

**Minutes of the  
North Carolina Charter School Advisory Board  
State Board Rm. 755  
January 14, 2019  
9:00 am**

Attendance/NCCSAB	Alan Hawkes Joseph Maimone Phyllis Gibbs Sherry Reeves Cheryl Turner Lindalyn Kakadelis Lynn Kroeger	Alex Quigley Tammi Sutton - <i>Absent</i> Steven Walker Heather Vuncannon – <i>Via Phone</i> Bruce Friend
Attendance/SBE/DPI	<i>Office of Charter Schools</i>  Dave Machado, Director Patricia Nnadi-Purvis, Program Assistant Ashley Baquero, Consultant Shaunda Cooper, Consultant Danielle Allen, Consultant Jay Whalen, Consultant	<i>SBE</i>  <i>Attorney General</i> Tiffany Lucas  <i>SBE Attorney</i> Eric Snider

**CALL TO ORDER**

- The North Carolina Charter School Advisory Board (CSAB) meeting was called to order at 9:03 am by Chairman Alex Quigley who read the Ethics Statement and CSAB Mission Statement. Mr. Quigley led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Ms. Lindalyn Kakadelis recused herself from the South Brunswick renewal discussion/vote and the discussion/vote on the application for Wilmington School of the Arts.

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

**Motion: Sherry Reeves**

**Second: Phyllis Gibbs**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**

**Failed**

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

**Motion: Steven Walker**

**Second: Sherry Reeves**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**

**Failed**

### **APPLICATION UPDATES**

- Dr. Danielle Allen, OCS Consultant, gave an application update. She gave an application timeline and process review. She stated that should an application for acceleration not meet the criteria in the established policy, the group will be considered for the 2020-21 opening. She explained that the CSAB should make one motion for each group, containing two clauses, either 1) the applicant meets the standard for acceleration and be forwarded to Ready to Open, 2) the applicant does not meet the standard for acceleration but be forwarded to Ready to Open on 2020-21 timeline, or 3) the applicant does not meet the standard for acceleration and should not be forwarded to Ready to Open. Any non-accelerated applicants recommended to Ready to Open on the 2020-21 timeline will go to the State Board of Education for final approval in May 2019.
- Dr. Allen reviewed the clarification interview process. She explained that on December 18, 2018, six groups were notified of their clarification interview. On January 7, 2019 rubrics were submitted to those applicants. She reviewed the schools assigned to each committee. She explained that the Office of Charter Schools is proposing seven schools to come before the CSAB in February. She explained which schools were repeat applicants from last year.
- Dr. Allen explained the interview process for today's full interviews. She explained that ten schools were notified on December 19, 2018 of its full interview. She explained applicants received rubrics on January 7, 2019. She explained that all ten groups are acceleration applicants.
- Dr. Allen explained that February interviews will be determined based on the clarification interview decisions at this month's meeting.

### **2019 RENEWAL VOTES**

- Ms. Shaunda Cooper, OCS consultant, reviewed the 2019 renewal vote recommendations based on the renewal guidelines. She explained that the following schools are under the ten-year placement: American Renaissance, Anderson Creek Academy, Cardinal Charter, Envision Science Academy, Evergreen Community School, Greensboro Academy, Invest Collegiate Imagine, Quest Academy, Raleigh Charter High School, South Brunswick Charter, The Franklin School of Innovation, Thomas Jefferson Academy, Vance Charter School, Wake Forest Charter School, Wilson Preparatory Academy, and Research Triangle Charter.

- Ms. Cooper reviewed the seven-year guideline placements: Forsyth Academy, The Mountain Community School, and Wayne Preparatory Academy.
- Ms. Cooper reviewed the five-year guideline placements: The Capitol Encore, Commonwealth, and Stewart Creek High.
- Ms. Cooper reviewed the three-year or nonrenewal placements: A.C.E. Academy, Haliwa-Saponi Tribal School, Reaching All Minds, Carter Community Charter, Lakeside Charter School, Charlotte Learning Academy, Dillard Academy, United Community Charter.
- Ms. Kakadelis recused from the South Brunswick Charter vote and Mr. Quigley recused from any Durham renewal, including Research Triangle Charter.

**Motion: The following schools receive a ten-year renewal term: American Renaissance, Anderson Creek Academy, Cardinal Charter, Envision Science Academy, Evergreen Community School, Greensboro Academy, Invest Collegiate Imagine, Quest Academy, Raleigh Charter High School, The Franklin School of Innovation, Thomas Jefferson Academy, Vance Charter School, Wake Forest Charter School, Wilson Preparatory Academy.**

**Motion: Steven Walker**

**Second: Sherry Reeves**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

**Motion: South Brunswick Charter receive a ten-year renewal term.**

**Motion: Steven Walker**

**Second: Sherry Reeves**

**Recused: Lindalyn Kakadelis**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

**Motion: Research Triangle Charter receive a ten-year renewal term.**

**Motion: Steven Walker**

**Second: Sherry Reeves**

**Recused: Alex Quigley**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

- Ms. Cooper gave an update on Bradford Preparatory Academy and KIPP Halifax. The CSAB discussed needing clarity regarding a testing issue at Bradford Preparatory Academy.

**Motion: A vote on Bradford Preparatory Academy's renewal vote be moved to February.**

**Motion: Steven Walker**

**Second: Sherry Reeves**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

**Motion: Forsyth Academy receive a ten-year renewal term.**

- The CSAB discussed the appropriate renewal term for Forsyth Academy based on academic performance and LEA comparability.

**Motion: Steven Walker**

**Second: Phyllis Gibbs**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

**Motion: A vote on KIPP Halifax's renewal vote be moved to February due to the school's late audit.**

**Motion: Steven Walker**

**Second: Phyllis Gibbs**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

**Motion: The Mountain Community School receive a seven-year renewal term.**

- Ms. Turner asked how they are different from Forsyth Academy. The CSAB reviewed data and discussed.

**Motion: Steven Walker**

**Second: Phyllis Gibbs**

**Mr. Walker withdraws motion.**

**Motion: The Mountain Community School and Wayne Preparatory Academy receive ten-year renewal terms.**

**Motion: Steven Walker**

**Second: Cheryl Turner**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

**Motion: The Capitol Encore receive a five-year renewal term.**

**Motion: Steven Walker**

**Second: Sherry Reeves**

- The CSAB discussed the school's academic performance. Ms. Cooper gave a review of the academics in the school and stated there were no financial issues with the school.

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

- Mr. Walker stated that Carter Community Charter is not low-performing or continually low-performing.

**Motion: Carter Community Charter receive a five-year renewal term.**

**Motion: Steven Walker**

**Second: Cheryl Turner**

- Ms. Alexis Schauss stated that the school does have signs of financial insolvency, material weaknesses noted, and general financial weakness. She stated they are on a cautionary status. Ms. Schauss stated that its financial status has been increased to probationary status. Ms. Schauss stated the school's expenditures have exceeded its revenue.

**Mr. Walker withdrew his motion based on the discussion.**

**Motion: Carter Community Charter receive a three-year renewal term.**

**Motion: Steven Walker**

**Second: Sherry Reeves**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

- Ms. Cooper stated that Pioneer Springs should be on the seven-year recommendation.

**Motion: Pioneer Springs receive a seven-year renewal term.**

**Motion: Steven Walker**

**Second: Lindalyn Kakadelis**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

**Motion: Lakeside Charter School receive a three-year renewal term.**

**Motion: Steven Walker**

**Second: Cheryl Turner**

- Ms. Schauss stated that the school has been in disciplinary probationary status since the 2015 audit. She stated the biggest concern financially is a decline in ADM and no reduction in debt service.
- Mr. Machado stated they have about 98 on their current enrollment and with the new leader they should make it.

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

**Motion: A.C.E. Academy receive a three-year renewal term.**

**Motion: Steven Walker**  
**Second: Lindalyn Kakadelis**  
**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

- Mr. Walker stated that Charlotte Learning Academy has been an “F” school for years and have not met growth the last three years and performs far below the LEA.

**Motion: Charlotte Learning Academy be recommended for nonrenewal.**

**Motion: Steven Walker**  
**Second: Alan Hawkes**

- Mr. Friend asked for enrollment. The CSAB responded 260.

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

**Motion: Dillard Academy receive a three-year renewal term.**

**Motion: Steven Walker**  
**Second: Lindalyn Kakadelis**

- The CSAB discussed whether this school was heading in the right direction. The CSAB noted they exceeded growth last year and are almost comparable to the LEA.

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

**Motion: Haliwa-Saponi Tribal School receive a three-year renewal term.**

**Motion: Steven Walker**  
**Second: Lynn Kroeger**

- Members of the CSAB expressed concern that the school has not made adequate progress. Ms. Schauss stated there are no financial issues with the school. Mr. Walker stated the school has met growth two years and would fit into the three-year guidelines.

**Vote: Bruce Friend, Lynn Kroeger, Cheryl Turner, Heather Vuncannon, Steven Walker, Alex Quigley, Lindalyn Kakadelis, Sherry Reeves, Phyllis Gibbs in favor. Alan Hawkes opposed.**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

**Motion: United Community Charter receive a three-year renewal term.**

**Motion: Steven Walker**  
**Second: Sherry Reeves**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

- Mr. Walker stated Reaching All Minds has exceeded growth the last two years but is below the LEA in proficiency.

**Motion: Reaching All Minds receive a three-year renewal term.**

**Motion: Steven Walker**

**Second: Sherry Reeves**

- Ms. Cooper stated the school was working to firm up some testing issues, but they were not on any formal probationary status for testing irregularities.

**Vote: Bruce Friend, Lynn Kroeger, Cheryl Turner, Heather Vuncannon, Steven Walker, Alex Quigley, Lindalyn Kakadelis, Sherry Reeves, Phyllis Gibbs in favor. Alan Hawkes opposed.**

**Passed**

**Failed**

- Mr. Walker stated the following two schools are alternative schools and have done what they were supposed to do under their alternative accountability model. He stated there is concern with turnover, but you will have that in drop-out prevention schools.

**Motion: Commonwealth and Stewart Creek High receive ten-year renewal terms.**

**Motion: Steven Walker**

**Second: Phyllis Gibbs**

- Ms. Turner asked about enrollment. Mr. Walker stated it is difficult to get a grasp on enrollment in these types of schools.
- Mr. Hawkes stated he concurs on this issue and that the schools are working well with Charlotte Mecklenburg schools.
- No financial concerns were noted.
- The CSAB discussed their graduation rates and accountability model.

**Vote: Bruce Friend, Lynn Kroeger, Cheryl Turner, Heather Vuncannon, Steven Walker, Alex Quigley, Lindalyn Kakadelis, Alan Hawkes, Phyllis Gibbs in favor. Sherry Reeves opposed.**

**Passed**

**Failed**

### **CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICANT INTERVIEWS**

- Dr. Danielle Allen, OCS Consultant, gave an application update. She gave an application timeline and process review. She stated that should an application for acceleration not meet the criteria in the established policy, the group will be considered for the 2020-21 opening.

She explained that the CSAB should make one motion for each group either 1) the applicant meets the standard for acceleration and be forwarded to Ready to Open, 2) the applicant does not meet the standard for acceleration but be forwarded to Ready to Open, or 3) the applicant does not meet the standard for acceleration

- Dr. Allen reviewed the clarification interview process. She explained that on December 18<sup>th</sup>, six schools were notified of their clarification interview. She reviewed the schools assigned to each committee. She explained that the Office of Charter Schools is proposing seven schools to come before the CSAB in February. She explained which schools were repeat applicants from last year.
- Dr. Allen explained the interview process for today's full interviews. She explained that ten schools were notified on December 19, 2018 of its full interview. She explained applicants received rubrics on January 7, 2019. She explained that all ten groups are acceleration applicants.
- Dr. Allen explained that February interviews will be determined based on the clarification interview decisions at this month's meeting.

#### Clara Science Academy

- Dr. Allen stated the school is proposed to locate in Mecklenburg 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 for this applicant. She stated the applicant is requesting acceleration and is a repeat applicant from last year that received a full interview. She stated the applicant received assistance from Leaders Building Leaders and the NC Public Charter School Accelerator Program and no direct fees were provided to either entity. Applicant has had representation at every Ready to Open (RTO) session held thus far.
- Omar Muhammad introduced himself as the Board Chair and other members of the board introduced themselves.
- Mr. Walker asked about the facility and whether it will be ready in time. Mr. Walker reviewed concerns that were brought up during the evaluation phase. Ms. Turner expressed concern with the education plan. Ms. Kroeger expressed concern with the budget. Ms. Kakadelis expressed concern with the student surveys.
- Ms. Varsty Muhammad stated the timeframe is about a month to repair some areas and be ready to open. She stated they have a lease ready to go pending the vote today.
- Mr. Quigley stated there is no basis for acceleration based on the location of Charlotte Mecklenburg. He stated there has to be a clear, compelling need.

- Ms. Muhammad stated they were invited back for acceleration by the board.
- Ms. Kakadelis asked about student surveys. Ms. Muhammad stated there are 150 interest surveys.
- Mr. Friend asked for clarification about the facility. Ms. Muhammad stated it would be about three months timeline.
- Mr. Quigley reiterated the importance of making sure a facility is totally ready for accelerated status.
- Ms. Turner expressed her concerns with the educational plan of the school.
- Ms. Muhammad stated the school is looking at 100 minutes of literacy, 50 minutes of writing. Mr. Walker asked to give an example of second grade literacy. She continued that the student would come in the classroom and there would be small groups and interventions. She stated that science and math will be incorporated into the daily instruction. Ms. Turner asked how STEM is incorporated. Ms. Muhammad stated it would be incorporated in the vocabulary of the classes, environmental discussions, and exposure through field trips. Ms. Turner asked if anyone on the board will be in administration. Ms. Muhammad stated she would be an administrator.
- Ms. Muhammad spoke about community engagement.
- Ms. Kakadelis asked what literacy program would be used. Ms. Muhammad stated that they would use Discovery Ed and Pearson for science and math.
- Ms. Kroeger expressed concern with the budget. Ms. Muhammad stated the insurance is low because they are hoping half of employees will buy into the insurance package. Mr. Walker stated he can't imagine them getting insurance that low. Mr. Walker stated that will be a difficulty on the budget when looking at revenues. He stated you could eat up your surplus just with health insurance costs.
- Ms. Kroeger asked for more information about the letter from Charter School Capital. Mr. Muhammad stated that hasn't been incorporated into the budget because they haven't decided if they will take that loan. Ms. Kroeger pointed out that the repayment would need to be factored into the budget and it is not.
- A member of the board spoke about health insurance negotiations and stated if needed, they would go back into the budget and decide how to shift things.
- Ms. Kakadelis asked about the budget and whether the social worker and counselor are considered in the personnel budget. Ms. Muhammad stated those are projected positions after the first year.

- Ms. Reeves asked about the financial officer because the position doesn't show up in the budget until year three. A member of the board stated that the Treasurer and Finance Committee would handle the finances until that point. Another board member stated a lead administrator would be in charge of finances. Ms. Reeves and Ms. Kroeger expressed concern about the contracts for financial assistance.
- Ms. Reeves asked about the transportation and lunch plans. Ms. Muhammad explained the lunch plans. She continued that the board has set aside funding for two buses and that about 70% of students have the ability to self-transport. She stated they are in negotiations with Eagle Transportation to provide transportation if needed. Ms. Reeves asked where the buses are in the budget. Mr. Muhammad stated they have raised \$20,000 and they would use that for transportation. The CSAB reminded him that it would need to be shown in expenditures as well. Ms. Reeves stated the transportation plan needs to match the educational plan which shows a lot of field trips for the STEM education.
- Mr. Friend explained there are several things that catch his eyes in terms of budget. Mr. Friend stated he would encourage looking at technology, custodial, and marketing.
- Ms. Reeves asked about facility capacity. Mr. Muhammad stated there would be capacity for 450 students. Ms. Reeves asked about recess area, transportation egress/ingress issues, and lunch room capabilities. Mr. Muhammad stated the facility has all these things.
- Ms. Vuncannon stated that she has concerns regarding the budget and contracting for EC services. Ms. Muhammad stated she is aware they will have to contract for services and it was an oversight in not putting it in the budget.
- Ms. Turner stated she does not see the level of need required for acceleration. Ms. Turner stated she also has concerns about the application.
- Ms. Reeves appreciates that they listened last year and reapplied this year, but she it is not clear this school would be able to open in August.
- Mr. Walker expressed his concerns with acceleration. He stated the area is a saturated market. He stated it would be tough to get enrollment in the time for acceleration.

**Motion: The CSAB does not move Clara Science Academy forward for acceleration.**

**Motion: Cheryl Turner**

**Second: Lindalyn Kakadelis**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**

**Failed**

- Mr. Quigley stated he does not feel this application is ready for approval. Mr. Quigley and Ms. Turner expressed major concerns when a school leader cannot clearly explain the educational plan.

- The CSAB also expressed concerns with the budget. Ms. Turner stated there is no money for related services. Ms. Kroeger stated the budget concerns from last year should have been corrected this year.
- Mr. Hawkes encouraged the board to not get discouraged because other applicants have returned a third time and been approved.

**Motion: The CSAB does not move Clara Science Academy forward to Ready to Open.**

**Motion: Phyllis Gibbs**

**Second: Lynn Kroeger**

**Vote: Bruce Friend, Lynn Kroeger, Cheryl Turner, Heather Vuncannon, Sherry Reeves, Alex Quigley, Lindalyn Kakadelis, Alan Hawkes, Phyllis Gibbs in favor. Steven Walker opposed.**

**Passed**

**Failed**

*Wilmington School of the Arts Full Interview*

- Dr. Allen stated the school is proposed to locate in New Hanover 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. They are a repeat applicant. This applicant did not receive third party assistance. Applicant has had representation at every RTO session held thus far.
- Members of the board introduced themselves and their backgrounds.
- Mr. Quigley asked about the facility. A board member spoke about a facility that is available which was a former child care center. He stated a few things would need to be done to get it up and running. Ms. Turner asked for how long they could stay in that facility. The board member stated they have a five-year lease and room for 450 students. He stated they also have a letter of intent to construct a new facility that would be ready to open in year five.
- Ms. Reeves stated that last survey data only showed fifty something eligible students. Ms. Reeves stated there is a lot of competition in this area.
- Mr. Quigley stated he doesn’t believe this meets the criteria for acceleration. He stated it doesn’t meet the threshold of a compelling need. Mr. Quigley gave examples of how he would see a facility being ready for acceleration.
- Ms. Turner asked if there is work that needs to be done on the facility. A board member stated there is no work to be done on the building. Another board member stated that the certificate of occupancy is available because a school previously occupied the building.
- A board member spoke about the need in the area and the wait lists at surrounding areas.

- Mr. Friend expressed concern about the survey data and the school's ability to fill enrollment.
- Mr. Walker stated the hang up with acceleration right now seems to be whether there is a compelling need for this school in its proposed location.
- A board representative spoke about the board's experience and composition making them a strong board. She stated the board has selected the school leader. She stated board members have direct experience opening charter schools and going through the RTO process.
- Mr. Quigley asked for more information regarding the literacy program and how the arts will be integrated into the educational plan. A board representative stated they are considering STEP and Wit and Wisdom as reading programs. She stated that students would receive an arts class each day. Members of the board continued to explain how arts would be integrated into the curriculum and school's educational plan.
- Mr. Quigley asked about professional development before school starts. The board stated they have two weeks before school opens.
- Mr. Quigley asked about the staffing and the budget. A board representative stated this budget is based on meeting enrollment numbers. If they come up short, with the break-even budget, the school will not have as many positions. Mr. Quigley stated they may want to consider having either a Director of Operations or an Assistant Principal. Mr. Quigley asked about what the Arts Coordinator will do. A board member explained the responsibilities of that position and the importance of the role to the school's mission. He stated that the pay range has been increased to an instructional level pay grade.
- Mr. Friend stated that he would echo sentiments about the level of administrators outlined in the budget.
- Mr. Quigley asked about the budget as it pertains to transportation. A board member stated that the Boys and Girls Club has agreed to contract with the school to provide transportation. The board stated this agreement is just in the beginning phases of development and unable to provide details at the time.
- Mr. Quigley asked for the background of the school leader. He explained his background in education and administration. He stated he was the founder of Northeast Carolina Charter School. He stated his career is helping schools – getting in and doing the dirty work and paying the price afterwards.
- Mr. Quigley stated the application is good, but he is not sold on meeting acceleration requirements.
- Mr. Walker stated he is torn on whether the school meets the acceleration requirements.

- The CSAB debated whether the application meets acceleration requirements. Mr. Hawkes stated they are a good application and the need is there. Ms. Turner agrees it is a good application, but they do not have a compelling need. Mr. Friend stated the school has a facility and experienced leadership and board. He believes they could probably get the school together by August. Mr. Quigley stated that ultimately the State Board will make the decision. He wants to make sure recommendations are clearly unique circumstances and a compelling need.

**Motion: The CSAB moves Wilmington School of the Arts forward for Ready to Open.**

**Motion: Steven Walker**

**Second: Sherry Reeves**

**Recused: Lindalyn Kakadelis**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**

**Failed**

**Motion: The CSAB moves Wilmington School of the Arts forward for acceleration.**

**Motion: Steven Walker**

**Second: Phyllis Gibbs**

**Recused: Lindalyn Kakadelis**

**Vote: Bruce Friend, Phyllis Gibbs, and Steven Walker. Opposed: Lynn Kroeger, Cheryl Turner, Heather Vuncannon, Sherry Reeves, Alex Quigley, Alan Hawkes.**

**Passed**

**Failed**

**Motion: The CSAB moves Wilmington School of the Arts forward for Ready to Open on a regular timeline.**

**Motion: Steven Walker**

**Second: Sherry Reeves**

**Recused: Lindalyn Kakadelis**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**

**Failed**

*The CSAB broke for lunch at 12:15pm and reconvened at 1:00pm.*

## **CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICANT INTERVIEWS CONTINUED**

### *MINA Charter School of Lee County Full Interview*

- Dr. Allen stated the school is proposed to locate in Lee 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. They are a repeat applicant that received a full interview last year. She explained the pass/fail ratings. They did not receive assistance from a third party. This application has had representation at every RTO session thus far.

- Ms. Jeanette Peace introduced herself as the Vice Chair of the board. Other members of the board introduced themselves. Mr. Shawn Williams introduced himself as Chair of the board.
- Ms. Peace stated there is a clear and compelling need for the charter school. She stated there are no other charter schools serving elementary school students in the area. She stated that the demographics of the county call for a service to underserved minority students. She stated that 34% of the county's students are Hispanic and for the first time in the county, minority students are in the majority and those families need choices. She pointed to the LEA's academic scores as evidence of a need for choice in the area. She spoke about the board's work toward Ready to Open.
- Mr. Walker asked about enrollment targets. A board member stated they are at 244 letters of intent and their goal is 252 letters. He stated they are well aware they need to be around 500. He stated all of this is without disclosing location. He stated the elementary school in the area is overcrowded.
- Ms. Peace spoke about marketing including open houses and door to door.
- Mr. Walker asked about the facility. Mr. Williams stated that they have met with city planners and the developer and have been assured the building will be ready by August.
- Mr. Friend asked about the work necessary to get the facility ready to go. Mr. Williams stated it is an upfit and it is an old shopping center. He stated they would need to put up walls and hide some beams.
- Ms. Reeves asked about the mission statement and educational plan that don't seem aligned. Mr. Williams stated that the dual language helps the students to be innovative and the STREAM helps the students become lifelong learners. Ms. Reeves stated that still is not clear to parents that may want to send their students to the school. Ms. Kakadelis asked if it is immersion or dual language. A representative stated it will not be immersion but a goal of having conversational Spanish. Ms. Kakadelis asked how long they will get Spanish class. The board representative stated it will be incorporated into the regular class curriculum, not as a separate language class. Ms. Kakadelis stated that sounds more like immersion.
- Mr. Quigley asked for more information about the suspension policy. Mr. Williams stated there will be a mindset room with a counselor. He stated that they may suspend, but their goal is to have no out of school suspensions if possible.
- Ms. Reeves asked about the scheduling of core classes and electives. A board representative spoke about options for the scheduling. Mr. Quigley stated the importance of having details about scheduling and personnel needs locked down when a school is seeking acceleration.
- Mr. Quigley stated he has concerns about the curriculum costs and asked about non-technological curriculum programs. A board representative stated the board has not selected a curriculum program at this point. She stated they haven't narrowed down that decision because they don't have a charter yet.

- Ms. Reeves asked about STREAM and if they have decided what curriculum they will use for STREAM. Mr. Williams stated the major goal would be integrating STREAM across the curriculum, so it is not a pull-out program, but a teacher led component through the regular instructional day.
- Ms. Kakadelis asked about professional development and integrating language immersion and STREAM. A board representative stated there are ten days of professional development built into the calendar before the school year starts.
- Mr. Williams spoke about professional development with Dreambuilders. Ms. Reeves asked if Dreambuilders will train for dual language and STREAM integration as well. The board replied yes. The CSAB expressed concern about teachers being prepared to integrate all components of the educational plan. A board representative spoke about the school's collaboration with other groups to help with the language immersion.
- Ms. Kroeger asked about the budget and her concerns that the revenues are overstated. She stated that if you bring the budget back down to the realistic numbers, based on enrollment, you are running a tight budget. Mr. Williams stated those numbers were generated by the calculation system in the application. He stated those numbers are not self-generated. Mr. Quigley asked for the break-even budget. Mr. Williams stated 216. Mr. Quigley asked what would be cut if they get below that number. Mr. Williams stated teacher assistants and curriculum resources.
- Mr. Friend asked about the 35k surplus after the first year. He expressed concerns about the technology budget, instructional technology, and curriculum budgets being too low. A board representative stated they wouldn't have new technology, but there are ways to lease older equipment for cheaper. Mr. Friend stated he isn't saying it can't be done, but he brings it forward because it could easily eat into that 35k surplus.
- A board representative stated they are in discussion with several companies about providing resources to the school.
- Mr. Quigley stated he has major concerns with the budget. Mr. Quigley also stated he sees a lack of clarity around the program and how it is going to be run.

**Motion: MINA Charter School of Lee County does not move forward for acceleration.**

**Motion: Sherry Reeves**

**Second: Lindalyn Kakadelis**

- The CSAB discussed whether the application met requirements for acceleration. Mr. Walker reviewed the acceleration requirements.
- Mr. Friend asked if anyone on the board had experience opening a charter from the ground up. The board replied no, but that is why they are partnering with Leaders Building Leaders.

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**

**Failed**

- Ms. Reeves reviewed her concerns with the mission and the educational plan. Ms. Turner stated she has issues with any group that comes forward and cannot clearly articulate the educational plan. Mr. Walker stated the educational plan could have been clearer, but he had more concerns with the budget. Mr. Walker and Ms. Kakadelis stated they are impressed with the passion from the board. Mr. Hawkes stated that he is impressed with the collaboration with the Hispanic community. Ms. Kroeger expressed concerns with the budget.
- A board member stated every elementary school in Lee County is overcrowded.

**Motion: MINA Charter of Lee County moves forward for Ready to Open on a regular timeline.**

**Motion: Steven Walker**

**Second: Alan Hawkes**

**Vote: Bruce Friend, Phyllis Gibbs, Steven Walker, Alex Quigley, Lindalyn Kakadelis, Alan Hawkes. Opposed - Sherry Reeves, Lynn Kroeger, and Cheryl Turner.**

**Passed**

**Failed**

*Pocosin Innovative Charter Full Interview*

- Dr. Allen stated the school is proposed to locate in Washington County. Dr. Allen gave a brief introduction of the school's proposed enrollment and grade levels. There is a LEA impact statement and there is not a due diligence report for this applicant. Dr. Allen reviewed the pass/fail ratings for this applicant. She stated the applicant is requesting acceleration and is not a repeat applicant and is receiving third party assistance from Alliance Education Services. She stated the applicant has had representation at each Ready to Open session held thus far.
- Ms. Stephanie Phelps introduced herself as Board Chair. The other board members introduced themselves.
- Mr. Quigley asked for the rationale for seeking acceleration. A board representative stated that of 19 schools in the region most are poorly performing. She stated all the schools in Washington County are D schools. She stated there are no charter schools in the area. Mr. Quigley asked the mayor for feedback about why a charter school is needed. The mayor of Creswell stated that a charter school is greatly needed. He stated the high school and middle school have been closed in Creswell.

- Mr. Walker asked if they have visited Bear Grass for advice about opening a charter in a rural community. A board representative stated they visited the school and have incorporated ideas from different schools into their charter application.
- Mr. Quigley asked if they have identified a school leader. A board representative stated no.
- Ms. Turner stated the application is unique with its agricultural based curriculum. A board representative stated they have changed the mission to better reflect that in response to CSAB feedback.
- A board representative stated that they would pull students from surrounding areas in addition to many students that are homeschooled or sent to private schools.
- Mr. Walker expressed his support for acceleration based on a compelling need and unique application.
- A board representative spoke to transportation. She stated that they have buses in the budget and would do bus depots and she continued that they have been in contact with a bus company. She stated the majority of the area carpool to school and that the community understands the need to carpool in the beginning.
- A board member spoke about the facility. She stated it is a church facility and would be ready to go.
- A board member spoke about the number of homeschool and private school students in the area.
- Mr. Quigley stated his concern that this is a school supposed to reach low income students, but they are targeting private school students. A board member replied that many of the private school students receive opportunity scholarships.
- Mr. Quigley asked about the choice of curriculum. A board member stated they want to give the school leader the power to decide the curriculum.
- The CSAB expressed concerns about the board having a majority of parent board members.
- Mr. Quigley asked for a response to the LEA impact statement. A board member stated that the letter was all about the money the LEA would lose. Mr. Quigley asked the board if they realize that the school may not be as popular as they envision it to be.

- Mr. Friend asked about the board member whose father owns the facility. Mr. Walker stated that the board member would need to recuse herself from any facility decisions.
- Ms. Kakadelis asked if the facility was a school at one time. A board member stated yes.
- Ms. Reeves asked for some clarity regarding the legal and finance teams on the board. A board member explained those two teams would be comprised of members from the board. She stated they are seeking someone with legal experience.
- Mr. Maimone gave the board advice about dealing with disagreements between the school leader and the board. He stated the issues will arise and the board needs to have policies for dealing with those issues.
- Ms. Reeves suggested they expand the board and get more educators.
- The CSAB questioned the board on the enrollment interest and break-even budget.

**Motion: Pocosin Innovative Charter move forward in Ready to Open in acceleration status.**

**Motion: Steven Walker**

**Second: Phyllis Gibbs**

- The CSAB asked why the board doesn't have more people of color on the board. A board member spoke about how hard it is to find board members that can take the amount of time off work needed to be on the board. Ms. Turner asked if they expect the demographics of the school to reflect the community. The board stated yes.
- The mayor stated that he does not see a problem with race in the area and the school will get support from all demographics.
- A board member stated the preapplication interest showed demographics that reflect the community.
- The CSAB expressed the need for the board to have an African American parent on the board.

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**

**Failed**

### **CLARIFICATION INTERVIEWS**

- Dr. Allen reminded the board of the time limits and process for clarification interviews.

*North Raleigh Charter Academy and Wendell Falls Charter Academy*

- Dr. Allen stated that North Raleigh Charter Academy is proposed to locate in Wake County. Dr. Allen gave a brief introduction of the school’s proposed enrollment and grade levels. There is not a LEA impact statement and there is not a due diligence report for this applicant. Dr. Allen reviewed the pass/fail ratings for this applicant. She stated the applicant is requesting replication and is a repeat applicant that previously applied for Cardinal Charter West. She stated they plan to partner with Charter Schools USA.
- Dr. Allen stated that Wendell Falls Charter Academy is proposed to locate in Wake County. Dr. Allen gave a brief introduction of the school’s proposed enrollment and grade levels. There is not a LEA impact statement and there is not a due diligence report for this applicant. Dr. Allen reviewed the pass/fail ratings for this applicant. She stated the applicant is requesting replication and is a repeat applicant that previously applied for Cardinal Charter West. She stated they plan to partner with Charter Schools USA.
- Mr. Allen Taylor introduced himself as the Board Chair. He spoke about the governance structure of the board. He deferred to the principal to answer some educational questions. The principal, Becky Draper, of Cardinal Charter spoke about the educational plan of the school and the important educational goals of the school.
- Mr. Walker asked about the data on the communities the school had in its application. Mr. Taylor stated you can buy that type of data. He spoke about how the research was so important for determining the site locations.

**Motion: Committee motion to allow North Raleigh Charter Academy and Wendell Falls Charter Academy to continue to full interview.**

**Motion: Steven Walker**

**Second: Heather Vuncannon**

**Vote: Unanimous Committee Vote**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

**Motion: Full CSAB motion to allow North Raleigh Charter Academy and Wendell Falls Charter Academy to continue to full interview.**

**Motion: Steven Walker**

**Second: Lynn Kroeger**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

*Achievement Charter Academy*

- Mr. Quigley stated that Achievement Charter Academy is proposed to locate in Harnett County. Mr. Quigley gave a brief introduction of the school’s proposed enrollment and grade

levels. There is not a LEA impact statement and there is not a due diligence report for this applicant. Mr. Quigley reviewed the pass/fail ratings for this applicant. He stated there are no special requests and the applicant is a repeat applicant that previously received a full interview. He stated this applicant has not received any third party assistance.

- The board chair introduced herself and spoke about her background. She explained she is currently a principal at a small private school. The remaining board members introduced themselves.
- Ms. Turner asked about the relationship with the private school. The board chair stated there will not be a relationship going forward and she is not the owner of that business. She stated the owner of the private school is her mother, but the board chair does not have an ownership in the private school. Ms. Turner asked about the facility. The board chair stated they would use the facility of the private school and the private school, if it continues, would find a new facility.
- The board chair stated this is the third time here. She explained steps the board has taken to improve and gain advice in the process. She explained that they added material that may have caused more questions this year.
- Mr. Quigley asked if they had a full interview previously. The board chair stated yes.

**Motion: Committee motion to allow Achievement Charter Academy to continue to full interview.**

**Motion: Cheryl Turner**

**Second: Steven Walker**

**Vote: Unanimous Committee Vote**

**Passed**

**Failed**

**Motion: Full CSAB motion to allow Achievement Charter Academy to continue to full interview.**

**Motion: Steven Walker**

**Second: Bruce Friend**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**

**Failed**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

- **Mr. Walker made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:37 pm. The meeting adjourned via acclamation.**

**Minutes of the  
North Carolina Charter School Advisory Board  
State Board Rm. 755  
January 15, 2019  
9:00 am**

Attendance/NCCSAB	Alan Hawkes Joseph Maimone Phyllis Gibbs Sherry Reeves Cheryl Turner – <i>Arrived 10:05am</i> Lindalyn Kakadelis Lynn Kroeger	Alex Quigley Tammi Sutton - <i>Absent</i> Steven Walker Heather Vuncannon – <i>Via Phone</i> Bruce Friend
Attendance/SBE/DPI	<i>Office of Charter Schools</i>  Dave Machado, Director Patricia Nnadi-Purvis, Program Assistant Ashley Baquero, Consultant Shaunda Cooper, Consultant Danielle Allen, Consultant Jay Whalen, Consultant	<i>SBE</i>  <i>SBE Attorney</i> Eric Snider

**CALL TO ORDER**

- The North Carolina Charter School Advisory Board (CSAB) meeting was called to order at 9:03 am by Chairman Alex Quigley who read the Ethics Statement and CSAB Mission Statement. Mr. Quigley led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Mr. Bruce Friend recused himself from discussion/vote on the CFA Community Public Charter application.

**CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICANT INTERVIEWS**

CFA Community Public Charter

- Mr. Quigley gave an overview of the school’s proposed location and grades/enrollment numbers. Mr. Quigley reviewed the pass/fail ratings. He stated this is an acceleration applicant. The applicant received assistance from Team CFA and Leaders Building Leaders. The applicant has participated in the Ready to Open sessions.

- The Board Chair, Mr. Charles Graham, introduced himself. The remaining board members introduced themselves. Ms. Sherry Reynolds, introduced herself as head of school. Mr. Greg Sindere introduced himself as a representative of Team CFA.
- The CSAB discussed whether the applicant meets the requirements for acceleration. Ms. Kakadelis asked about the facility. Ms. Reynolds stated there would need to be some minor changes in the facility, but they also have a contingent facility that has a certificate of occupancy. She stated it would be about two miles from the other facility. Mr. Walker asked for more specifics. A board representative stated there would be minor changes like fire/safety lighting and handicap accessibility, but no real construction.
- Mr. Quigley stated he doesn't believe it meets the requirements for acceleration as a unique, compelling need. Ms. Reynolds stated that the children need the opportunity for high quality school choice. She stated the board has been very active for two years, she has already been hired as the head of school, to date they have 373 letters of intent for students, the board has attended all RTO sessions and submitted all RTO documents, the board has 43 volunteer forms received, 51 letters of interest in employment, letters of support from businesses/donors, and letters of support from community representatives.
- The CSAB continued to debate whether the school meets requirements for acceleration. Mr. Graham spoke about employer needs in the area and how the school would align with those needs. Mr. Quigley asked about the targeted population and how the school will reflect the community. Mr. Graham spoke about the Gaston County demographics.
- Mr. Quigley asked about the educational plan. Ms. Reynolds spoke about her knowledge of Core Curriculum. She spoke about the professional development plans for the teachers. Ms. Reynolds spoke about the planned literacy program.
- Mr. Quigley asked about a weighted lottery. Mr. Sindere stated that they are being very intentional about their marketing and the school welcomes all students. Mr. Sindere stated they have demonstrated the need, innovative nature, facility, financing, and the school is ready for acceleration.
- Ms. Kroeger asked about the relationship with Team CFA and how it works in the budget. Mr. Sindere stated the CMO agreement is for 10% of total revenues of the school and that includes what it takes to get the school opened. He stated they provide up to a half million dollars to get the school up and running. He stated the 10% flows through the budget. Mr. Sindere stated Team CFA is basically in last position. If there is not money available, they don't get paid.

- Mr. Quigley asked about transportation. A board representative spoke about transportation needs of the community and proposed cluster stops. Mr. Quigley asked about bus personnel.
- Ms. Kakadelis stated she's not sure what the board could do for another year. Mr. Hawkes stated he is worried about the school losing assets if they have to wait another year. Ms. Kroeger stated she is concerned with the school losing momentum if they have to wait another year.

**Motion: CFA: Community Public Charter move forward in Ready to Open in acceleration status.**

**Motion: Steven Walker**

**Second: Phyllis Gibbs**

- The CSAB continued to discuss whether the school meets acceleration requirements. Ms. Reeves stated she didn't think the need was expressed well in the application, but she doesn't know what benefit it would be to delay this application. She stated she has some concern about the grade levels and curriculum. A board representative stated that some older students may need remediation. Ms. Reynolds stated that areas of weakness will be identified and students will be taught to master those skills. She also spoke about intervention, remediation, and acceleration for students.
- Mr. Quigley stated he will support the acceleration status based on the strong board. He stated he would be more supportive if the school had a weighted lottery and one more bus in the transportation plan.

**Vote: Phyllis Gibbs, Steven Walker, Lynn Kroeger, Heather Vuncannon, Sherry Reeves, Lindalyn Kakadelis, Alan Hawkes, and Alex Quigley.**

**Recused: Bruce Friend**

**Passed**

**Failed**

Hobgood Charter Academy

- Dr. Allen gave an overview of the school's proposed location (Halifax County) and grades/enrollment numbers. Dr. Allen reviewed the pass/fail ratings. She stated there is no LEA impact statement or due diligence for this applicant. She stated this is an acceleration applicant. She stated the applicant is a repeat applicant. The applicant received assistance from Gregg Sindors of Team CFA, but no direct fees were assessed. The applicant has participated in the Ready to Open sessions.
- The board members introduced themselves. Julianna Harris introduced herself as the Board Chair. She stated the board has taken note of the feedback each year and made improvements.

- Mr. Walker asked about the conversion and the facility. A board member stated that yes, this is a conversion of an existing private school. Hobgood Academy plans to continue as a private school for students 9-12. Hobgood Charter Academy plans to serve K-8. He stated it will be a shared campus, but separate buildings for the charter school and the private school. He stated there will be some shared areas like the gymnasium and cafeteria. He continued there will be no shared staff.
- Ms. Kroeger asked how many students there will be 9-12<sup>th</sup> grade. A board member stated twenty.
- Ms. Reeves asked how parents will be informed that the charter will only go to 8<sup>th</sup> grade. A board member stated that issue has come up and the board is working to inform parents of the situation.
- Ms. Turner asked how the school will market to the community that is used to the school being a private school. A board member stated that over three years they have informed the public of the differences between the private school and the charter school. Ms. Harris stated that interest surveys have gone out to the community and they are communicating the free nature of the charter school. Ms. Harris stated they have received 218 interest surveys for K-8.
- Mr. Friend asked if there is shared transportation. A board member stated there would not be shared transportation. Ms. Turner asked for the transportation plan. A board member stated they are planning on two school buses for cluster stops and hope to employ some of the teacher assistants as bus drivers.
- Ms. Kroeger asked about Team CFA's involvement. A board member stated they will be contracting with Team CFA for financials, powerschool, and attendance. She stated it is a per student fee.
- Mr. Walker asked about board change over the last few years. Ms. Harris stated that they've had major board change, but not since clarification. She stated none of the board members are on the Hobgood Academy board.
- A board member spoke about the need in the community for school choice.
- Mr. Quigley asked about the status of communication with the community. A board member spoke about communication with families and the decision to do a weighted lottery. He stated approximately 26 percent of current students would qualify.

- Mr. Quigley stated this is a strong application and an indication of the importance of a rigorous application process.

**Motion: Hobgood Charter School move forward in Ready to Open in acceleration status.**

**Motion: Sherry Reeves**

**Second: Lindalyn Kakadelis**

- Ms. Reeves thanked the board for their hard work and dedication. Ms. Kakadelis stated this applicant is now ready for conversion.
- The CSAB clarified the school is requesting a name change to Hobgood Charter School.

**Vote: Bruce Friend, Phyllis Gibbs, Steven Walker, Lynn Kroeger, Cheryl Turner, Heather Vuncannon, Sherry Reeves, Alex Quigley, Lindalyn Kakadelis, Alan Hawkes.**

**Passed**

**Failed**

#### Revolution Academy

- Dr. Allen gave an overview of the school’s proposed location (Guilford County) and grades/enrollment numbers. Dr. Allen reviewed the pass/fail ratings. She stated there is no LEA impact statement or due diligence for this applicant. She stated this is an acceleration applicant. She stated the applicant is a repeat applicant. She stated the applicant received assistance from Leaders Building Leaders and Team CFA, but no direct fees were provided. The applicant has participated in the Ready to Open sessions.
- Mary Katherine Sauer introduced herself as the Board Chair and proposed founding principal. Fellow board members introduced themselves.
- Ms. Reeves asked about the identified facility. A board member stated that they plan to construct a permanent facility. In the meantime, they have a temporary facility at a local church with a certificate of occupancy. He stated the student capacity will accommodate enrollment. Ms. Sauer spoke about the plans to have the permanent facility ready for 2020. Ms. Reeves asked about proximity between sites. Ms. Sauer stated she believes it’s about eight miles. Ms. Sauer continued that they have not identified one specific site.
- Mr. Walker stated the facility issues concerns him with acceleration because the Ready to Open process would allow the school to work on a permanent facility during that year. Ms. Sauer stated she has opened a school on this accelerated timeline – Cornerstone. She stated she knows what to expect and what it takes to open well and open strong.
- Mr. Machado stated that there needed to be clarification on the pass/fail ratings. He stated that the applicant passed all sections of the application.

- A board member spoke about the transportation plan. He stated transportation will not be an impediment to attending the school. He stated that the school will open early to accommodate parents on their way to work and they expect most students will carpool. He stated they have also budgeted 130k for transportation purposes. He stated looking at year two and beyond they have budgeted 225k for transportation.
- Ms. Turner stated she has real concerns going from 400 to 650 students in year one to year two. Ms. Sauer spoke about the class and grade level structure and how the school plans to expand each year.
- Mr. Friend asked about the new facility's size. He stated the size is small for the number of proposed students. He stated there would be 646 in a thirty seven thousand square foot facility.
- Ms. Reeves stated she has concerns with the class sizes and aggressive growth. A board member stated it is possible to have these big sizes with class management. Ms. Sauer stated it is a model that has worked. The CSAB discussed concerns with class sizes. Ms. Sauer spoke about the school's plan to meet the needs of all students.
- Mr. Walker asked about letters of intent. A board member stated they have 70 letters of intent and over 400 survey responses on the online platform.
- Mr. Quigley asked about the educational plan. Ms. Sauer spoke about Core Knowledge and the classical education component.
- Ms. Turner asked about adding diversity to the board. A board member stated they are open to anyone. Mr. Friend asked what they are proactively doing to bring diversity to the board. Another board member stated they have a diverse range of experiences on the board. Ms. Sauer stated she understands the CSAB's concern and that they have a lot of advocates in the community and they are working to recruit and hire people of color.
- Mr. Hawkes asked for clarity regarding the targeted location for the permanent facility. A board member spoke about the current search within the county. Ms. Sauer stated they chose the targeted area because the population mirrors the county's diversity.
- Mr. Friend asked for clarity regarding the required board member financial contribution. A board member stated it could be anything a board member can afford. He continued that it shows a commitment to the school.

- Ms. Kakadelis asked about the marketing of the school. Ms. Sauer spoke about the marketing plan for the school.
- Mr. Hawkes asked about whether the school has considered the dean model. Ms. Sauer stated she has borrowed from that model. She stated that is similar to their instructional coach model, but the dean model handles parent concerns and other administrative duties. She stated their instructional coaches will be similar to deans, but not have the other administrative duties.
- The CSAB discussed whether the applicant meets the requirements for acceleration. Mr. Hawkes and Ms. Reeves expressed concern about the school being prepared for acceleration. Ms. Kakadelis expressed similar concerns. Mr. Friend restated his concerns regarding the size of the facility, but expressed his support of the school.

**Motion: Revolution Academy not move forward in accelerated status.**

**Motion: Lindalyn Kakadelis**

**Second: Sherry Reeves**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

**Motion: Revolution Academy move forward in Ready to Open on the regular timeline.**

**Motion: Lindalyn Kakadelis**

**Second: Bruce Friend**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

### **HENDERSON COLLEGIATE**

- Mr. Machado introduced Victor Clifton from Henderson Collegiate to the CSAB. Victor recently received a full ride scholarship to Duke University.
- Mr. Jackson Olsen, Henderson Collegiate High School Principal, spoke about Victor's accomplishments.
- Mr. Clifton spoke about his experience at Henderson Collegiate, his interest in Duke University, and the Quest Bridge scholarship program. His mother addressed the CSAB as well.

***The CSAB broke for lunch at 12:15pm and reconvened at 1:00pm.***

### **CLARIFICATION INTERVIEWS**

**Doral Academy of NC**

- Dr. Allen stated that Doral Academy of NC is proposed to locate in Wake County. Dr. Allen gave a brief introduction of the school’s proposed enrollment and grade levels. There is not a LEA impact statement. She stated there was a previous due diligence from a past application. Dr. Allen reviewed the pass/fail ratings for this applicant. She stated the applicant is requesting replication and is a repeat application. The applicant received third party assistance from Academica and intend to partner with Doral Academy, Inc. She stated the application was deemed complete.
- The board members and Academica representative introduced themselves to the CSAB.
- Ms. Kakadelis asked about the website reflecting a Durham location. A board member stated that it was originally going to be a Durham location, but now is proposed for Garner.
- Ms. Reeves would like more information about the partnership with Doral Academy, Inc. and Academica. A representative stated Doral Academy, Inc. operates in several states and will be the CMO. Academica may provide other back office services through the CMO, but the contract is with Doral Academy, Inc. He stated the college and CMO are completely different. He stated there is no one here from the CMO. Mr. Quigley stated that they will need a CMO representative at the full interview if they move forward.
- Ms. Kakadelis asked about the out of state board members. Mr. Rodriquez stated that they are committed to be here for board meetings and actively recruiting for more local board members.
- Mr. Quigley asked for clarification about the number of students that qualify as low income at Florida school. Mr. Rodriquez stated nearly fifty percent and predominantly Hispanic. Mr. Rodriquez spoke about the high academic performance of the Doral schools.
- Mr. Maimone asked for clarification about interest survey data. A board member spoke about the need in the area.

**Motion: Committee motion to allow Doral Academy of NC to continue to full interview.**

**Motion: Sherry Reeves**

**Second: Bruce Friend**

**Vote: Unanimous Committee Vote**

**Passed**

**Failed**

**Motion: Full CSAB motion to allow Doral Academy of NC to continue to full interview.**

**Motion: Lindalyn Kakadelis**

**Second: Sherry Reeves**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**

**Failed**

Bermuda Run STEM Charter Academy

- Dr. Allen stated that Bermuda Run STEM Charter Academy is proposed to locate in Davie County. Dr. Allen gave a brief introduction of the school’s proposed enrollment and grade levels. There is not a LEA impact statement and no due diligence for this applicant. Dr. Allen reviewed the pass/fail ratings for this applicant. The applicant is a repeat application and received assistance from Alliance Education Services.
- The Board Chair introduced the school and its goals. Ms. April Broadway, a board member, spoke about her experience in the charter school environment.
- Ms. Reeves asked for clarification on the absent board member’s backgrounds.
- Ms. Kakadelis asked about the planned lunch program. Mr. Quigley asked if they are doing a weighted lottery. A board representative stated they want to do that but the CSAB pointed out the application stated “no” in response to a weighted lottery.
- Ms. Reeves asked if the board had data on the number of economically disadvantaged students in the Bermuda Run area. A board representative stated no.
- Mr. Maimone asked who wrote the charter application. The Board Chair stated their consultants.
- Mr. Quigley asked about the class size ration. The Board Chair was unsure. Ms. Reeves read the numbers in the application.
- Ms. Kakadelis and Ms. Reeves expressed concern about the enrollment numbers.
- Mr. Quigley stated he can’t support the application because the Board Chair doesn’t seem to know the application.

**Motion: Committee motion to not allow Bermuda Run STEM Charter Academy to move out of committee.**

**Motion: Lindalyn Kakadelis**

**Second: Sherry Reeves**

**Vote: Unanimous Committee Vote**

**Passed**

**Failed**

**Motion: Full CSAB motion to not allow Bermuda Run STEM Charter Academy to continue to full interview.**

**Motion: Lindalyn Kakadelis**

**Second: Sherry Reeves**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**

**Failed**

## **SELECTED LOW-PERFORMING PRESENTATIONS**

### *Thomas Academy*

- Dr. Geraldine Bradshaw and Dr. Tom Simmons introduced themselves and the school. She spoke about the school's campus students and community students. She spoke about the enrollment numbers and class sizes.
- Dr. Bradshaw spoke about the school's goal to keep the students in the classroom. She spoke about behavior management in the school. She spoke about the classroom routines and remediation that takes place.
- Dr. Bradshaw spoke about using grant money to set up an afterschool program with tutoring with activity clubs. In addition, they have a bus program for community students to utilize the program. She spoke about the school's alliance with Southeastern Community College. She spoke about the school's use of the software program Ignitia. She spoke about the school's communication policies.
- Ms. Kakadelis asked about the new accountability model. Dr. Bradshaw stated it would be a mix of EOG/EOC, ACT, and graduation rate. Mr. Walker asked if that accountability model has been approved by accountability. Dr. Bradshaw stated yes. Mr. Walker stated it is important for CSAB and OCS to see the accountability model so we're knowledgeable going forward for renewal.
- Mr. Hawkes asked about the therapeutic services students receive. Dr. Bradshaw spoke about the services students receive from different providers. She stated they measure emotional growth by their behavior and academic growth.
- Ms. Kakadelis asked how long children stay at the residence. Dr. Simmons stated the average stay for a student that comes from Department of Social Services is eight months. Ms. Reeves asked if some students stay at Thomas Academy after leaving residential. Dr. Simmons stated yes.

### *Marjorie Williams Academy*

- Dr. Cyndi Austin introduced the school. She explained how the school sits on a residential home for students abused, neglected, or abandoned. She explained why the school changed its name a few years ago and explained the school's mission.
- Dr. Austin spoke about the school's academic data and enrollment numbers.
- Ms. Reeves asked if they considered the alternative model. Dr. Austin stated she believes it used to have alternative status. She continued she prefers not to have alternative status

because she wants students to have as normal experience as possible. Ms. Reeves clarified it doesn't make the school an alternative school. The CSAB discussed why alternative accountability may be appropriate for the school.

### **AMENDMENTS FOR DISCUSSION**

#### **Kaleidoscope HS Articulation Agreement**

- Ms. Ashley Baquero, OCS Consultant, presented an amendment from Kaleidoscope High School for a proposed articulation agreement with Casa Esperanza and Sterling Montessori.
- The CSAB discussed the amendment.

**Motion: Recommend approval of this amendment request.**

**Motion: Steven Walker**

**Second: Lindalyn Kakadelis**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

#### **Eno River Articulation Agreement**

- Ms. Baquero presented an articulation agreement proposal from Eno River Academy and The Expedition School.
- The CSAB discussed the amendment.

**Motion: Recommend approval of this amendment request.**

**Motion: Sherry Reeves**

**Second: Lindalyn Kakadelis**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

#### **Discovery Charter School Relocation/Enrollment Amendment**

- Ms. Baquero presented an amendment from Discovery Charter School to temporarily relocate and decrease enrollment numbers based on the facility's capacity.
- Mr. Quigley recused himself from discussion/voting on the matter.
- A school representative explained the amendment request for a temporary relocation and decrease in enrollment.
- The CSAB discussed the amendment and asked questions regarding the school's plans if the legal issues are not resolved. Ms. Reeves asked about the application status. A board representative spoke about the application and the number of applicants thus far.

**Motion: Recommend approval of this amendment request.**

**Motion: Steven Walker**

**Second: Heather Vuncannon**

**Recusal: Alex Quigley**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**

**Failed**

### **CHTR-014 AMENDMENT POLICY**

- Ms. Baquero gave a presentation regarding State Board of Education policy CHTR-014. She explained the current amendment process and which amendments require State Board of Education approval. She proposed some changes to allow the Office of Charter Schools to approve more amendments in office.
- The CSAB requested information regarding what statute expresses about amendment approval; specifically, what amendments must be approved by the State Board of Education per statute. Ms. Baquero stated she will update the CSAB on the matter at a later meeting.

### **WEIGHTED LOTTERY PRESENTATION**

- Ms. Baquero gave a review of the federal guidance regarding weighted lotteries. She reviewed state law regarding weighted lotteries. Finally, she expressed the best practices the Office of Charter Schools relays to schools that are implementing a weighted lottery.

### **UPDATES AND DISCUSSION**

- Mr. Jay Whalen, OCS Consultant, discussed the status of the CSP grant. The CSAB discussed the CSP grant process and responsibilities going forward.
- Mr. Quigley spoke about the possibility of amending our application to change it from a pass/fail rating system to get a better picture of the strength of applicants.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

- **Mr. Quigley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:47 pm. The meeting adjourned via acclamation.**

**Minutes of the  
North Carolina Charter School Advisory Board  
State Board Rm. 755  
January 16, 2019  
9:00 am**

Attendance/NCCSAB	Alan Hawkes Joseph Maimone Phyllis Gibbs Sherry Reeves Cheryl Turner Lindalyn Kakadelis Lynn Kroeger – <i>Absent</i>	Alex Quigley – <i>Via Phone until arrival at 10:30am</i> Tammi Sutton - <i>Absent</i> Steven Walker Heather Vuncannon – <i>Via Phone</i> Bruce Friend
Attendance/SBE/DPI	<i>Office of Charter Schools</i>  Dave Machado, Director Patricia Nnadi-Purvis, Program Assistant Ashley Baquero, Consultant Shaunda Cooper, Consultant Danielle Allen, Consultant Jay Whalen, Consultant	<i>SBE</i>  <i>SBE Attorney</i> Eric Snider

**CALL TO ORDER**

- The North Carolina Charter School Advisory Board (CSAB) meeting was called to order at 9:04 am by Vice Chair Steven Walker who read the Ethics Statement and CSAB Mission Statement. Mr. Walker led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICANT INTERVIEWS**

*Elaine Riddick Charter*

- Dr. Allen gave an overview of the school’s proposed location (Perquimans County) and grades/enrollment numbers. Dr. Allen stated there is a LEA impact statement and no due diligence for this applicant. Dr. Allen reviewed the pass/fail ratings. She stated this is an acceleration applicant. The applicant received assistance from Torchlight Academy Schools and intend to partner with this group. Regarding RTO participation, the school had two individuals registered in October but neither attended. The school had one individual

registered in November but did not attend. Dr. Allen continued that in December, two individuals attended for about one-hour total.

- Mr. Tony Riddick introduced the school and spoke about the school's proposed location. Ms. Mary Phelps, Board Chair, introduced herself. Fellow board members introduced themselves.
- Ms. Turner asked for clarity about the application discrepancies regarding grade levels and enrollment numbers. Mr. Riddick spoke about interest from multiple counties and that may have contributed to confusion. Another board member stated there was a mistake listing 100 students, when there should be 120 students.
- Mr. Walker asked about RTO participation and its requirements for acceleration. Mr. Walker asked why there has been registration, but no participation. Dr. Kebbler Williams, RTO Consultant with OCS, spoke about the sign-in records of the RTO planning sessions. Mr. Riddick stated he had a representative from Durham attend one session. Mr. Walker pointed out there have been multiple RTO planning sessions.
- Mr. Friend asked about the facility and its requirement for acceleration. Mr. Riddick stated they have several options for facilities. He spoke about a contingent lease agreement and a former library that is under negotiation. He spoke about his office being available as well. Ms. Kakadelis asked if there was a certificate of occupancy for educational use. Mr. Riddick stated no, but he could get one. Mr. Riddick stated the facility will not slow down the charter school process. Mr. Walker spoke about the facility requirements for acceleration.
- Ms. Turner asked about the need for the school. She stated it appears there is a greater need for middle school, but the school is starting at elementary. The Board Chair spoke about the elementary school being a foundation for middle school.
- Mr. Walker asked about doing both Common Core and Core Knowledge programs. The Board Chair stated they would not focus on one program, but differentiated instruction based on the needs of the student. Ms. Kakadelis asked if anyone has visited a Success Academy. The board replied no, but the board has researched the success of the schools. Ms. Kakadelis asked if any Success Academy operates in a rural area. The Board Chair stated they are successful with similar students. Ms. Kakadelis stated she is not aware of the model being used in rural areas. The Board Chair stated that economically disadvantaged students in both areas go hand in hand.
- Ms. Turner asked if they are replicating Torchlight. Mr. McQueen, from Torchlight, stated this is not a replication. He continued that he believes that they will use strategies and techniques from their success.

- Ms. Reeves asked about the partnership with Torchlight. Mr. McQueen replied Torchlight has superb staff that will help keep consistency among schools. Mr. Friend asked about the financial arrangement between the board and Torchlight because there is no expenditure for the management company in the budget. Mr. Walker spoke about the agreement stating the management company will receive surplus after expenses. Ms. Reeves asked what fund balance the school will keep. Mr. McQueen stated three percent.
- Ms. Gibbs asked if the salaries will be competitive. The Board Chair stated they will focus on beginning teachers and retired teachers. Ms. Reeves stated she is concerned that the school will not attract a lead administrator at 50k.
- Ms. Kakadelis stated she is struggling with acceleration in various areas.

**Motion: Elaine Riddick Charter not move forward in Ready to Open in acceleration.**

**Motion: Lindalyn Kakadelis**

**Second: Sherry Reeves**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

- Mr. Walker discussed strengths of the board and the application. Mr. Hawkes stated the need is there, but the board must understand the importance of attending RTO sessions. Mr. Friend echoed the need to attend RTO sessions. Mr. Hawkes asked the board to reconsider the teacher and administrator salaries. Ms. Reeves stated the board may want to reconsider using all beginning teachers for the school.
- Ms. Kakadelis stated she is supporting the school because of the strength of the board and the strength of the management company.

**Motion: Elaine Riddick Charter move forward in Ready to Open on a regular timeline.**

**Motion: Phyllis Gibbs**

**Second: Lindalyn Kakadelis**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

*Lighthouse Charter*

- Dr. Allen gave an overview of the school's proposed location (Greene County) and grades/enrollment numbers. Dr. Allen stated there is a LEA impact statement and no due diligence for this applicant. Dr. Allen reviewed the pass/fail ratings. She stated this is an acceleration applicant. The applicant received assistance from Torchlight Academy Schools and intend to partner with this group. Regarding RTO participation, the school had one registrant in November, but no one attended the session. The school did not have representation at the October and December RTO sessions.

- The Board Chair stated that someone has been at each of the RTO sessions and perhaps did not sign into the sessions.
- Ms. Turner asked how they will measure parental involvement. The Board Chair spoke about the parental advisory council and other ways for parents to become involved.
- Ms. Reeves asked about interest survey data. The Board Chair spoke about the community interest.
- Ms. Reeves asked about the impact statement submitted by Greene County. The Board Chair stated he is sure it will adversely affect the county. He continued that the county is very low performing. Mr. Walker asked if there are any letters of intent. The Board Chair stated no. Mr. Walker asked if a board member lived in Greene County. The Board Chair stated no.
- The Board Chair stated the board has a certificate of occupancy for the facility located in Greene County. Mr. Friend asked if the facility will allow growth because the application states it is six thousand square feet. The Board Chair stated it is around ten thousand square feet. He stated they can move in modular units for growth.
- Ms. Reeves asked for more information about the curriculum program. A board member spoke about the educational plan. He stated they will take the best of each program to accommodate the needs of students. Ms. Reeves asked if they have identified a literacy program. He replied no.
- Ms. Kakadelis asked what a day would look like for a student. A board member stated arrival, morning work, instruction, extracurriculars, bathroom and snack breaks, lunch, recess, and dismissal. Another board member stated there may be a before and after school program as well.
- Ms. Turner asked what the instructional period would look like. A board member stated that the teacher would be able to make decisions about instruction.
- Ms. Reeves asked about remediation plans. A board member stated it could happen before school, during extracurriculars, after school, or Saturday school. Ms. Reeves asked who would staff the before and after school and if that is built into the budget. A board member stated there is a 120k surplus in the budget if needed to adjust salaries.
- Mr. Quigley asked for articulation about weaving all the different curriculum approaches together. He stated there are several programs referenced in the application. A board member stated they will work with the teachers and Torchlight to make it effective. Mr. Quigley

asked how parts of the Success Academy program will be used. The board could not speak to that. A board member spoke about using the standard course of study. Mr. Quigley expressed concerns about the educational plan's lack of clarity.

- Ms. Turner asked how STEAM fits into all of this. Mr. McQueen stated they have taken a little bit of what is the best of each of these programs. Mr. McQueen spoke more about the use of data to develop the educational plan. Mr. Quigley asked who from Torchlight would work and manage the principal. Mr. McQueen stated himself and his wife.
- Mr. Friend asked to hear from the fellow board members about their experience and interest in the school. The board members introduced themselves and spoke about their backgrounds.
- Mr. Maimone spoke about whether the applicant is ready for acceleration. He has major concerns about enrollment and how far along the school is in gathering interest.
- The CSAB discussed whether the applicant qualifies for accelerated status.

**Motion: Lighthouse Charter not move forward in Ready to Open status.**

**Motion: Bruce Friend**

**Second: Sherry Reeves**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**

**Failed**

*Robert J. Brown Leadership Academy*

- Dr. Allen gave an overview of the school's proposed location (Guilford County) and grades/enrollment numbers. Dr. Allen stated there is not a LEA impact statement and there is due diligence for this applicant. Dr. Allen reviewed the pass/fail ratings. She stated this is an acceleration applicant. The applicant received assistance from Dr. Howard Coleman and intend to partner with Robert J. Brown Educational Equity Foundation. Regarding RTO participation, the school was represented at the October RTO session. The school had one registrant in November, but no one attended the session. The school had two attendees for most of the morning in December but did not return after their clarification interview.
- Ms. Brenda Williams introduced herself and fellow members of the board. Members of the board spoke about their backgrounds and interest in the school.
- Members of the board spoke about the rotating principal model. A representative from Phoenix Academy, Buddy Coleman, stated that principals rotate weekly from building to building. Ms. Reeves asked for clarification about the partnership with Phoenix Academy. The board clarified that both schools have the CMO Robert J. Brown Educational Equity Foundation.

- Mr. Hawkes asked for clarity on the governance structure. He stated there are several entities between the principal and the top of the structure. The board members clarified the difference between the board and the management company. The board clarified that the board is TCL – The Children’s Legacy. Mr. Friend stated he is unclear on the role of the superintendent. A board member stated it is oversight.
- Ms. Michelle Hawthorne spoke about the educational plan. Mr. Maimone asked for a response to the fact that the external evaluators failed the educational plan across the board. Ms. Hawthorne stated she believes it probably failed because it is not very detailed. Ms. Hawthorne stated they have chosen Superkids, Saxon Math, and Dreambox as curriculum. Mr. Quigley asked if they know something specific they are taking from Phoenix Academy’s program. Ms. Hawthorne spoke about the TAT program.
- Ms. Kakadelis asked for more information about the wrap around services. A board member pointed to a letter of support from the mayor. A board member spoke about the wrap around services through the community impact center. She spoke about providing services for families that are attending the school and for community members.
- The CSAB asked about the facility. A board member stated it would be ready to go by July. He stated it was an old elementary school. Mr. Maimone asked how long it has been unoccupied. A board member stated a church owns it now, but it is unoccupied.
- Mr. Quigley asked for more information about the charter school that was revoked in D.C. Ms. Williams stated it was a purely political issue.
- Mr. Walker asked for a backup plan for facility. Ms. Williams stated they have plan in motion.
- Mr. Walker expressed his support for the application. Mr. Friend expressed his belief in the board’s strength and ability to be successful. Mr. Quigley stated he is compelled by the board and by Robert J. Brown’s story. He is not convinced it meets the criteria for acceleration. Ms. Gibbs expressed her support, but not feeling the application is ready for acceleration. Mr. Hawkes agreed with Ms. Gibbs. Mr. Maimone expressed support for acceleration. Ms. Turner stated that the criteria for acceleration is clear.

**Motion: Robert J. Brown Leadership Academy move forward in Ready to Open on a regular timeline.**

**Motion: Phyllis Gibbs**

**Second: Cheryl Turner**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**

**Failed**

## CLARIFICATION INTERVIEW

### Power Elite Preparatory Academy

- Dr. Allen gave an overview of the school’s proposed location (Mecklenburg County) and grades/enrollment numbers. Dr. Allen stated there is not a LEA impact statement and there is not due diligence for this applicant. Dr. Allen reviewed the pass/fail ratings. The applicant received assistance and intends to partner with Torchlight Academy Schools. The application was deemed complete on October 12, 2018.
  
- Mr. Anthony Weeks introduced himself as a board member. Ms. Gray introduced herself as Board Chair. Ms. Wright introduced herself as a board member.
  
- Ms. Reeves asked for clarification on the school’s name. She continued that she felt the mission was very non-specific for a school targeting at-risk males. Ms. Gray stated the name is Power Elite Preparatory Academy, but they would like to change the name to Power Elite Preparatory Male Academy. She stated it was a mistake in the application to not make the mission more specific. She provided more clarity on the school’s mission.
  
- Ms. Kakadelis asked about the opening date in the application as 2019. Ms. Gray stated they originally wanted acceleration but failed to check a box on the application.
  
- Ms. Reeves asked about the facility options. Mr. McQueen stated they are in negotiation with a private school to buy their facility.

**Motion: Committee motion to allow Power Elite Preparatory Academy to move out of committee.**

**Motion: Sherry Reeves**

**Second: Lindalyn Kakadelis**

**Vote: Unanimous Committee Vote**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

**Motion: Full CSAB motion to allow Power Elite Preparatory Academy to continue to full interview.**

**Motion: Lindalyn Kakadelis**

**Second: Sherry Reeves**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Passed**                       **Failed**

## APPLICATION UPDATES

- Dr. Allen gave an application update. She stated we had 35 applications submitted by deadline. Two were withdrawn prior to clarification. Fourteen of the remaining requested acceleration. Six were not recommended to open. Three were recommended for acceleration and five were recommended for a 2020-21 timeline.
- She stated next month there are seven groups for clarification next month and six the following month. Based on recommendations that this meeting, there will be five full interviews.
- Mr. Quigley asked to break up the five full interviews between the two days.
- The CSAB requested an update on the 2019 opening schools for next month's meeting.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

- **Mr. Quigley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:55 pm. The meeting adjourned via acclamation.**