stated the School Improvement Team meets twice a month. She spoke about parent communication improvements made at the school.
- Ms. Chaney spoke about the culture of high expectations at Douglass Academy. She spoke about teacher coaching and incentive systems in the school.
- Ms. Kelly explained how the school is addressing the gaps seen in students that enter the school later than kindergarten. She spoke about the use of data in the classrooms. She stated coaches view data weekly.
- Another school representative spoke about extracurriculars at the school. She also spoke about efforts to increase enrollment.
- Ms. Melissa Gott, a board member and parent of three students at Douglass Academy, addressed the board. She explained how she made the decision to enroll her students at the school.
- Ms. Reeves asked what caused the enrollment drop. Ms. Chaney stated the many school options in the area and discipline related problems. She stated discipline has improved greatly.

#### *Children's Village Academy*

- Ms. Jessica Jones, Principal, introduced the school. She stated that despite being low-performing, the school has met growth. She spoke about academic data as compared to Lenoir County.
- Ms. Jones stated the school's goal is to exceed growth this year. She spoke about the school's improvement plans. She spoke about the school's approach to interventions. She stated vocabulary and informational texts were observed as difficulties. She stated the school created focus groups to target specific areas of remediation. She explained the school's intervention pacing guide.
- Ms. Jones spoke about increased instructional coaching and professional development. She explained the continued efforts of the school to improve academic performance.
- Ms. Reeves asked about enrollment. Ms. Reeves asked about the intervention pacing guide. Ms. Jones spoke about how the intervention pacing guide helps remediation.

#### *Institute for the Development of Young Leaders*

- Ms. Yvette Munroe introduced herself as CEO of the school. She spoke about the school's mission and environment.

- Ms. Munroe stated the ADM is currently 338 students with more than 90% economically disadvantaged. She stated 98% of students are students of color. She stated almost 20% of the current student population is homeless. She stated three buses transport 75% of students.
- Ms. Munroe spoke about the values of the school. She explained the program highlights – reduced class sizes, Saturday Academy, extended day, added technology, and leadership program.
- Ms. Wilson, Principal, spoke about teacher development and collaboration. She spoke about backwards mapping and strategic planning that has been taking place at the school.
- Ms. Munroe spoke about high expectations and cultural emphasis at the school.
- Ms. Wilson spoke about curriculum programs at the school including Lexia, Moby Max, and Jan Richardson’s Guided Reading.
- Ms. Munroe spoke about co-located mental health services. She stated the school employs a full-time mental health provider.
- Ms. Reeves asked how many students stay for extended day. Ms. Munroe stated more than half.

**Motion: The CSAB moves to adjourn. 4:06pm**

**Motion: Alan Hawkes**

**Second: Phyllis Gibbs**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**

**Failed**