

**Minutes of the
North Carolina Charter School Advisory Board
State Board Rm. 755
October 8, 2018
9:00 am**

Attendance/NCCSAB	Alan Hawkes Joseph Maimone Phyllis Gibbs Sherry Reeves Cheryl Turner Lindalyn Kakadelis Lynn Kroeger – <i>Absent</i>	Alex Quigley Tammi Sutton Steven Walker Heather Vuncannon Kevin Wilkinson – <i>Absent</i>
Attendance/SBE/DPI	<i>Office of Charter Schools</i> Dave Machado, Director Patricia Nnadi-Purvis, Program Assistant Ashley Baquero, Consultant Shaunda Cooper, Consultant Jay Whalen, Consultant Danielle Allen, 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 9:00 am by Chairman Alex Quigley who read the Ethics Statement and CSAB Mission Statement. Mr. Quigley led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Mr. Joseph Maimone stated he is now the Chief of Staff for the Superintendent Mark Johnson and will be present here today as a nonvoting member as he awaits clarity on whether he can remain on the CSAB as a nonvoting member.
- Mr. Alex Quigley stated he would recuse himself from voting on any matters related to Research Triangle Charter as Healthy Start Academy shares the same Board of Directors.

Motion: A motion was made to approve the September 2018 CSAB meeting minutes.

Motion: Sherry Reeves

Second: Lindalyn Kakadelis

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

2019 RENEWAL SCHOOLS REPORT

- Ms. Shaunda Cooper, Office of Charter Schools consultant, presented the 2019 renewal schools report.
- Ms. Cooper reviewed the law that governs charter school renewals. She stated that the CSAB received data sheets on each school and will receive five years of data. She will, however, verbally review the previous three years in keeping with the renewal policy.
- Ms. Cooper stated her presentation would be in three groups: schools with no compliance issues pending the 2018 audit results; schools on the low performing or continually low performing list; and schools operating on the alternative school model D.
- Ms. Cooper reviewed the previous three years of data on the following schools: American Renaissance School and Anderson Creek Academy.
- Mr. Alan Hawkes asked if Anderson Creek Academy is located in a gated community. Members of the Board stated yes.
- Ms. Cooper continued to review data for Bradford Preparatory Academy, Cardinal Charter, and Carter Community Charter.
- Ms. Sherry Reeves asked why Carter Community Charter is not on the low-performing list. Members of the Board stated because the school exceeded growth.
- Ms. Cooper continued to review data for Envision Science Academy, Evergreen Community Charter, Forsyth Academy, Greensboro Academy, Invest Collegiate Imagine, Pioneer Springs Community School, Quest Academy, Raleigh Charter High School, Reaching All Minds, South Brunswick Charter, The Franklin School of Innovation, and The Mountain Community School.
- Mr. Walker stated he believes The Mountain Community School is located in Henderson County, not Buncombe County.
- Ms. Cooper continued to review data for Thomas Jefferson Academy and Lakeside Charter.
- Ms. Reeves asked if Lakeside Charter met growth this year. Ms. Cooper stated yes.
- Ms. Cooper stated that the data for Mountain Community School was calculated correctly; the county was written incorrectly, but the data was pulled from the correct county- Henderson County.
- Ms. Cooper continued to review data for Vance Charter, Wake Forest Charter Academy, Wayne Preparatory Academy, and Wilson Preparatory Academy.

- Mr. Walker asked if the renewal policy was approved by the SBE. Mr. Dave Machado stated yes. Mr. Walker stated that it appears to him that the following schools would not meet the ten-year statutory renewal: Carter Community Charter, Forsyth Academy, Pioneer Springs Community School, Reaching All Minds, Mountain Community School, Lakeside Charter, and Wayne Preparatory Academy. He stated the remaining schools are currently statutorily entitled to the ten-year renewal pending any adverse audit findings. Ms. Cooper stated that next month the CSAB will hear financial data on the schools so that should be considered as well.
- Ms. Lindalyn Kakadelis asked why the graduation rate for Invest Collegiate seemed different than the LEA. Ms. Cooper stated she is not sure why other than the fact that they are fairly new.

Motion: A motion was made to interview Carter Community Charter, Forsyth Academy, Pioneer Springs Community School, Reaching All Minds, Mountain Community School, Lakeside Charter, and Wayne Preparatory Academy.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Cheryl Turner

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

- Next, Ms. Cooper presented data on the renewal schools that are rated as low-performing or continually low-performing for the 2017-18 academic year. Ms. Cooper reviewed data for A.C.E. Academy, Charlotte Learning Academy, Dillard Academy, Haliwa-Saponi Tribal School, KIPP Halifax College Preparatory, United Community Charter, and The Capital Encore School.
- Ms. Cooper moved to Group 3 – Alternative Model Plan D schools. Ms. Cooper stated this is the first time renewing an alternative Model Plan D school. Ms. Cooper relayed the mission of Stewart Creek High and an overview of its data.
- Mr. Hawkes stated both schools are addressing a demographic of at-risk, high-poverty, sometimes older students. He stated this is a unique population and asked the CSAB to exercise caution as we look at both schools. Mr. Machado stated it is important to look at the graduation rates. Ms. Cooper stated that the CSAB is being provided with their goals and results.
- Ms. Cooper explained Stewart Creek’s goals (targets) and results. Ms. Cooper stated both alternative accountability schools are focused on student satisfaction. Mr. Walker asked about their graduation numbers. Ms. Cooper said she would get that information. Ms. Kakadelis stated these schools are a benefit to the county and providing a great service to the state. Ms. Kakadelis asked about the management company.
- Ms. Cooper presented the goals and results for Commonwealth. Mr. Walker stated he has no desire to bring either of these schools in this year unless something comes up in the audit. Ms. Reeves asked what measure they use for reading and math growth. Ms. Cooper stated

there is someone in each school that analyzes that data. Ms. Reeves wondered about the disconnect between EOC data and reading/math growth.

NC CONNECTIONS ACADEMY

- Ms. Cheryl Turner has recused herself from discussion and voting on NC Connections Academy.
- Mr. Nathan Currie, Superintendent of NC Connections Academy, introduced the school and his colleagues that are presenting today.
- Mr. Currie explained the NC Connections Academy mission and stated that 100% of their teachers are certified. He explained the school's and staff's demographics.
- Ms. Christina Robinson, High School Principal, spoke about the partnership of NC Connections Academy – between parents, students, and school. She explained communication modes used by the school. She stated that the school offers field trips, counseling, and extracurriculars. She explained the school has several intervention teams.
- Ms. Robinson explained the student learning system that students and teachers use online. She spoke about the community coordinators and the traveling academy that allows for more connection and face to face interaction between students and teachers.
- Ms. GeRita Walden, Principal K-5 & Mgr. of State Testing, spoke about teacher growth and accountability. She stated they have many veteran teachers with diverse experiences. She said that includes the EC Department. Ms. Walden explained the school's career ladder to the CSAB.
- Ms. Walden continued to discuss state testing and the challenges faced in implementing testing face to face across the state.
- Ms. Reeves asked whether the school has considered online testing. Ms. Walden stated they have considered this, but the main concerns are device acquisition (because most students do not have laptops) and also whether the locations could handle the bandwidth.
- NC Connections Academy played a video demonstrating an example of an online class.
- Mr. Walker stated it was good to see a live lesson demonstration. Mr. Maimone asked about the school's growth index and how the school is using data to improve. The representatives from NC Connections Academy explained how they are providing interventions and better supporting students with disabilities.
- Ms. Reeves asked about what data points are being collected. Ms. Robinson spoke about data that is collected through formative assessments and how the school sections students based on proficiency.

- Ms. Kakadelis asked how many live lessons students are required to attend. Ms. Robinson stated it is at minimum six live, synchronous lessons every thirty days. Mr. Quigley asked if this is for each class. She replied no.
- Ms. Reeves asked about attendance problems. Ms. Robinson stated that it is very difficult and that they have an internal system they use to keep track of student participation. She also stated the students have homeroom teachers to check in on the progress of each student. She continued to explain the attendance framework, behavioral intervention plans, and truancy laws that are used to assist in these matters.

NC VIRTUAL ACADEMY

- Mr. Joel E. Medley, Head of School, thanked the CSAB for the opportunity to present and introduced NC Virtual Academy.
- Mr. Medley introduced Ms. Chrissy Nash and Ms. Sara Haan who will also present on behalf of NC Virtual Academy.
- A video was played from a newscast outlining how the NC Virtual Academy operates for students.
- Ms. Nash explained what NC Virtual Academy teachers do before the start of school, including the Family Academic Support Team. She discussed how families are engaged and introduced to the school. She explained the kindergarten camp to the CSAB.
- Ms. Nash continued by describing meet and greets that the school conducts for family engagement. She continued by demonstrating sample schedules for students.
- Ms. Haan explained how teachers and interventionists use data to inform instruction. She also discussed differentiation and the four types of classes that are offered by NC Virtual Academy.
- A video was played that showed a class being conducted online with students.
- Ms. Reeves asked how many students are assigned in lower grade classrooms. Ms. Nash answered 50 but they are broken into smaller groups for live classes.
- Mr. Quigley asked if parents are usually there with students. Ms. Nash stated yes. Mr. Quigley asked about enrollment in lower grades. Ms. Nash replied a max of 150 in kindergarten and 200 in first and second.
- Mr. Medley spoke about how instruction is individualized for each student. Ms. Nash spoke about how schedules are developed for students.

- Ms. Reeves asked about retention and attendance. Ms. Nash stated the Family Academic Support Team gets involved and works closely with the family to get back on track and to understand requirements.
- Mr. Quigley asked what Mr. Medley believes are the reasons they aren't seeing growth. Mr. Medley stated that the school saw improvement last year in 15 out of 17 state EOGs. They increased in every subgroup. He stated they made growth in reading, but the issue is math. He stated they are focusing on how to get to the reasoning skills needed for math proficiency. He stated that the longer they have students, the more growth they see. He continued that they have students that are coming for one year only and they aren't getting long term growth.

GLOBAL ACHIEVERS SCHOOL

- Dr. Lisa Swinson addressed the CSAB regarding the school's low enrollment. She was joined by the Board Chair. She read the Global Achievers School mission statement. She stated they received 103 enrollment applications and after the open house they confirmed that 93 students were planning to attend the first day.
- Dr. Swinson explained that prior to August 22 the board went through the town of Spring Hope and thought they were good to go with the building, but later learned they also needed county approval. She continued that the school immediately called a meeting with the parents and the parents still wanted their children to attend. She stated the parents were informed of the two possible choices for a facility. She stated they chose a Rocky Mount location and 60 students that enrolled the first day. She stated they called the other parents that did not enroll their children and the majority of them stated the distance caused them not to enroll. Since they've been in Rocky Mount, they have enrolled 63 students. She stated that the school's goal is to get to the 80 statutorily required students.
- Dr. Swinson explained they have marketing events planned in the community including Halloween and Christmas events. She explained they are holding booths at local businesses such as the Piggly Wiggly in town. She stated they are planning open house tours and continue to do neighborhood walks and partner with neighborhood churches.
- Ms. Reeves asked if they are in their permanent building yet. Dr. Swinson stated that no, they are in a temporary location.
- The Board Chair stated the plan is move back to Spring Hope. Ms. Reeves asked how far Spring Hope is from Rocky Mount. He replied twenty miles.
- Mr. Walker asked how many students they have currently. Dr. Swinson stated 63. Mr. Quigley asks how many she thinks they can get. She stated she believes they can reach 80 students by December. Mr. Quigley asked if there have been any more applications. Dr. Swinson stated that they have found parents think the enrollment process is more strenuous than it is.

- Ms. Reeves asked for a break down by grade. Dr. Swinson stated K – 15, 1st grade – 15, 2nd grade – 13, and 3rd grade – 20.
- Ms. Turner asked about the budget given such low enrollment. Dr. Swinson and the Board Chair stated they have made reductions in the budget and are working with Charter Success to help with that also and making some changes with our lease.
- Ms. Reeves asked how many staff members are currently being paid. Dr. Swinson stated there are 4 teachers, part-time bus drivers, office assistant, principal, and lead teacher who is also the testing coordinator.
- Ms. Reeves asked for an updated budget. Dr. Swinson was unable to find the updated budget.
- Mr. Quigley asked legal about what the law says for the 80 student enrollment requirement. Mr. Eric Snider, attorney for the State Board of Education, stated they could speak in closed session.
- Mr. Walker stated he is concerned because we have 63 students enrolled and at this point we can't do a one-year delay. He asked Dr. Swinson what they do at this point.
- Ms. Turner stated the biggest concern with low enrollment is being able to financially pull it off. Ms. Turner stated she needs to see a budget showing you can survive with low enrollment. Ms. Turner stated she doesn't want to see what happened to the school in Charlotte, Student First, happen here, where they ran out of money.
- Mr. Walker stated perhaps they need to return next month and show improved enrollment and revised budget.
- Mr. Quigley asked what they were paid in their first allotment. Dr. Swinson stated \$220k.
- Mr. Hawkes asked if we are doing them a disservice to let this continue.

Motion: Motion to enter closed session at 12:07pm, eat lunch, and then return to open session.

Motion: Mr. Quigley

Second: Ms. Reeves

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

Motion: Motion to end closed session and enter open session to resume meeting made at 12:33pm.

Motion: Ms. Vuncannon

Second: Ms. Reeves

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

APPLICATION SEASON UPDATE

- Dr. Danielle Allen gave a brief presentation on the number of applicants received in the application portal for this application cycle which closed on October 1, 2018 at 5:00pm.
- Dr. Allen explained the number of applications received and the number of fast-track and acceleration applications received.
- Dr. Allen suggested limiting the number of clarification interviews to six or seven for the next three months.
- Mr. Walker stated that if you checked the box for acceleration and don't submit evidence of a facility, it makes me think you don't need a charter. He stated it is not a check box to get your application heard first.
- Mr. Machado stated that if they don't qualify for acceleration, they can be a regular applicant.
- Mr. Quigley stated that if the CSAB is okay with it, they will take the information and review the evidence documents and the board committee chairs will work with the Office of Charter Schools to come up with an interview schedule that works best. Mr. Quigley asked if everyone had access to the portal. Dr. Allen stated no but she will get everyone access shortly.
- Ms. Vuncannon asked for clarity about clarification interviews. Mr. Quigley stated everyone will get clarification interviews, but those that have evidence of acceleration will be seen first.
- Ms. Reeves asked for clarity on fast-track replication and acceleration. Mr. Machado stated replication is copying an existing charter and acceleration is a new school. Ms. Turner stated that a fast-track replication must also have a facility. Dr. Allen stated that the SBE policy doesn't specifically mention facility. Dr. Allen stated fast-track applicants are not required to attend the one-year ready to open planning.
- Mr. Quigley stated we will make sure we have copies of the fast-track policies at the next meeting.

GLOBAL ACHIEVERS CONTINUED

- Mr. Quigley stated that the enrollment numbers at Global Achievers are very low. He also noted that the school has already received in its allotment what it will receive for the entire

year. With respect to enrollment, he noted that the school was below statutory requirements. He continued that CSAB members know where this kind of situation goes and it's not good. At this point, Mr. Quigley stated that CSAB was left with very few options.

- Mr. Walker voiced his frustration because he believes the situation could have been successful with a one-year delay, but at this point there are few options. He doesn't see how the school could get to where it needs to be to be successful at this point.

Motion: If the board of Global Achievers School does not, within three days from today, agree to relinquish its charter on a date certain and provide for a transition plan for students prior to that date certain, that the State Board of Education immediately terminate the charter of Global Achievers School for failing to meet the enrollment requirements of state law and the charter agreement.

Motion: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Kakadelis

- Mr. Walker states this proposed course of action gives the board time to meet and decide within three days to relinquish the charter and formulate a plan to transition students. He stated if Global Achiever's Board decides not to relinquish the charter, then CSAB will recommend that the SBE terminate the charter.
- Mr. Hawkes reminded the CSAB of another school, Concrete Roses, that faced a similar situation and voluntarily relinquished its charter. He hopes that Global Achievers does the right thing for the children.
- Mr. Quigley stated he understands how hard this work is and what a difficult situation this is for all parties involved, and the major misstep was pushing forward to open rather than delaying for a year. He believes the best course of action is reflected in the pending motion.
- Mr. Quigley called for a vote on the prior motion.

Motion: If the board of Global Achievers School does not, within three days from today, agree to relinquish its charter on a date certain and provide for a transition plan for students prior to that date certain, that the State Board of Education immediately terminate the charter of Global Achievers School for failing to meet the enrollment requirements of state law and the charter agreement.

Motion: Mr. Walker

Second: Ms. Kakadelis

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

SELECTED RENEWAL SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS

A.C.E. Academy

- Mr. Adolph Thorpe, Board Chair, introduced the school and stated he believed the school is making progress.
- The school's principal reviewed the school's growth data. She continued to explain the school's improvement plan and the current implementation of improvement goals.
- The principal explained the school has created some new positions such as assistant principal that have been very helpful. She stated they also have a dean of students and a MTSS coordinator/interventionist.
- Mr. Quigley stated he believes the plan is strong, but that curriculum is difficult to implement so it needs to be consistent. The principal stated the literary curriculum is new, but the math curriculum is the same.
- Mr. Quigley asked what the biggest challenges have been and what is going well. She stated she believes that the new literacy curriculum is going well and is improving classrooms. They are starting to see a common language in literacy in reading, but also other subjects. She stated a challenge is that the program requires teachers and students to think in a different manner and that the lessons are taking longer than expected.
- Mr. Quigley asked about how the school is meeting students at their individual level. She replied that the teachers are supplementing with something called Success Block to bring the text to the student's individual levels. She spoke about supplementing phonics.
- Ms. Kakadelis stated the enrollment is growing, but she has concerns about the prior three year's academic data. She asked if they realize how serious this is. The principal replied yes and they have a sense of urgency and really feel this plan is going to work. She stated they really look forward to seeing data at the end of the year.
- Ms. Sutton asked if they see kids do better the longer they are with the school. The principal replied yes and discussed proficiency of the students that have been there the longest.
- The CSAB and the principal discussed retesting of students and the principal stated they only did retests with the third graders who failed.
- Mr. Quigley spoke about the importance of implementing the new curriculum plan with fidelity and managing it well.
- Mr. Quigley stated they don't need to vote on anything at this point. Mr. Machado stated that is correct, but this is the last time the school will be before the CSAB before they vote on renewal, so ask any questions that are needed.
- Mr. Walker stated this looks like it will be a three-year renewal situation based on the data.

- Ms. Kakadelis stated to be sure to get the scores of the initial class to the CSAB. Mr. Quigley stated he would love to see their first benchmark data.

Charlotte Learning Academy

- A board member addressed the CSAB and explained they know they have work to do, but they believe the school is making process and they are requesting a three-year renewal so they can continue on their path forward.
- Principal Stacey Rose introduced the school and reviewed current academic data from the school. She stated the challenges for the school are science and math. She stated they have changed enrollment procedures to stop enrolling too many students throughout the school year. She stated last year was the first year in their new building. She stated they are trying to enroll more lower grade students so they have students for longer periods of time.
- Principal Rose continued to explain how they are using the NC Math I Intervention Co-Teaching Program to help improve math achievement.
- A representative with the school discussed the school's mission and graduation rates. He stated many of the students have secured scholarships for higher education.
- Ms. Janet Gibson, Assistant Principal, explained the Schools that Lead initiative. She stated they are one out of five participating charter schools. She continued that the program takes three years to implement and see improvement and coincides with their three-year renewal request.
- Mr. Quigley asked how many middle school students the school enrolls. Principal Rose stated 45 6th graders, 32 7th graders, 35 8th graders.
- Mr. Quigley asked what their fund balance is right now. Principal Rose stated it is \$40,000.
- Mr. Walker stated that the school has not met growth for three years in a row and has been an "F" school three years in a row. Mr. Walker wondered when we say it's been long enough to try and make this school work.
- Principal Rose stated that if you look at the test scores only, things don't look good, but they are making a difference in the community. She stated we work very hard to make these scores better.
- Mr. Hawkes stated his concern is that the best year academically was actually the first year.
- Mr. Quigley cautioned about any schools stating data will be better next year because there will be no retest in math, there are new math standards, and reading retests will be taken online. He stated it will be hard for schools this year to improve.

- Ms. Reeves asked Principal Rose about the enrollment changes. She stated they have limited the number of seats in the higher grades. Ms. Vuncannon asked about attrition rates. Principal Rose stated that attrition rates have improved with the facility. They have 260 students and stayed the same from last year.

Dillard Academy

- Board member Laciter Wooten reviewed the vision and mission of the school to the CSAB. She stated the school knows they have fallen short of the academic outcomes that would allow a ten-year renewal. She presented the CSAB with academic data from last year showing their growth. She stated that the school was 4 points away from being a “C” school.
- A staff member presented the Dillard Academy Improvement Plan to the CSAB. The plan focuses on people – revamping hiring processes, 100% licensed teachers, grant funding to reduce instructional group size, and supporting staff members.
- Dr. Richard Knight, Principal, stated that they spend a great deal of time on getting students ready for school. He stated they take care of a lot of basic needs. He stated that all kids are provided breakfast and the school provides door to door transportation.
- Dr. Knight stated they offer specialized classes such as healthy living. They have a one-to-one technology initiative. He stated they also offer organized sports and visual arts. Mr. Knight continued to explain the pupil services the school offers to all students.
- Dr. Knight explained the programs used at the school: READY curriculum, i-Ready, STEM-based afterschool program, EOG Prep Saturday Academy, summer school, and summer camp.
- Dr. Knight continued by presenting the programmatic changes the school has made to improve school performance. He stated this includes more in class time, daily interventions, NC check-ins, data benchmarks, and longer literacy blocks in K-2.
- Mr. Quigley asked what two things he can attribute to the increased performance last year. Mr. Knight stated the first thing is curriculum. He continued that they increased rigor in the classroom every day. The second thing they do is intervention time for every student. Small groups of students receive targeted instruction based on data every day.
- Mr. Hawkes stated there is a lot of reason to be hopeful here. He stated the school is really on the right track to turn things around with these kids. Mr. Walker agreed this school is making progress and doing what it said it would do to improve. Mr. Hawkes stated it would be great if this increased improvement could be sustained. Dr. Knight stated they have a plan to not only sustain, but to grow. They are focusing on mathematics across the school and using the NC Check-ins as the next best thing to knowing what the new test will look like.

Haliwa-Saponi Tribal School

- Board members addressed the CSAB and stated they understand the school has not meet performance, but they believe the school has plans to improve.
- Mr. Warren Bell presented the school's mission and financial status. The school's projected school surplus is \$350,000. He stated the school's audits have been clear.
- Mr. Bell presented the school's improvement plan. Mr. Bell spoke about the group effort at the school to improve. He explained data reviews, walk throughs, and professional development.
- Mr. Bell stated they have the lowest rate of in school suspension of any school in the area. He stated it is a safe school and that's why parents send their kids there. He stated they are a 1:1 device school.
- Mr. Bell spoke about the students with disabilities population at the school.
- Mr. Quigley asked about enrollment. Mr. Bell stated they have 157 students currently. Ms. Kakadelis asked how many are in high school. Mr. Bell stated 57. He stated he is the first administrator the school has had with substantial high school experience.
- Ms. Reeves stated that the school has been in front of the CSAB each year since Ms. Reeves has been on the CSAB in 2014. Ms. Reeves asked what is going to make a difference for this school. Mr. Bell stated there are now supports like instructional coaches and they've also had absenteeism problems. A member of the board addressed the CSAB and stated that some students were being driven away by teachers and other students and they realized they needed to make some changes including getting Mr. Bell as principal.
- Mr. Walker states that he believes they look to be on track for a three-year renewal.
- Mr. Hawkes asked if this Board could be assured they will meet or exceed growth this next year. Mr. Bell stated yes sir – this year the focus is on academic growth.

KIPP Halifax College Prep

- Tammi Sutton has recused herself from discussion on this matter.
- Members of the KIPP ENC board and KIPP Halifax staff introduced themselves to the CSAB.
- Ms. Emily Dwight addressed the CSAB. She explained that they have had success, but last year they faltered. Ms. Dwight presented the data on the founding cohort. She explained the challenges from last year including transitioning to a new facility and adapting to academic changes.

- Ms. Marlo Wilkins spoke about growing pains the school experienced last year. She stated they were one point away from making a “C” rating.
- Mr. Walker asked legal for clarification about whether the options for this school is either a ten-year renewal or a nonrenewal because the statutes are conflicting based on this school’s data. He asked if there is any middle ground. Mr. Snider stated legal would look into the matter.
- Mr. Quigley asked what challenges they faced last year. Ms. Wilkins stated the facility was an issue because they didn’t start the year in the permanent building. She also stated staffing is difficult. Mr. Quigley stated this school is outperforming the district by a significant margin. He also stated that this is the only year they haven’t met growth and he believes this will be an anomaly.
- Mr. Snider pointed the CSAB to those reasons the CSAB must grant a ten-year renewal and the permissive statute that allows the CSAB to not renew a charter.
- Mr. Quigley asked Ms. Wilkins about their wins and challenges. She stated a win is the five-year academic plan where they meet weekly with teachers about data and tracking that data. The school is also focusing on content expertise for teachers. The challenge is finding qualified talent to move to rural Eastern North Carolina.
- Mr. Quigley asked for more information about the regional support. She replied with an example of the support the school receives from an award-winning teacher Brett Noble.

United Community

- Principal Erica Hedgepeth introduced the school and the four founding principles: community, curriculum, climate, and character. She explained the changes they’ve made at the school: MClass Reading Assessment, exact path online reading and math interventions, student computers, UNC-Charlotte Play Therapy partnership, teacher webpages, A+ arts integration.
- Mr. Walker asked about how the school’s EC program is doing so well. Ms. Hedgepeth stated the student teacher ratio for the EC program is 3:1. She also believes that a good amount of the non-EC students are very close to being eligible for EC services. She stated a lot of the non-EC students have 504 plans or trauma issues. She continued that they have a phenomenal EC team.
- Mr. Walker asked about the fund balance. Ms. Hedgepeth stated \$70,000.
- Ms. Reeves asked how many EC students the school has enrolled. Ms. Hedgepeth replied 37-39 are in third to sixth. She stated they just added sixth grade this year. Mr. Quigley asked if they are adding middle school. She replied yes.

- Mr. Quigley asked how Zearn is going. Ms. Hedgepeth stated it is going well and teachers are really happy with the program.
- Ms. Reeves asked how many EC students actually tested. Ms. Hedgepeth said she doesn't have that on hand now but can get those numbers.
- Mr. Quigley asked about the school's wins and challenges. Ms. Hedgepeth explained the revised grading system that now matches the local district's grading system. She stated that is making a big difference in parents/students understanding where they are academically. She also stated that being part of the A+ arts network is really helping with engagement and enjoyment for the students.
- Mr. Quigley asked Ms. Hedgepeth what the school is currently struggling with. She replied that she has non-EC students that mimic the EC students with academic struggles. She stated that 71% of incoming students are coming into the school not proficient in reading. She explained that the school has a lot of students that come into the school and need intervention to reach grade level, but they are all growing.
- Ms. Reeves asked for the attrition rate. Ms. Hedgepeth stated they lost some students when they relocated and they do not provide transportation.
- Mr. Quigley stated that the growth scores are right on the line year after year, so longer term we'd like to see higher growth down the road. He also stated that adding middle school is a big change so be thoughtful about that.

The Capitol Encore Academy

- Principal Angela Hill introduced the school. She stated the school met growth the past year and are now a "C" school. She stated a lot has been learned in the previous years. She reviewed some of the changes they have made to make improvement: A+ arts integration, retain and attract high quality staff, comprehensive needs assessment, extensive strategic plan, and continued Singapore Math professional development.
- Ms. Hill explained the school's strategic five-year goal to have 80% overall proficiency in grades 3-8. She also presented the CSAB with improvements the school has seen in staff retention and academic proficiency. She also explained areas of innovation within the school such as A+ designed lessons, Seth's Wish Foundation, TCEA Drumline, collaboration with Wilkes County, and community murals.
- Ms. Hill stated they are not satisfied, but feel they are going in the right direction.
- Mr. Quigley asked about the cash reserves. The board chair stated approximately \$80,000.
- Mr. Walker stated it's good to see an increase in enrollment while maintaining an increase in growth. He said he's leaning toward a five-year renewal pending audit findings.

- Ms. Hill stated they are really focused on building and retaining their kids.

Research Triangle Charter

- Mr. Quigley recused himself from discussion on this matter. Mr. Walker stated this is a low-performing school, not a continually low-performing school. Mr. Walker stated this is their first year being low-performing.
- Mr. Wayne Muhammad, principal, introduced the school and stated they have the utmost confidence in the work the school is doing. He stated that 3 out of the last 4 years they have met or exceeded growth. He stated this last year they believe is an anomaly and were one point away from being a “C” school.
- Mr. Muhammad reviewed academic data and stated they noticed performance was solid for reading in every grade except for fifth grade. For math, he continued, several grades were below 50% proficiency, so they believe the problem is math proficiency.
- Mr. Muhammad presented the school’s improvement plans – better segmentation of learners, data-driven instruction, and data-related teacher coaching.
- Mr. Hawkes asked if the dean model is typical with the NHA model. Mr. Muhammad stated yes.
- Ms. Reeves asked if they provide lunch or transportation. Mr. Muhammad stated yes they provide lunch, but they do not provide transportation. Mr. Muhammad stated that enrollment is really strong and stable. He stated enrollment is 737, they are almost at capacity. He continued that parents have confidence in the school. Ms. Reeves asked if the Economically Disadvantaged number of 32% is correct. Mr. Muhammad stated yes, but the free and reduced lunch percentage is closer to 60%.
- Ms. Reeves stated we need to discuss clarity on these economically disadvantaged numbers.
- Mr. Quigley stated that it’s important that we have an ad-hoc committee to figure out how to get the most accurate data on economically disadvantaged numbers because there are big disparities on direct cert ED numbers and free and reduced lunch numbers.

AMENDMENTS FOR DISCUSSION

- Ms. Ashley Baquero, Office of Charter Schools consultant, reviewed the amendments that were recently approved by the State Board of Education. Then she presented the two amendments for discussion today:

KIPP ENC Articulation Agreement

- Ms. Baquero presented the KIPP ENC Articulation Agreement for approval. The CSAB discussed the amendment and made the following motion:

Motion: Move to recommend approval of the KIPP ENC Articulation Agreement to the SBE.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Sherry Reeves

Abstaining: Tammi Sutton

Vote: Unanimous with Tammi Sutton abstaining

Passed

Failed

West Lake Preparatory Academy's Request to Decrease Enrollment

- Ms. Baquero presented West Lake Preparatory Academy's request to decrease enrollment. The CSAB discussed the amendment and made the following motion:

Motion: Move to recommend approval of the West Lake Preparatory Academy's amendment request to the SBE.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Sherry Reeves

Vote: Unanimous

Passed

Failed

2017-18 ACADEMIC DATA OVERVIEW

- Ms. Baquero presented an overview of the 2017-18 academic data certified by the State Board of Education. She explained that there are a total of 28 continually low-performing schools and six low-performing schools that are also not continually low-performing. She explained which schools are in renewal cohorts 2019 or 2020.
- Ms. Baquero presented general statutes that are relevant when discussing academic performance: G.S. 115C-218.94; G.S. 115C-218.95.
- Ms. Baquero reviewed the list of low-performing and the list of continually low-performing schools.
- The CSAB discussed the priority in which they would like to see the low-performing schools present to the CSAB.
- Mr. Walker stated that all low-performing/continually low-performing schools need to come before the CSAB to present their plans for improvement. He continued we've seen the 2019 renewal schools, so we should continue with the 2020 renewal schools and then see the remainder of the schools.

- Mr. Quigley wonders how we will get out of the cycle of seeing some of these schools. The CSAB discussed the fact that some of these schools keep coming up on the low-performing list.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION UPDATES

- Mr. Dave Machado presented the Advancing Charter Collaboration and Excellence for Student Success (ACCESS) program that the Office of Charter Schools will implement based on the \$23.6 million dollar federal CSP grant.
- Mr. Machado thanked Craig Tucker for his great work on the grant.
- Mr. Machado explained the new positions that will be created to implement the grant program. He continued to explain the key features of the NC ACCESS program and the charter school subgrants.
- Mr. Machado explained the proposed timeline of the charter school subgrants.
- Mr. Hawkes asked about an expiration on the funds. Mr. Machado stated it is a five-year program.
- Ms. Kakadelis asked about how much money is used each year and if all awards will be given in the first year. Mr. Machado explained the number of grants given each year. Mr. Machado stated there will be a total of 12 planning grants, 10 for implementation, 18 for expansion, and 10 grants for replication. He stated it's possible some schools could expand and replicate at the same time and get two grants.
- Ms. Kakadelis asked if the applications will be the same. Mr. Machado stated each category must target a high economically disadvantaged population, use weighted lottery, and have transportation and lunch programs.
- Ms. Reeves asked about expansion. Mr. Machado it could be grade wise or enrollment.
- Mr. Maimone asked about the weighted lottery. Mr. Machado stated that is a requirement for qualifying for the grants.
- Ms. Reeves wondered if they would need an amendment for a weighted lottery before applying.
- Mr. Maimone asked if a new school that is replicating needs the lottery, or also the existing school. Mr. Machado stated he will get clarity on that.

ADJOURNMENT

- **Mr. Walker made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:56 pm. Ms. Reeves seconded. Vote unanimous to adjourn.**

DRAFT