

**Meeting Minutes
of the
NC Public Charter School Advisory Council Meeting
State Board Rm. 755
June 10, 2013**

Attendance/NCPCSAC	Aaron Means Kwan Graham John Betterton Richard Hooker (absent) Alfred Dillon Rebecca Shore (absent) Tim Markley	Jennie Adams Paul Norcross Baker Mitchell Alan Hawkes Robert Landry Joseph Maimone Cheryl Turner Kate Alice Dunaway (absent)
Attendance/SBE/DPI	<i>Office of Charter Schools</i> Thomas Miller, Consultant Lisa Swinson, Consultant Cande Honeycutt, Consultant Joel Medley, Director <i>State Board of Education. Legal Council</i> Katie Cornetto	<i>Attorney General's Office</i> Laura Crumpler

SUBCOMMITTEES RECONSIDERATION REVIEWS

At 9:00 am, Subcommittees C and D met to discuss Catawba Charter Academy and Cardinal Charter.

CALL TO ORDER AND MEETING AGENDA REVIEW

The meeting was called to order at 9:45 am by Chairman John Betterton. He read the Ethics Statement and inquired if there were any potential conflicts of interest. Ms. Kwan Graham recused herself from any discussions related to KIPP Halifax. Dr. Robert Landry recused himself from any discussion related to Addie C. Morris. Mr. Baker Mitchell recused himself from any discussions related to South Brunswick Charter. Mr. Joseph Maimone recused himself from any discussion related to Excelsior Academy.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Timothy Markley made a motion to approve the minutes for May 7th. Mr. Mitchell noted that he was not present at the meeting but there was a comment that read that he was present on page one. Mr. Maimone clarified the comment. **Mr. Maimone seconded the motion with the necessary corrections. The motion passed unanimously.** Ms. Jennie Adams mad

a motion to approve May 8th minutes. Mr. Aaron Means seconded. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

SUBCOMMITTEES RECONSIDERATION REPORTS

Mr. Alfred Dillon reported that Subcommittee C met to discuss Catawba Charter Academy. After their discussion, it was decided that the application be forwarded to the full Council for an interview. The motion passed unanimously. Dr. Markley stated that Subcommittee D discussed Cardinal Charter and Ms. Jennie Adams amended her vote. Dr. Markley made a motion to forward the application to the full Council. Mr. Maimone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Mitchell stated that he would like the attorney to read the statutory requirements for being rewarded a charter. Ms. Crumpler reminded the Council that there were six purposes and she read those from the statutes. She then read three standards, from the statutes, that the Council should look at before giving charters preliminary approval. She emphasized that the most important statement was that charters should improve student learning.

APPLICATION INTERVIEWS

A.C.E. Academy Interview

The board chairman from the school explained that there were three board members that were not in attendance, but letters were provided to explain their absence. They distributed a booklet that addressed the concerns of the subcommittee. Various members of the board provided verbal explanations for what was provided in the booklet. Dr. Landry asked for a clarification on the use of STAR Math. The representative explained that STAR Math would be used as an assessment and not a math program. Dr. Landry asked about the expected demographics for the school. It was explained that 40% would be African American and 60% would be Caucasian. Dr. Landry asked for clarification on the role of the school's compliance officer and how that role would be different from an administrative assistant. The representative explained that the compliance officer would be in charge of NCWISE/Power Schools and the other responsibilities listed in the booklet. Ms. Adams stated that she was puzzled about there not being any increase in estimate for what the budget would be for certain items in the budget. The representative explained that utilities were built into the lease price. She explained that Carolina International would be relocating because they want to expand and that would be the school's proposed location. Mr. Maimone asked if the budget was based on the cost of operating in Carolina International. The representative explained that the budget was based on using that location. Dr. Landry stated the school is top heavy in administration. The representative explained that the school feels very strongly about having all the administrative staff early on and not having to hire people later on. Mr. Dillon asked how the school was going to provide for academically gifted students. The representative explained that the school is open to all students and will provide an appropriate education for all learners. Dr. Landry asked why the school would have automatic retention in fifth grade. The representative explained that they must follow the law related to

IEPs and the Expectancy Model Framework. Dr. Landry asked if students were engaged why there was a need for so many administrators. The representative explained that the adult to student ratio would have a positive impact. Mr. Maimone made a motion to forward the application to SBE. Mr. Dillon seconded. There was no discussion. The motion passed 9-2 with Dr. Landry and Dr. Markley dissenting.

Anderson Creek Club Charter School Interview

The chairman of the board addressed the council and explained that there was only one board member not in attendance. He addressed each of the items that the subcommittee noted as concerns. Mr. Betterton asked how the school was going to attract low income students. The representative stated that there would be advertising throughout the county and explained that there would be a lottery and all students would be allowed to go in the lottery. The school would emphasize the school's academic focus. Ms. Adams stated that there is not a line item for the school lunch that the application stated that the school would provide. A representative explained that the child nutrition program would fund itself and the school did not fund any money for the program. An outside vendor would be financially responsible because they would run it and subsidize for the free and reduced lunch population. Ms. Adams stated that it appears that the school had not provided for students who may not be able to get to school or be provided lunch. The representative stated that in the application it is very clear that meals would be provided. Dr. Landry asked if the students were not able to get to the school would the school go and get the students. The representative stated that the people in the community are givers and would help with carpooling and that there were some funds allocated for transportation. The road up to the gate is a public road from the gate to where the school would be it is a private road with a three minute walk. Dr. Landry asked what the schools plan was for inclement weather. The representative explained that the drive from the public road to the school is approximately a hundred feet. Ms. Turner asked what the current policy is for getting in the gate. The representative explained that there are a number of different ways that people can get through. There are cameras on the gate recording at all times. Dr. Markley asked how many people live in the gate. There are 2,000 but when the project is complete it will have 10,000. Dr. Markley stated that the school would be providing education for the community. A representative who lives outside of the gate stated the school would be advertising to all communities. Mr. Aaron Means asked what the process would be for visitors to get through the school. The visitors would have to call prior to coming to visit and the guard would have that person's name would allow them to get through. The representative explained that if you are a custodial parent the name would already be on the list and that 45% of students who live outside of the gate of the preschool that are currently attending have no problems getting in the gate. Ms. Turner asked if people in low socio-economic groups attend the public events in the community. The representative explained that the events are open to the public. Dr. Landry asked how far students travel to get to the day care. The representative explained that they come as far as Fort Bragg. Mr. Hawkes asked if the school has the resources for every child to get a nutritious lunch would there be provision for the child to be able to get through the gate. Mr. Means asked what the diversity break-down of the school. The representative explained that Anderson Creek Club has a diverse population and the population mirrors the military composite. The prices of the homes vary from \$160,000 to \$1,000,000. The schools in the immediate area are overcrowded. Mr. Mitchell stated that the school has 15% allocated for retirement. The representative

explained that that amount includes the retirement, health benefits, workers compensation. **Mr. Mitchell replied that they were listed separately. Mr. Maimone made a motion that the school be forwarded to the SBE. Mr. Hawkes seconded. The motion passed 7-3 with Ms. Adams, Dr. Markley, Mr. Means dissenting.**

Mr. Norcross entered the meeting.

Bradford Preparatory School Interview

The chair of the board of directors addressed the Council and explained that there were 2 members not in attendance for the meeting. There was a packet of information distributed that addressed concerns from the subcommittee. Ms. Turner asked where the school would be located. The representative explained that the school would be located near Concord Mills Mall. Mr. Maimone asked about the relationship between board members. The representative explained that there is a father/daughter relationship. The school has a website and plan to market in daycares and surrounding communities. Mr. Betterton asked what the demographic make-up of the school would be. The representative explained that the school would be reflective of the local schools 50% Caucasian, 30% African American and 20% Hispanic. Ms. Turner asked why the school would not have the name charter in it because the current name is reflective of a private school. Mr. Mitchell noted that the school has 90% proficiency by the third year. The representative explained that the local schools are around 85% and the school has a really good intervention plan. **Mr. Aaron Means made a motion to forward the application to the SBE. Mr. Maimone seconded.** Ms. Adams stated that the school has \$150,000 allocated for EC and that it would not be provided at the beginning of the school's operation. The representative explained that the school is aware of that and they would make changes as needed. Dr. Markley stated that there are a lot of schools going in this area. Dr. Landry asked the representative to state all of the schools that would be located in the vicinity of the school. The representative stated all of the schools and explained that even though there are a lot of schools the schools are still crowded. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Carolina STEM Academy Interview

The board president explained that there has been one board member who has resigned and has been replaced. A packet was distributed that addressed the concerns that the subcommittee had. Various members of the board read from the packet. Ms. Adams asked for clarification of the schools transportation plan. The representative explained that parents would identify if parents had transportation needs and the school would create a car pooling system. The goal would be for there not to be a barrier. Ms. Adams noted that there is not a line item for transportation and there could not be a barrier if there is an EC student who needed transportation. The representative stated that there is no money allocated to transportation but it could be added at a later time. Ms. Adams asked how the Deans would teach and administrate. The administrative duties would be 80% and teaching 20%. Dr. Markley asked how the Deans role would be reflective of being a guidance counselor. The representative stated that the focus for fund raising would be to be able to fund deficits. Ms. Graham asked what the need for the school is. The representative stated that they would like to have the relationship with UNC-C and there is a need in the area. There is a letter from UNC-C in the packet. The representative stated that there

have been a number of conversations with the colleges. Dr. Markley stated that the documentation is from the Education Department but not the Technology and Science. The representative stated that there are verbal agreements. Dr. Landry stated that Johnston C. Smith is a STEM school. The representative stated that he was aware of that but the relationship is with UNC-C. Dr. Markley stated that the Project Lead is a \$50,000 initiative but it is not reflective in the budget. The representative stated that they are also looking at other programs. Ms. Graham asked what type of marketing is being done in that and if there is any feedback from the community. The representative explained that the STEM component would be a strong draw. There have been some public information meetings and there are 180 people on the email list and there would be marketing with a goal of having 1,000 contacts. Dr. Markley stated the school has \$80,000 listed for technology. The representative explained that they want to have robotics labs and Apple curriculum software. Ms. Graham asked if the applicants have looked at the data of the students who will be attending the school. The representative explained that he was not familiar with the data. Ms. Graham stated that she was struggling with the reason why the school wants to exist. The representative explained that the selling point would be the relationship with UNC-C. Ms. Graham stated that the customers are the students and parents. Dr. Landry asked if every board member must donate. The representative replied that there would be an expectancy of time or monetary. **Mr. Mitchell made a motion to forward the application to SBE. Mr. Means seconded.** Dr. Markley stated that there is not a solid relationship; the technology budget doesn't match where they want to go. There are some planning issues. **The motion passed 7-4 with Ms. Adams, Dr. Markley, Ms. Turner, and Ms. Graham dissenting.**

MEETING ADJOURNED

**Meeting Minutes
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June 11, 2013**

Attendance/NCPCSAC	Aaron Means Kwan Graham John Betterton Richard Hooker Alfred Dillon Rebecca Shore (absent) Tim Markley	Jennie Adams Paul Norcross Baker Mitchell Alan Hawkes Robert Landry Joseph Maimone Cheryl Turner Kate Alice Dunaway (absent)
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CALL TO ORDER AND MEETING AGENDA REVIEW

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by Chairman John Betterton. He read the Ethics Statement and inquired of any conflicts. Mr. Mitchell recused himself from South Brunswick.

APPLICATION INTERVIEWS

Central Arts Preparatory Academy

The board chair of the school distributed a packet of information about the school and read it to the Council. Mr. Alfred Dillon asked if there were any plans to add more members to the board. It was explained that there was a fifth member who was not able to attend the meeting. There were plans to add additional board members. Mr. Dillon stated that there were no members on the board with an arts background and that he would consider the board to be a weak board because there is only one person with an advanced degree and no one has experience with the arts. Mr. Maimone asked what schools did the board have experience in charters. Ms. Miller was a teacher at Piedmont and Highland charter and another board member was an administrator at Highland. Dr. Markley asked if the school was going to be able to hire half time people to teach the arts. The representative explained that there are already people who were interested. The school would be located in Gastonia. Ms. Adams asked for clarification on the lead

administrator's duties of hiring and firing. The representative explained the board makes the final decision and the lead administrator makes the recommendation. Dr. Markley asked about the costs of starting an arts program. The representative stated that the cost of the arts program is not explicitly listed. She noted that the cost is listed in "other instructional materials". Mr. Mitchell asked how the school came up with \$72,000 for facilities in the fifth year. The representative explained that in the first year there was \$60,000 and the school is looking at a vacated school building and they understand that it is a low amount but they have money in the reserves. Mr. Maimone asked if there has been a specific location found. The representative explained that they were exploring locations. Ms. Graham stated that the school has set aside money during the second year for transportation but the school will be providing transportation the first year. The representative explained that they have \$4,000 the first year and it increases the second year to purchase a bus. Mr. Betterton asked about the schools motivation for arts. The representative explained that she has had one year of teaching at a performing arts school and was impressed with their modality for teaching. Dr. Markley stated that there was not enough professional development allocated for this type of teaching to be sustained. Ms. Adams asked the reason for the grading scale. The representative explained that it was based on a 7 point scale. Ms. Adams asked the justification for having a half day after MLK. The representative explained that they realize that might be awkward and has since changed it. Ms. Adams added that the school offers benefits to their staff and weekly assessments during interventions for students. **Mr. Dillon made a motion not to send the application forward to SBE. Mr. Hawkes seconded the motion. The motion passed 8-3 with Ms. Adams and Mr. Maimone dissenting.**

Charlotte Learning Academy

The board chair introduced herself and allowed the board members to introduce themselves. A representative explained that the board created a packet that addressed the concerns of the board. Mr. Mitchell stated that there is a 33% allocation for benefits which is high. The representative explained that they want to attract staff by providing them with a full package of benefits. Dr. Landry stated that it appeared that there were a number of administrators for 400 students. The representative stated that that has been looked at and has been revised. The curriculum specialist position will be removed, as well as, the finance specialist. The other positions are needed. Mr. Betterton asked about the location. The representative explained that they want to be able to access the city's transit system. Dr. Markley asked how they are going to set up their intervention program. The representative explained that they expect to have a high number of exceptional students. Dr. Landry stated Multiple Intelligence is a one size fit all but the application states that they will not be a one size fits all school. The representative replied that having inventories to match Multiple Intelligences will not make the teaching a one size fits all. The students will be given the opportunity to shine based on their intelligences. Ms. Adams asked if the school made a decision not offer sports. The representative replied that the school will start with intramural sports but will eventually have everything and the decision was based on funds. Ms. Graham stated that the application says that they are actively recruiting board members. The representative explained that they are actively seeking a 7th member. Mr. Richard Hooker asked the representative to explain what other strategies would attract the at-risk population. The representative explained that the willingness and ability to motivate students is an attraction. Mr. Hooker stated that he was looking for community involvement. The

representative explained that there would be an outreach for community service for students. **Mr. Maimone made a motion to forward the application to SBE. Mr. Norcross seconded. Mr. Hawkes stated that he had a good intuitive feeling about the board. The motion passed unanimously.**

Concrete Roses STEM Academy

A representative introduced himself and the members of the Board. Documents were distributed to the Council that explained the questions that were addressed on the rubric. Mr. Dillon stated that the board is impressive and asked which of the members live in NC. The chair explained that there are 3 out of state members. Dr. Markley stated that there is no professional development slated for STEM. The representative explained that there will be 2 weeks of professional development. Dr. Landry asked if any of the members have reached out to Johnston C. Smith. The representative explained that they will be reaching out to all the STEM schools. Ms. Adams asked the school to explain how the school was planning to split the high school students. The representative explained that as the school gets larger the elementary, middle and high school will be in separate locations for safety. Mr. Mitchell asked about the size of the facility. The representative explained that the facility that they are looking at has 160,000 square feet. Ms. Turner stated that there is no maintenance of buses included in the budget. The representative explained that he hoped that he would be able to negotiate maintenance. Mr. Betterton asked about the location of the school. The representative explained that it would be located in a location in which several social economic statuses could be attracted. Dr. Markley stated that there is a position for an Athletic Director but there is no line item for athletics. Mr. Means stated there is a line item for \$10,000 for buses. The representative explained that that the amount should have been spread over five years. Dr. Landry stated the grading system is A-F. He suggested that they use a different scale. The representative explained that they want the grading system to reflect the real world and that it is a good fit for the school. Dr. Markley asked about the “Not Met” in the application for insurance. The representative explained that he had difficulty uploading it on the online application and read the amount aloud. Mr. Means stated that there wasn’t any more allocated to software. The representative explained that the college would donate software. **Mr. Dillon made a motion to forward the application to SBE. Mr. Means seconded.** Mr. Maimone suggested that the school look at the number of administrators to help with the budget. Dr. Markley stated that this was a good application but there were some things that needed to be refined. **The motion passed 7-5 with Dr. Markley, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Norcross, Ms. Graham, and Ms. Turner dissenting.**

Dynamic Community Charter

The board members introduced themselves and distributed a packet of information that addressed the questions that the subcommittee had. Mr. Maimone asked about the goals for student achievement and how it would impact the charter based on rules and regulation of charters. The representative replied that there was a multiple tiered system that was outlined on page 8 of the application for different tracks of diploma, certification or occupational. They are committed to following the laws so that the school can stay open. Mr. Betterton stated that most schools find it difficult to provide services for special education students. The representative explained that the school will be looking for considerable amount of grants from the federal government, as well

as, businesses. They will be fundraising very aggressively and it will be a challenge for the school. Mr. Betterton stated that this school will not be able to mainstream. The representative explained that inclusion is important and that is why there are community activities in which the students will be integrated with the regular education students. Ms. Adams stated that the school does not have a lot of margin and if they have a letter of assurance for the donation in “other”. The representative stated that there is a letter of support. Mr. Maimone asked if the applicant understands that the state has an expectation for schools to be proficient 60% or make growth or be closed. The representative stated that her focus would be based on growth. The representative explained that it is an advantage to have an ongoing grading system. Dr. Landry stated that the organization chart is confusing. The representative stated that the lead administrator would be running the school and the chart could be revised to more clearly show that. The lead teacher will be working closely with the board. Mr. Betterton asked about the proposed location. The representative explained the most available and affordable location would be close to the airport near Brier Creek. Mr. Mitchell asked if there was any on the board who has a focus on behavior therapy who has experience with precision teaching. The representative explained that there was someone who has that experience. Mr. Hooker asked for information about how Wake County Schools is addressing this type of population. The representative explained that Wake County has classrooms designated for these students with a low teacher student ration. Mr. Norcross stated that the idea was good but there will be a financial struggle. **Mr. Norcross made a motion to forward the application to the SBE. Dr. Markley seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

Entrepreneur High School

A representative from the school introduced himself to the Council and allowed the Board members to introduce themselves. He distributed a packet of information to the Council with information that addressed questions that the subcommittee posed. Dr. Markley stated that if the school was going to focus on an at-risk population, the percentage of exceptional children should be higher than 12%. The representative explained that they had a different definition of at-risk. Mr. Hawkes clarified that the applicants had a broader definition of at-risk. Mr. Maimone stated that the governor and NC legislature agree with their concept with a vocational education program and hopes that they can be a model for this type of vocational program. Dr. Markley asked for an explanation for the start-up costs that are listed in the application. A representative explained that the equipment would be leased and they would have a close relationship with industry so that students could participate in internships. The school has also reached out to several trade agencies who have expressed an interest in partnering with the school to provide instruction. Dr. Markley replied that the budget would not allow this type of program. The representative explained that the relationships are not in writing but the businesses are awaiting the approval of the charter and they are waiting to assist the school financially and educationally. Ms. Adams noted that the board has strong credentials but there are legal requirements that have not been addressed in the application such as asking about exceptional children’s identification in the enrollment application. The representative explained that there were members of the board with an education background and they would ensure that every child would get what they needed. Mr. Mitchell stated that there may be some issues with OSHA and students with IEPs. The representative explained that the program is an adoptable program that is available for ages 14 and up and there is a focus on safety in the work place. Dr. Markley asked what other

programs, besides construction, would be offered. The representative replied that they would eventually like to offer carpentry, electrical trades, HVAC, machining, masonry, plumbing and automotive. Mr. Betterton asked for clarification on who the officers of the corporation were. The representative explained that there is only one officer, Dr. Plotsetter. Dr. Markley stated that the board members will also be teachers in the school. The representative commented that the conflict of the interest statement instructs the board members to keep their duties separated. Dr. Markley asked for clarification of the teaching staff as to whether they will be full time instructors or part time. The representative explained that there are already over a dozen skilled people interested because it would be an Encore career because retired people like the flexibility of the schedule. Mr. Maimone made a motion to forward the application to SBE. Mr. Dillon commented that this type of school would be a magnet for retired people. Mr. Mitchel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned to subcommittee application reviews.