



The Roger Bacon Academy

NC State Board of Education Monthly Meeting - July 6, 2017

The notes below reflect the observations of Lindalyn Kakadelis, Senior Consultant with NC Education Strategies employed by The Roger Bacon Academy, Inc. We post Mrs. Kakadelis' notes as a service to interested educators, parents, and community members. These notes are not official minutes of the NCSBE or NCCSAB nor do they necessarily reflect the opinions of RBA or its staff.

Agenda & Handouts: July 6, 2017

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I. Welcome

Board Chairman Cobey welcomed Geoff Coltrane, [Gov. Cooper's Senior Education Advisor](#), to the meeting. Coltrane comes to the Gov's office from the NC School of Science & Math in Durham. His appointment was made June 2017.

II. State Superintendent's Report

- Online testing - Superintendent Johnson reported there was a 47% increase with online testing this year. He stated it is a trend we need to watch and evaluate. The results were easier to get back to teachers, but some students may not do as well on computer given assessments.
- Seven NC rural Superintendents received an [award](#) from the Friday Institute for Educational Innovation at NC State's College of Education. They were selected for accomplishments in improving student learning & implementing digital age approaches to teaching and learning.
- Superintendent Johnson recognized United Health Care for donating 2,000 books to the "Reach Out and Read" program.
- He attended an event for the 180 cooperative high schools. Best practices were shared between schools. Superintendent Johnson hopes this initiative of high school students receiving both a high school diploma and an associate degree from a community college continues to grow.
- He congratulated the [Daniel Center](#) for their first high school graduates and praised their work with at-risk students in afterschool programs.
- He congratulated two North Carolina students for winning the US Microsoft Office Specialist competition award. These two winners will be attending the World Competition later this year.
- He also showed a video of a [CTE Woodworking Class in Dare County](#). Superintendent Johnson highlighted this innovative class/school that received a grant allowing the CTE woodworking class to make furniture art classes designed.

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The Three Laws

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- SLA 4 – Global-Ready school & Global-Ready District Rubric Enhancements
This agenda item makes recommendations to align the Global-Ready School & District implementation rubrics with the SBE adopted Digital Learning Plan. This will be voted on in August. No discussion.
- SLA 5 – Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Draft Plan
 - DPI presented recommendations implemented in the new draft (#4) of NC’s ESSA plan. DPI explained the “Theory of Action.” Center of the plan focuses on “Personalized Learning.” [Research on this method is mixed and finds that “implementation and effects both seemed stronger in charter schools than in the district schools.” Meanwhile, DPI wants the SBE to implement method statewide.]
 - Accountability in ESSA will include separate school grades for reading & mathematics. There will also be grades for major ethnic groups, students with disabilities, English learners & economically disadvantaged. Schools need 30 students in a particular subgroup before reporting the performance of the subgroup.
 - The plan now includes the interim progress and long-term goals - 10-year improvement plan. There was much discussion due to the annual goals being weak. VChair Collins specifically mentioned that after 10 years DPI only expects 53.1% of Blacks to score College and Career proficient on 3-8th grade Math EOG. Board Member Oxendine asked how the increase percentages were developed? DPI said they took the current year baseline and then tried to be realistic and close the gap while increasing the performance for all. She suggested looking at previous trend lines to determine future trends.
 - DPI reviewed the timeline for SBE approval in September. The newest draft is posted on line and DPI is currently receiving public comment.
 - The State’s ESSA plan is expected to be a living document and the USDOE is developing a process for states to amend the document.
 - There was a long discussion regarding the difference between Personalized Educational Plan (PEP) & personalized learning. DPI stated the teacher controls PEP, while the student controls personalized learning. This shifts the responsibility from the teacher to the student, while at the same time the teacher is responsible to make sure the learner is on track.
 - Several board members expressed concern of this new method being implemented without the necessary professional development. [Time will tell, but I don’t think this has been well thought out and agree with the critical need of professional development. Why doesn’t DPI pilot this in various districts before going statewide? Is this simply more symbolism over substance?]
 - Nancy Barbour, Director of District & School Transformation, presented the plan’s support for low performing schools. There are two classifications of intervention: Comprehensive Support & Improvement (CSI) and Targeted Support & Improvement (TSI).
 - CSI works with lowest performing Title I schools and high schools with the lowest graduation rates. TSI schools are described as have “consistently underperforming subgroups.”

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- CSI schools will be determined in 2018-19. TSI schools will be determined in 2019-20. Additional support will be determined for TSI schools in 2021-22.
[Can't these schools be determined now from previous performance? Why wait to assist schools? Seems we are always kicking the "can down the road." It will be interesting to see the comments made by the USDOE's review after it is submitted in September. I agree with what charter operators said at a work session regarding ESSA, "Unless there are consequences to failing, there are no incentives to improve." The ESSA plan has few consequences]

C. Education Innovation & Charter Schools Committee (EICS)

Action:

- EICS 1 – Restart Applications for the Restart Reform Model

No Discussion – Passed Unanimously

These are 21 recurring low-performing schools asking for SBE approval to adopt the "Restart" model. This is one of the [four school improvement model](#) options. There is a concern of how many schools are now requesting this model. There are currently over 122 schools using this model. These schools can operate under the same flexibility as charter schools. There is a concern regarding the monitoring of these schools and their continued alignment with initiatives stated in their application.

[If these schools want the same flexibility as charters, I suggest they also submit to the mandates of reporting and funding as charters. I wonder if their application is like the charter application? It would be interesting to see this group go before the SBE using the same application and renewal process of charter schools. However, I doubt this process would have the same results unless everyone realizes the school **WILL be closed** unless there is significant improvement!]

Action on First Reading:

- EICS 2 – Ready-to-open Recommendations for Schools Opening in 2017

No Discussion – Passed Unanimously

The 7 charter schools scheduled to open fall 2017 submit a "Ready-to-Open" (RTO) report to the Office of Charter Schools. The CSAB heard from six of the schools that were rated "insufficient." All schools were granted approval by the CSAB to continue their progression towards opening in 2017.

- EICS 3 – Request for Decreased Initial Allotment by Unity Classical School: A Challenge Foundation Academy

No Discussion – Passed Unanimously

This change in the original charter of the school required approval by the SBE. It is to decrease the initial funding allotment (ADM) from 207 students to 138 students.

- EICS 4 – Stipulation Recommendation for Heritage Collegiate Leadership Academy

No Discussion – Passed Unanimously

The CSAB heard from this school at their June meeting and placed 10 stipulations on the school due to low performance and non-compliance on various financial and operational reports. The school is in danger of having their charter revoked. [This is the CSAB & SBE's opportunity to give the school a chance to improve before revoking the charter.]

- EICS 11 – Approval of State Board of Education Appointee to the Charter Schools Advisory Board
No Discussion – Passed Unanimously
Alex Quigley is recommended to be the SBE’s appointment to the CSAB. This is a 4-year appointment. The NC House originally appointed Quigley, but his appointment ended June 2017. He will continue on the CSAB due to SBE’s appointment.

Discussion:

- EICS 5 – Recommended Changes to Charter School Finance & Governance Noncompliance Policy
These recommendations are coming from the Office of Charter Schools and CSAB to align with state statute and DPIs processes. Proposed recommendations will provide extended flexibility in addressing charter financial & governance noncompliance. SBE will vote on this policy change in August.
- EICS 6 – Recommendation for Monroe Charter School Application
Moved to Action on First Read - Passed Unanimously
This charter application was originally approved by the CSAB but questioned by the SBE. The SBE sent it back to the CSAB for further review. The CSAB reconsidered the Monroe Charter application and heard again from the application’s board. CSAB voted 7-3 to recommend the application to be approved. Representatives from CSAB asked the SBE to move this to Action on First Read so the applicant could immediately begin action for opening the school and be on the same timeline as other approved applications
- EICS 7 – Restart Applications for the Restart Reform Model
Two Craven County Schools are applying for the restart reform model. The SBE will vote on these applications in August.
- EICS 8 – Aristotle Charter School Request to Contract with AAC
This charter school is asking the SBE for approval to amend their original charter. The charter school in Mecklenburg County would like to enter into contract with a new charter management company, Achievement for All Children (AAC). This is a newly formed management company. SBE decided to have a subcommittee (Collins, Taylor, White) to bring a recommendation to the August meeting. This agenda item will be voted on in August.

Information:

- EICS 9 – Launch of the NC Achievement (Innovation) School District
 - The General Assembly passed the creation of the [Achievement School District in 2016](#). SBE hired [Dr. Eric Hall](#) as the Superintendent of this “district” and the name has been changed to the “Innovation School District.”
 - An Innovative school is a low-performing school operated by a qualified charter or educational management organization as authorized by the SBE. The Innovation Zone is a group of low-performing schools in a LEA (where an Innovative School is established) that can be granted additional flexibility to engage non-traditional practices designed to promote student achievement.
 - Dr. Hall described the process for selecting the 5 low-performing elementary schools and establishing the Innovative School District. These schools must be performing in the lowest 5% of all elementary schools in the state.

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[Dr. Hall delivered an informative presentation on the development of this new concept. I wish him the best. Working with the local Board and finding a charter management company to take over a low performing school is not going to be an easy task. The management company gets a minimum of 5 years to work with the school, with an option to operate an additional 3 years if student & school outcomes are improving. After that time the school returns back to the control of the local board if they choose. The management company may apply to convert the school to a charter school ONLY if the local board approves. Why would the local board allow the school to become a charter if the management company turns academic performance around? This will be interesting to watch and see which management companies will take over these low performing schools under the authority of the Innovative School Superintendent.]

D. Educator Standards & Practices Committee (ES&P)

Action:

- ES&P 1 – Amendment to the Licensure Renewal Requirements Policy: Continuing Ed Units
No Discussion – Passed Unanimously
DPI recommends changing the number of required Continuing Education Units (CEUs) to eight instead of the current requirement of fifteen units. This also gives principals the authority to prescribe specific CEUs for teachers with performance issues.

Action on First Reading:

- ES&P 2 – Educator Preparation Program Approvals
No Discussion – Passed Unanimously
SBE continues to approve the Institutions of Higher Ed (IHEs) descriptions of current and new programs. More than 1200 educator preparation program are being reviewed and approved by SBE between Jan – Aug 2017.

Discussion:

- ES&P 3 – Amendment to Licensure Testing Requirements Policy – LICN-003
DPI is recommending SBE’s approval on this policy. This amendment will establish the ending date of a school year to be June 30th for licensure purposes.
- ES&P 4 – Amendment to General Licensure Requirements Policy: LICN-001
DPI is recommending SBE’s approval in allowing an individual to apply for an initial teaching license once all testing and/or coursework requirements have been met.

E. Healthy Responsible Students (HRS)

Action on First Reading:

- HRS 1 – Middle School Athletic Manual Updates
Passed Unanimously
DPI seeks SBE approval for the changes to the Middle School Athletic Manual. Major changes include compliance items aligning with the Gfeller-Waller Concussion Awareness Act. The manual is updated online.
- HRS 2 – Request for SBE Approval of Rutherford County BOE Resolution to Establish & Implement A Pilot Program to Raise the Compulsory Attendance Age
Passed Unanimously
Rutherford County joins Hickory and Newton Conover City Districts in this pilot program rising the compulsory attendance age from 16 to 18 years. According to session law, the

district must present a resolution from the local board asking for SBE approval before implementing the program.

V. Chairman’s Comments

A. Legislative Update

Cecilia Holden, SBE’s Legislative Director, gave an [overview of the 2017 Session](#). Eighteen bills have already been signed into law. Thirty-three bills were folded into the budget bill. Twenty-one bills have passed the General Assembly waiting for the Governor’s signature. Three bills have been sent to conference and can be brought back up for a vote during the special sessions in August and September. The above link covers each of these bills.

[Please call me if you have any questions on specific bills. 704-231-9767]

Adjourn: 3:20

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