

**Minutes of the
North Carolina Charter Schools Advisory Board Meeting
September 9, 2019
NC Department of Public Instruction
State Board Room 755 – 9:00AM**

Attendance/NCCSAB	Joel Ford Bruce Friend Joseph Maimone Sherry Reeves Cheryl Turner Lynn Kroeger	Alex Quigley Jeannette Butterworth Steven Walker Heather Vuncannon Lindalyn Kakadelis
Attendance/SBE/DPI	<i>Office of Charter Schools</i> Dave Machado, Director Ashley Baquero, Consultant Shaunda Cooper, Consultant Danielle Allen, Consultant Jay Whalen, Consultant Joseph Letterio Maimone, Consultant Jamelia El-Shahid, Consultant Claire Porter, Consultant	<i>Attorney General</i> Stephanie Lloyd <i>SBE Attorney</i> Eric Snider

CALL TO ORDER

- The North Carolina Charter School Advisory Board (CSAB) meeting was called to order at 9:05 am by Chairman Alex Quigley who read the Ethics Statement and CSAB Mission Statement. Mr. Quigley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion: To approve the July 22, 2019 and August 20, 2019 meeting minutes.

Motion: Lindalyn Kakadelis

Second: Lynn Kroeger

Vote: Unanimous

☒ **Passed**

☐ **Failed**

Motion: To approve the September 2019 CSAB meeting agenda.

Motion: Lindalyn Kakadelis

Second: Lynn Kroeger

Vote: Unanimous

☒ **Passed**

☐ **Failed**

2019 CHARTER APPLICATION SEASON INTRODUCTION

- Dr. Danielle Allen, Office of Charter Schools (OCS) Consultant, introduced the 2019 charter school application process. Dr. Allen reviewed the relevant charter school application statutes: 115C-218.5, 115C-218.2, and 115C-218(b)(10). She also reviewed the State Board of Education (SBE) policy governing charter school applications, CHTR-012. Dr. Allen also discussed CHTR-016 and CHTR-013 which govern fast-track replication and planning year requirements.
- Dr. Allen explained that five fast-track/acceleration applications and fourteen traditional timeline applications were received. She explained that the CSAB had determined that if an applicant did not meet the requirements for fast-track/acceleration, those applicants would not be moved to the traditional timeline pool of applicants. She explained that this was the first time using Epicenter for the application process. Dr. Allen explained the responsibilities of CSAB and OCS during the charter school application process.
- Dr. Allen explained the special request applications and the county distribution of charter school applications. She stated there were seven repeat applicants this year. She explained which schools are partnered with EMO/CMOs.
- Dr. Allen stated that OCS was notified of a budget template formatting error. She explained that applicants were notified and given a chance to amend. She explained the timelines for any missing information needed from applicants.
- Dr. Allen explained that the CSAB will conduct five clarification interviews today. She stated that each committee will vote on whether to send the applicant to the full CSAB. She explained the full CSAB will then vote on whether to grant a full interview to the applicant.
- Dr. Allen explained the committee assignments for the five clarification interviews taking place today. Dr. Allen stated that OCS is proposing four clarification interviews for October. She explained committee assignments for next month. She stated applicants will be notified at the conclusion of today's meeting. She explained that the remaining clarification interviews would take place in November.
- The CSAB discussed the proposed schedule. Dr. Allen stated OCS welcomes any feedback on the proposed schedule. Dr. Allen reminded the CSAB they had decided last year that going forward they wanted to hear all clarification interviews prior to hearing full interviews. Mr. Quigley reiterated that he believes it is more equitable to have all clarification interviews conducted prior to full interviews. Mr. Walker proposed moving one from each committee

from November's list of schools to October's list of schools. Dr. Allen confirmed there will be six applicants in October and eight applicants in November for clarification interviews.

- Dr. Allen explained the 2019 review and clarification process. She explained the recommended time limits for each aspect of the clarification interview up to a total of thirty minutes. Mr. Quigley asked for clarification on the rating system for the interview process. Dr. Allen stated there are three places for ratings in the rubrics the CSAB members use. Dr. Allen stated the committee that interviews the applicant today should already have rated the applicant with an initial rating. She continued that after this clarification interview, the committee should update the rating. The third rating would take place after the full interview. Ratings would be provided to OCS. She continued these would be individual ratings from each member of the committee.

2019 FAST-TRACK AND ACCELERATION CLARIFICATION INTERVIEWS

Alpha Academy of Laurinburg

- Dr. Allen introduced the applicant. She stated the school is proposing to locate in Scotland County. She explained the proposed enrollment and grade levels. She stated at capacity the school would serve grades K-8 with 450 students. She stated there was an LEA impact statement submitted. She stated this is a repeat applicant and has requested fast-track replication. She stated the applicant received assistance from Eugene Slocum. She stated the applicant is not partnering with an EMO or CMO. Dr. Allen explained the SBE requirements for fast-track replication. She explained requirements for compliance. CSAB asked to hear from NC Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) School Business division regarding financial compliance concerns.
- Ms. Leigh Ann Kerr, School Business, explained that the school was placed on probationary noncompliance in 2017. Ms. LaShon Creech, School Business, stated the division has conducted three site visits. She stated the most recent was August 28, 2019. She stated they did not anticipate finding any errors, but there were serious findings. She stated that PowerSchool is the authoritative source for student accounting. She explained findings from the site visit including lack of student schedules in PowerSchool so teachers could not input attendance. She stated there were 76 students were physically present, but not present on rosters and 274 were not seen or accounted for. She stated daily attendance was not completed in PowerSchool for any students. She stated they received paper copies for some attendance rosters. She explained how this impacts student accounting and funding.
- Mr. Quigley asked what day of the school year the site visit took place. Ms. Creech stated it was day seven. Ms. Creech stated there is a process that should take place for no show students. She stated there were no attendance records in PowerSchool. She stated 76 were

physically in the building but not on the rosters. CSAB members expressed concerns for how this impacts funding and records. Mr. Quigley confirmed with Dr. Allen that the same board of Alpha Academy is seeking to replicate. Dr. Allen stated Mr. Slocum would be the executive director of both schools and both schools have the same nonprofit board of directors. Ms. Kerr confirmed the school has been on financial noncompliance since March 2017 and the litigated settlement did not impact the noncompliance issue. Mr. Eric Snider, SBE Attorney, confirmed the same.

- The CSAB confirmed that an applicant that does not pass the requirements of fast-track replication, would not be able to go into the traditional applicant pool. Members stated that was made very clear. Ms. Creech stated she believes the school is not effectively using PowerSchool which is the authoritative source, so School Business cannot get the information it needs.
- Mr. Eugene Slocum stated that in 2017 the information from School Business was not correct. Mr. Slocum stated the school explained and documented everything and could not get clarity on what the division wanted. Mr. Slocum stated the issue was arbitrated. He continued that the school has not utilized PowerSchool in previous years, but the school has started to use PowerSchool. Mr. Slocum stated the school had paper copies of each student. He stated PowerSchool input was backed up. He stated he was surprised when he received the letter of financial noncompliance. He stated paper copies of daily attendance were taken every day. He stated they are still learning PowerSchool. Mr. Quigley asked if the first official day in PowerSchool was August 20, 2019. Mr. Slocum stated yes.
- Mr. Quigley stated there is a difference of about hundred students in PowerSchool based on the site visit. Mr. Quigley asked if that is the amount the school expects as no shows. Mr. Quigley asked for clarification on the noncompliance from 2017. Mr. Slocum stated there are close to 800 actually enrolled in the school. School Business confirmed a discrepancy between the headcount and PowerSchool records. Mr. Slocum stated the only reason the noncompliance is still there is because of the litigation. Mr. Quigley asked why the school chose fast-track replication. Mr. Slocum stated he doesn't agree with the noncompliance finding. He believes they had time to correct compliance issues. He stated the noncompliance is not right.
- Mr. Quigley stated they have a problem because there is no way that the CSAB can bring forward a fast-track replication application to SBE with a financial noncompliance issue. Mr. Quigley stated the academic performance of the school is very good and he would like to see that replicated. Mr. Quigley proposed tabling the vote to clear up any legal issues. Mr. Snider asked to table the vote so legal can determine the best course of action.

Anita Stroud Academy

- Dr. Allen introduced the applicant. She stated the school is proposing to locate in Mecklenburg County. She explained the proposed enrollment and grade levels. She stated at capacity the school would serve grades K-5 with 204 students. She stated this is not a repeat applicant and has requested acceleration. She stated they received assistance and paid fees to Leaders Building Leaders. She stated the school is not partnering with an EMO/CMO. Dr. Allen stated OCS is requesting a completion confirmation.
- Members of the board introduced themselves – Denise Bridges, Marilyn Bridge, and Patsy Burkins. Ms. Burkins explained the school’s proposed program and curriculum focus. She stated the board already has a building identified.
- Ms. Sherry Reeves asked for clarification between the roles of the foundations involved with this school. She also stated there are seven charter schools within six miles of this location.
- Mr. Friend asked for clarification on the fine arts aspect of the mission. Mr. Friend also asked for the compelling need of the school. Mr. Quigley stated he doesn’t understand how this school meets a compelling need. Mr. Friend asked if the facility would be at risk if they don’t open next year. Ms. Burkins stated no.
- Ms. Burkins stated Charlotte CSA is a nonprofit board and Anita Stroud would be another program that would fall under the board. She stated that is in Appendix G. She stated the board chair of Anita Stroud foundation is a member of the board, but the school is not taking over the foundation.
- Ms. Kakadelis asked if she would be the operator of the school. Ms. Burkins stated yes.
- Mr. Maimone stated they have the advantage with the nonprofit and the facility, but the CSAB needs to hear a compelling need.
- Ms. Burkins stated they have a unique model. She stated that low-performing schools in the area make the need for this school compelling. She stated the model is different than other schools.
- Ms. Kakadelis asked if there are survey results showing an interest in the school. Ms. Burkins stated yes. She continued that the board went to the background check provider and have cleared up any issues with those. Mr. Walker asked what company the board used for the background checks. Ms. Burkins stated First Advantage. Dr. Allen stated that First Advantage stated that if the background checks do not explicitly state the county check, then

those checks did not take place. Ms. Burkins stated that is correct, but they are talking about an actual physical check of records in the courthouse.

- Mr. Quigley stated there is no way this applicant meets a compelling need. Mr. Friend stated compelling need can be subjective and the enrollment projections are low. CSAB discussed whether this applicant meets a compelling need.

Motion: Committee motion to forward applicant to full CSAB vote.

Motion: Bruce Friend

Second: Lindalyn Kakadelis

Vote: Lindalyn Kakadelis, Jeannette Butterworth, Bruce Friend

Opposed: Alex Quigley, Sherry Reeves

☒ **Passed** ☐ **Failed**

- Mr. Walker stated he does not believe this school would meet the compelling need criteria.

Motion: Full CSAB motion to forward applicant to full interview.

Motion: Lindalyn Kakadelis

Second: Jeannette Butterworth

Vote: Lindalyn Kakadelis, Jeannette Butterworth, Bruce Friend, Joel Ford

Opposed: Alex Quigley, Steven Walker, Cheryl Turner, Sherry Reeves, Lynn Kroeger, Heather Vuncannon

☐ **Passed** ☒ **Failed**

Motion: Full CSAB motion to not forward applicant to full interview.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Alex Quigley

Vote: Alex Quigley, Steven Walker, Cheryl Turner, Sherry Reeves, Lynn Kroeger, Heather Vuncannon

Opposed: Lindalyn Kakadelis, Jeannette Butterworth, Bruce Friend, Joel Ford

☒ **Passed** ☐ **Failed**

Davis Academy of Chadbourn

- Dr. Allen introduced the applicant. She stated the school is proposing to locate in Columbus County. She explained the proposed enrollment and grade levels. She stated at capacity the school would serve grades K-8 with 540 students. She stated Columbus County submitted an LEA impact statement. She stated this is not a repeat applicant and has requested acceleration. She stated they received assistance and paid fees to Leaders Building Leaders. The applicant does not plan to partner with an EMO or CMO.
- Ms. Yolanda Davis, Board Chair, stated that she proposes to open a charter school that meets the needs of subgroups performing at lower standards within the county.

- Mr. Walker asked how the Board Chair and proposed school leader are related. Ms. Davis stated first cousins. Ms. Davis stated she would not have any input into her cousin's compensation or performance. Ms. Davis explained the history of the board members and the reasoning behind the school's name.
- Mr. Walker asked about the facility. Ms. Davis stated the board learned yesterday that the county commission does not want the facility and neither does the town. Ms. Davis stated the sheriff has asked for the facility for training purposes, but the sheriff will need to go before the county commissioner to get permission.
- Mr. Walker asked about the contingency facility. Ms. Davis stated the preschool is being offered at less than market value. She stated the school would need to add a modular to that facility. She stated the board created a timeline for both facility options.
- Ms. Lynn Kroeger stated she had some concerns about the budget, particularly the renovation or repair costs. Mr. Joel Ford agreed and asked if the board has been able to get facility assessments to estimate renovation costs. Ms. Davis stated they have not been able to get into the facility yet. She stated it had been previously occupied as an education facility.
- Ms. Vuncannon asked for clarification on the proposed enrollment. Ms. Davis stated they have researched enrollment figures and conducted outreach. Ms. Davis stated they do not believe enrollment will be an issue.

Motion: Committee motion to forward applicant to full CSAB vote.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Lynn Kroeger

Vote: Unanimous

☒ **Passed** ☐ **Failed**

- Ms. Kakadelis and Mr. Quigley want to hear more about the facility at the full interview. Mr. Quigley stated he believes this application demonstrates a more compelling need than others.

Motion: Full CSAB motion to forward applicant to full interview.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Joel Ford

Vote: Unanimous

☒ **Passed** ☐ **Failed**

Old Main STREAM Academy

- Dr. Allen introduced the applicant. She stated the school is proposing to locate in Robeson County. She explained the proposed enrollment and grade levels. She stated at capacity the school would serve grades K-8 with 440 students. She stated this is a repeat applicant and has requested acceleration. She stated they have not received third party assistance and do not intend to partner with an EMO or CMO.
- Ms. Rosemary Townsend introduced herself as Board Chair. She described the qualifications and backgrounds of the board members. She stated that four of the board members have one hundred years combined experience in education. She explained the board is seeking acceleration because of the county's low-performing status. She explained the need for the charter school by describing the low-performing status of the county's schools. She stated schools in the district are in the lowest five percent nationwide. She stated there is overrepresentation in the Exceptional Children program and the school system is facing financial problems. She stated the school has identified two facilities. She continued that the school has community support.
- Ms. Kakadelis asked for clarification regarding the facility options. Ms. Kakadelis and Ms. Reeves expressed concern about whether the facilities are viable options for an accelerated application.
- Ms. Reeves asked for clarification about the mission of the school. Another board member stated that the school would not have a problem working with CIS Academy. She stated CIS Academy is located at the outskirts of Pembroke and are on a tight campus and unable to expand. She stated the school has a waitlist.
- Mr. Quigley stated he is not sure it meets a compelling need. Ms. Kakadelis and Ms. Reeves have concerns with the facility. Mr. Quigley stated he needs a full interview to determine if there is a compelling need. Ms. Kakadelis stated the enrollment is aggressive when there isn't a strong showing of interest. She stated that the local district has lost over a thousand students.

Motion: Committee motion to forward applicant to full CSAB vote.

Motion: Sherry Reeves

Second: Bruce Friend

Vote: Alex Quigley, Bruce Friend, Sherry Reeves, Jeannette Butterworth

Opposed: Lindalyn Kakadelis

☒ **Passed**

☐ **Failed**

Motion: Full CSAB motion to forward applicant to full interview.

Motion: Alex Quigley

Second: Sherry Reeves

Vote: Unanimous

☒ **Passed**

☐ **Failed**

New Generation Charter Academy

- Dr. Allen introduced the applicant. She stated the school is proposing to locate in Edgecombe County. She explained the proposed enrollment and grade levels. She stated at capacity the school would serve grades K-8 with 396 students. She stated this applicant has requested acceleration. She stated the school plans to partner with Torchlight Academy Schools (TAS).
- Ms. Nancy McDaniel, Board Chair, stated the county is changing rapidly and the school system is not meeting the needs of business in the county. She spoke about the performance of county schools. She stated New Generation Charter Academy would be beneficial to Edgecombe County and the surrounding counties. She spoke about the school's mission.
- Mr. Walker and Mr. Quigley expressed concerns about TAS's ability to focus on another school. Ms. Cheryl Turner also expressed concerns about the operator's capacity. She stated they have three schools and another one in planning.

Motion: Committee motion to forward applicant to full CSAB vote.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Joel Ford

Vote: Unanimous

☒ **Passed**

☐ **Failed**

Motion: Full CSAB motion to forward applicant to full interview.

Motion: Alex Quigley

Second: Bruce Friend

Vote: Unanimous

☒ **Passed**

☐ **Failed**

NC CYBER ACADEMY (NCCA) MONTHLY UPDATE

- Mr. Nathan Currie, Superintendent, stated the school has opened successfully after transitioning from its EMO.
- Mr. Currie explained updates from the Board of Directors including board development and new members. He discussed the school's strategic plan. He explained school performance goals including improving math proficiency and family engagement. Mr. Currie spoke about teacher retention and stated 100% of teachers are NC certified teachers.

- Ms. Domina Blount spoke about curriculum and instruction at the school. She stated the implementation of Edgenuity has begun. Ms. Blount summarized first month data. She stated over 20,000 hours were logged in Edgenuity in the first week. She spoke about open house sessions and new structures at the school.
- Ms. Christina Robinson spoke about operations at the school. She stated total enrollment is 2326 students. She stated there are 77% returning students. She explained enrollment surveys that were sent out to parents. She stated that 99.5% parents indicated very satisfied or satisfied with the school. Ms. Robinson spoke about devices that were sent to students. Ms. Reeves asked if students that do not have devices yet are able to access curriculum. Ms. Robinson stated that previously, students only received devices if they qualified. She continued to explain that now all students receive devices and the first shipment went to the students that needed the devices. She explained not all devices could ship out at the same time so the school prioritized deliveries based on need. Ms. Robinson stated she has not heard from any family that does not have access to curriculum.
- Ms. Robinson spoke about the school's marketing plan. She spoke about the rebranding of the school.
- Mr. Currie stated all assets that belonged to Pearson have been returned. He spoke about the financial state of the school and spoke about the school's partners.
- Mr. Quigley asked about the school's performance trends and if Mr. Currie has any ideas about the low-performance of the school and virtual schools in general. Mr. Currie stated that is the reason they made the big decision to leave Pearson. Mr. Currie stated the school wants the chance to turn things around. Mr. Quigley asked about what trends the school has seen with virtual learning. Mr. Currie stated best practices include increased face to face interaction and autonomy and flexibility.
- Mr. Ford asked if there has been any feedback on student engagement and learning with the platform NCCA is using. Mr. Currie stated that sometimes virtual schools lack the social engagement that students and families need. He stated that is why they have many opportunities to meet face to face and perform tasks off the computer. Ms. Blount spoke about the learning platform and explained that feedback on the platform has been very positive. She stated families appreciate the interactive nature of the platform.
- Ms. Turner stated she has had difficulty connecting to board meetings. Ms. Robinson stated that the school has two new conference lines that will be available.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

- The CSAB honored the teaching and service of Mrs. Heather Futrell from East Wake Academy.

Motion: 12:30pm. To move into closed session and adjourn to lunch following closed session.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Sherry Reeves

Vote: Unanimous

☒ **Passed** ☐ **Failed**

Motion: 12:45pm. Motion to adjourn Closed Session.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Alex Quigley

Vote: Unanimous

☒ **Passed** ☐ **Failed**

The CSAB returned from closed session and lunch at 1:20pm.

LOW-PERFORMING SCHOOLS DISCUSSION

- Ms. Ashley Baquero, OCS Consultant, spoke about the support and monitoring for low-performing and continually low-performing charter schools.
- Mr. Quigley asked that OCS put a list together of schools that have three years of consecutive low-performing status as well as any other high-risk schools that should come before the board.
- Mr. Walker stated that Ms. Phyllis Gibbs has resigned from the CSAB. He stated she has just turned eighty years old and had shoulder surgery recently so unable to drive or type. He stated she hopes to get up to a meeting to see everyone. The CSAB thanked Ms. Gibbs for her service to the board.

2019 FAST-TRACK AND ACCELERATION CLARIFICATION INTERVIEWS **CONTINUED**

Alpha Academy of Laurinburg

- Mr. Snider stated his legal opinion is that this applicant is not eligible for fast-track replication. Mr. Snider read the relevant statute and policies regarding this decision. Mr. Snider summarized the applicant's history of noncompliance with the state. Mr. Snider stated

that NC DPI has communicated noncompliance issues to the school. Mr. Snider stated that the previous August 20th settlement agreement between the school and NC DPI gave Alpha Academy an opportunity to receive compliant status and become eligible for fast-track replication. However, because of the findings at the most recent site visit, the school was not removed from noncompliant status.

Motion: This applicant is not moved forward to full interview.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Lindalyn Kakadelis

Vote: Unanimous

☒ **Passed**

☐ **Failed**

ESSIE MAE KISER FOXX UPDATE

- Ms. Tina Wallace, Board Chair, introduced herself and members of the board. She stated current enrollment is 121. She spoke about the opening of school, new principal, and purchased buses. She stated school began on August 7, 2019. She stated two modular and two buses were purchased with the assistance of grant funds and community support. She stated that multiple vendors were seriously delinquent under Torchlight and therefore the school has been forced to identify new vendors. She stated their accounts are now current with the new vendors. Ms. Wallace stated the board meets on a weekly basis to make sure the transition process continues smoothly.
- Ms. Turner asked about the delinquent accounts. Ms. Wallace stated the delinquent accounts are with Torchlight and Torchlight's responsibility. She stated some accounts have been made good, such as with Duke Energy and City of Salisbury, and transferred to Essie Mae.
- Mr. Walker asked how many board members are on the board currently. Ms. Wallace stated seven. Mr. Walker asked about the new member, Kenneth Muhammad Fox. Mr. Walker stated that when the board previously came before the CSAB, the board stated that he would not have anything to do with the school because of his criminal convictions. Ms. Wallace stated that a recommendation was made this year, in May, to add Mr. Fox to the board. Ms. Wallace stated Mr. Muhammad has been instrumental in helping the school receive resources it needed to sustain itself. She stated he has brought financial and community resources to the school and the board.
- Mr. Walker asked what controls the school has now that Torchlight is not managing the funds. Ms. Ruby Steele spoke about the in-house accounting using Quickbooks and ADP handles payroll.
- Mr. Walker asked if any staff members are related to any board members. Ms. Wallace stated no.

- Mr. Quigley stated that several positions listed in the transition plan are not in the budget. Mr. Quigley asked for clarity on the listed positions and whether they are in the budget. Mr. Quigley pointed out positions that are listed but are not in the budget. Mr. Quigley asked the board to help him understand the budget. Ms. Wallace stated it appears some things were inadvertently left off the budget or the formatting is incorrect. Ms. Wallace stated she can forward a new budget. Mr. Quigley asked if those positions are being paid. Ms. Wallace stated yes, they are paid positions. Mr. Quigley stated the school cannot have these administrative positions with only 120 students. Mr. James Fisher, the Principal, stated the numbers are as you see them, he stated he does not handle money. He stated that is not his job, he handles instruction. Ms. Wallace stated they have developed a budget at 220 and a revised budget at 121 knowing there had to be some adjustments. She stated those adjustments have been made.
- The CSAB expressed major concerns about the financial status of the school. Mr. Machado asked if School Business could get the CSAB the allotment the school received. Mr. Maimone asked if the school is contracted with an auditor. Ms. Wallace stated they have not started an audit and have not contracted with an auditor. Ms. Reeves stated there is no audit expense in the budget. Ms. Kerr stated she will reach out to the local government commission (LGC) about the audit status and get the school in touch with the LGC. Ms. Reeves stated there is nothing in the budget for outstanding debts. Mr. Quigley asked how much outstanding debt remains. Ms. Wallace stated around 30k. Ms. Wallace stated the school was never reimbursed from Torchlight for about 17k in Read to Achieve expenses.
- Mr. Friend asked why the revenues listed on the budget appear to be different. He also stated the budget doesn't seem to reflect the staff. Mr. Quigley stated he believes one revenue figure is based on 200+ students and the other revenue figure is based on the actual 100+ enrollment.
- Mr. Quigley asked if the board understands the seriousness of the situation. Ms. Wallace stated the board understands and are committed to the staff and being able to pay the staff.
- Ms. Turner has concerns about the new board member, the EMO transition, and the budget. She stated she believes this school is in major trouble. CSAB members concurred. Ms. Turner confirmed the school opened on August 7th so they have passed day 20.
- Ms. Wallace confirmed that PMR-1 was for 121 students. CSAB expressed concern about the money already received in allotments and whether the school will receive enough going forward to sustain itself.

- Ms. Vuncannon asked what “ES” in the budget stands for. Ms. Wallace stated exceptional services. Ms. Vuncannon questioned the revenue for “ES” in the budget. Ms. Wallace stated the budget is not correct.
- Mr. Friend expressed concern about the new board member and whether there is any recourse. Ms. Wallace stated the board had to make a decision to stay open as a school and most of the staff indicated they would not stay with the school under Torchlight’s management. She stated the board sought out community resources and looked beyond the person’s past to be able to keep the school open. Mr. Quigley stated the board should have let the CSAB know or consult with OCS. Mr. Quigley stated that is the least of his concerns right now. He stated there are major financial concerns, academic data was not good, and the school is over-staffed. He stated no one is able to speak confidently about the budget and it appears no one is aware of an audit being initiated.
- Mr. Quigley stated we need more information from School Business, need to consult with legal, and see the school next month.
- Ms. Reeves asked how much is currently in the bank. Ms. Steele stated a bit over four thousand. Mr. Walker stated the school has drawn down \$78,306.89 and there is \$337,748.11 remaining. Ms. Turner asked for monthly payroll. Mr. Fisher stated about \$58,000. Mr. Ford and Mr. Machado stated that sounds high. Mr. Quigley stated that could be right based on total personnel expenses.
- Mr. Ford stated he is really concerned about the kids and does not want to leave Raleigh without having some idea about the action CSAB needs to take.

Motion: 2:12pm. Motion to enter Closed Session to discuss attorney client privilege.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Alex Quigley

Vote: Unanimous

☒ Passed ☐ Failed

Motion: 2:26pm. Motion to adjourn Closed Session.

Motion: Alex Quigley

Second: Cheryl Turner

Vote: Unanimous

☒ Passed ☐ Failed

Motion: The CSAB directs Financial Business Services to place Essie Mae Kiser Foxx on allotment restrictions. The CSAB directs OCS and legal to follow-up with both Essie Mae Kiser Foxx and Torchlight to ensure Essie Mae Kiser Foxx is in compliance with state law, policy, and Charter Agreement.

Motion: Alex Quigley

Second: Steven Walker

Vote: Unanimous

☒ **Passed**

☐ **Failed**

- Mr. Ford asked the board if they understand the motion. Ms. Wallace asked for clarification on the allotment restriction. Mr. Quigley stated they would be on restrictions until the board felt they do not need restricted funds. He explained this helps the school receive only the funding it needs based on enrollment. Mr. Walker stated the school will have the ability to pay the bills but slowly receive monthly rather than large allotments. Mr. Quigley told the school should work closely with OCS and the Financial Business Services office to understand what needs to take place.

READY TO OPEN REPORT

- Dr. Kebbler Williams, OCS Consultant, introduced herself to new board members. Dr. Williams stated that thirteen of the fourteen schools have opened. She stated that TeamCFA Community Public Charter remains to open, but she received their Certificate of Occupancy today and is scheduled to open to students tomorrow.
- Dr. Williams stated that out of the new schools opening this year, only one school met enrollment projections. She stated that school was Hobgood Charter School. She continued to explain that eleven schools are below 75% of their maximum projected enrollment. She stated three schools are below the statutory requirement of eighty students: Tillery Charter Academy, B.L.U.E.-G.R.E.E.N. Academy, and Monroe Charter Academy. She stated eight schools are below their break-even enrollment numbers: B.L.U.E.-G.R.E.E.N. Academy, Discovery Charter School, Pocosin Innovative Charter School, Ridgeview Charter School, Steele Creek Preparatory Academy, TeamCFA Community Public Charter, Tillery Charter Academy, and West Lake Preparatory Academy.
- Dr. Williams stated that two schools have temporary Certificate of Occupancies: B.L.U.E.-G.R.E.E.N. Academy and Southwest Charlotte STEM Academy. She stated she anticipates the schools will do the work needed to obtain final Certificate of Occupancies.
- Dr. Williams stated two schools are planning on mid-year moves to permanent facilities: Apprentice Academy HS of NC and TeamCFA: Bonnie Cone Classical Academy. She stated both schools plan to move to the permanent facilities during winter break and begin classes in January in the new facilities.
- Mr. Walker asked if Tillery Charter Academy is requesting a waiver for the minimum enrollment requirement. Dr. Williams read the law that governs the waiver for minimum enrollment requirements. Dr. Williams stated the law requires the application to contain the

reason for the waiver and Tillery Charter Academy's application did not state a reason for a waiver. Mr. Walker stated they may be able to request an amendment. Mr. Snider stated he could look into that legal question.

- Mr. Walker stated that the schools below 80 students enrolled should come before the CSAB.
- Mr. Ford asked why Movement School East requested a delay due to facility concerns. Dr. Williams stated they identified a facility, but it was not ready to open in 2019 and instead plan to open in August 2020.
- Ms. Reeves asked if amended budgets have been submitted. Dr. Williams stated no. She stated OCS does not typically request revised budgets at this point unless directed by this board.

Motion: If a school's September enrollment number is less than its break-even number, it must submit a revised budget to OCS.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Joel Ford

Vote: Unanimous

☒ **Passed**

☐ **Failed**

Motion: Schools with less than 80 students enrolled (Tillery Charter Academy, B.L.U.E.-G.R.E.E.N. Academy, and Monroe Charter Academy) must appear before CSAB in October.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Joel Ford

Vote: Unanimous

☒ **Passed**

☐ **Failed**

- Dr. Williams asked how the schools should prepare for the October meeting. Mr. Walker stated the board needs to know the most recent enrollment figures with some type of evidence showing the school has met the minimum requirement. He stated the schools need to be able to talk about their budgets. CSAB members requested enrollment break down by grade level with staffing assignments. Dr. Williams asked when the CSAB would like to see the revised budgets – before or at the next meeting. Mr. Walker stated they would like to see the revised budgets before the meeting.

PROPOSED VIRTUAL CHARTER AGREEMENT CHANGES

- Ms. Ashley Baquero, OCS Consultant, discussed needed revisions to the charter agreements for the state's two virtual charter schools. She explained that with the extension of the pilot program, new charter agreements were needed. She explained the revisions including

updating the date, including the new statutory language, and aligning with the current SBE approved charter agreements for all charter schools.

- Mr. Walker stated they are simple technical changes needed to bring the charter agreements up to date.

Motion: Recommend the State Board of Education approve changes to the virtual school charter agreement.

Motion: Sherry Reeves

Second: Lynn Kroeger

Vote: Unanimous

☒ **Passed**

☐ **Failed**

RENEWAL SEASON UPDATE

- Ms. Shaunda Cooper, OCS Consultant, explained the renewal process for charter schools. She explained that there are nineteen 2020 renewal schools. She showed the CSAB the virtual map that outlines the schools' locations. She explained the list of 2020 renewal schools. Ms. Cooper explained the different renewal terms possible for each charter school from ten-year renewals to nonrenewal.
- Mr. Friend asked if there is an order to the school renewal presentations. Ms. Cooper stated that they are presented in renewal group cohorts based on the renewal guidelines.
- Ms. Cooper stated she will give the report in October and the CSAB will decide which schools they would like to see. Mr. Machado stated they hope to vote in December.

NC ACCESS TIMELINE, REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS, AND RUBRIC APPROVAL

- Mr. Jay Whalen, NC ACCESS Grant Director, explained revisions to the current NC ACCESS timeline, request for applications, and rubric. He stated nine schools were awarded subgrants for the first application cycle. He spoke about reimbursements and the fellowship program.
- Mr. Whalen spoke about flexibility within the grant program. He stated the timeline has been revised based on feedback from applicants and team debriefs. He explained the new timeline. He discussed the major changes to the application including expanding page limit, splitting the application into three major sections and better alignment with the rubric. He stated there are more specifics regarding enrollment projections and weighted lottery.

Motion: Recommend the State Board of Education approve changes to the NC ACCESS timeline, request for applications, and rubric.

Motion: Lindalyn Kakadelis

Second: Sherry Reeves

Vote: Unanimous

☒ **Passed**

☐ **Failed**

2018 PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK REPORT

- Mr. Joseph Letterio, OCS Consultant, introduced the 2018 Performance Framework Report. Mr. Letterio described the SBE goals related to charter schools. Mr. Letterio outlined the operational and financial accountability goals for charter schools and the percent that met or exceeded goals.
- Mr. Letterio stated that all eleven renewal schools met compliance goals. Mr. Letterio relayed financial compliance data received from the school business division. Mr. Letterio explained the academic outcomes based on accountability data from the 2017-18 school year. Mr. Letterio explained results from subgroup data.

Motion: Recommend the State Board of Education approve the 2018 Performance Framework Report.

Motion: Sherry Reeves

Second: Lynn Kroeger

Vote: Unanimous

☒ **Passed**

☐ **Failed**

ETHICS TRAINING

- Mr. Eric Snider, SBE Attorney, conducted ethics training. Mr. Snider spoke about public records, open meetings, and closed session procedures. He also spoke about ethics and conduct.

COMMITTEE WORK PLANNING

- Mr. Quigley stated there are two projects the CSAB would like to tackle this year: a review of the charter agreement and the ready-to-open process. Mr. Walker asks that if board members have suggestions about changes to the charter agreement, please relay those to Mr. Walker.
- Ms. Kakadelis stated her committee will receive more information about the ready-to-open process.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION/CSAB MEETING ADMIN UPDATES

- Ms. Patricia Nnadi-Purvis explained new reimbursement procedures for the board members.
- Mr. Dave Machado gave an overview of recent SBE approvals. He stated Envision Science Academy was recently recognized for STEM education.

ADJOURNMENT

- **Mr. Walker made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:04 pm. Mr. Ford seconded. Unanimous approval.**