



The Roger Bacon Academy

NC Charter School Advisory Board Meeting

August 9, 2016

Conference call meeting (6 members present in room)

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:

<https://eboard.eboardsolutions.com/Meetings/ViewMeetingOrder.aspx?S=10399&MID=2642>

II. School Updates

- Rocky Mount Prep – www.rmprep.org
 - New Headmaster – Dr. Todd Pipkin
 - School had 20-25 folks attending in support
 - Discussed Academic Changes; New Mission statement; New Website
 - Discussed major changes in curricula
 - Alex Quigley asked about curricula review and specificity.
 - Chaute Garrett, Chief Academic Officer stated the reviews were not completed
 - Alex Quigley suggested setting actual dates of implementation, and performance metrics – actual numbers. Targeted goals stated.
 - Tony Helton – asked about schools 2015-16 performance. The data is embargoed until next month's State Board meeting. BUT staff said the data is “not good.”
 - **MOTION:** Recommend accepting Academic Report with recommended changes regarding specifics. No need to come again to the Advisory Board since the school is up for the renewal cycle this fall.
- Northeast Academy for Aerospace & Advance Technologies- www.northeastacademy.org
 - School had 3 administrators, two board members present
 - Jeff Dixon – attended, on board, and is a Pasquotank County Commissioner
 - The school's original charter included an extremely strong partnership with NC New Schools. Earlier this year, NC New Schools abruptly closed, and the partnership ended. The school is asking the Advisory Board to accept the amended changes to the original charter. The school hired several of the former NC New School employees to carry out the original vision of the school. The mission of the school stayed the same.
 - **MOTION:** Accept the revisions.

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The Three Laws

Law 1 - Reward good behavior,
you'll get more of it.

Law 2 - Teach to mastery,
every child will learn.

Law 3 - Watch the children,
*if they are not learning or behaving,
you're not following the first two laws.*

III. Fast Track Replication Discussion

- Review of policy
- Review of Report to JLEOC
- Effective for the next round of applications
- Discussion:
 - Alex Quigley & Steven Walker: need to expedite process
 - Staff: Significant changes to application could take a long time to post online.
 - Alex Quigley: Do we need to do the same application?
 - Tony Helton: If it were replication, would it not be the same? The application should look like a duplication of the working school. If these are successful operators, does it have to go through the same process?
 - Alex Quigley: If this is a successful school external review not necessary; however, if it is a new management company it needs to go through existing process.
 - Steven Walker: Let's go through this round then review
 - Staff: Application deadline Sept. 16 and State Board approval no later than Oct. 15
- **MOTION:** Specify dates for this round of applications– 2017-18 school year.
- Discussion:
 - Staff: There are currently 2 applicants, both EMOs operating in NC right now
 - Tony Helton: If a Board in one end of the state wants to replicate a school at the other end – can both schools be run by the same board?
 - Alex Quigley– Yes, Boards can manage multiple schools in different locations. They would need to justify how they involve the public at each location in their meetings.
 - Alex Quigley: Very favorable to have experience boards on these Fast Tracks.

IV. 2016 Application Updates

- See power point presentation by Deanna Townsend-Smith from agenda online:
https://eboard.eboardsolutions.com/meetings/TempFolder/Meetings/2016%20Application%20Update_611493gk21vjdwrsl11jotpmz0yb.pdf
 Deadline: Sept. 16
 Currently 27 applications, expecting more – one conversion of a private school to a charter school

V. Information Agenda (Aug. State Board Meeting Update)

- Interscholastic Sports – 6th graders can participate in all sports EXCEPT football
- Next month at State Bd meeting:
 - Virtual Charter presentation
 - Amendment request from Charter USA to amend their EMO agreement, but have rescinded request. Request included language about receiving bond financing in case of closure.
- Discussion
 - Alex Quigley: We need to discuss the situation regarding the recommendations that went to the State Board last week. I made the presentation on Wednesday expecting the Board to accept all of our recommendations. I was not present on Thursday when the Board rejected 5 of our recommendations to approve. This is different; there has been precedence in sending decisions back, but not in denying what we approved.

- [Alex made strong statements regarding the importance of split decisions. He felt the State Bd made the “safest” decision possible, BUT we cannot avoid failure if we are asking for innovation. It is always a risk to try something new and different. He stated, “ Don’t want to see the State Board begin to only approve unanimous decisions – or have threshold super majority – that is NOT my recommendation- LK]
- Alex Quigley: Lee Teague has asked to address this board – and since he is the ED of the Association of Charter Schools – I thought it would be OK – does anyone have a problem with this? - No objection
- Lee Teague: Summarized comments: Two Problems:
 1. This move is breaking with precedence. This board has strong expertise in charter schools – the State Board has not taken the time to review each application.
 2. Without any inquiry or no due process - The State Board can disregard your recommendations and the charter applicants have nowhere to turn.

This is very troubling and does politics need to get involve with the decision-making? If this State Board is going to override your recommendations, should applicants hire lobbyist? I am asking:

1. Find out - Why were your recommendations disregarded?
2. Find a way for schools to have a hearing to State Board members, if you approve the application and the State Board denies the charter

- Steven Walker: This Board has made recommendations through 4 rounds of applications and none of our recommendations have closed. I have confidence in the strength of this board. I am concerned that the State Board and the public may not be aware of the superb expertise of this board, or the extensive amount of time this board takes to review the applications. This is why I would like for us to affirm this resolution.

- **MOTION:** Resolution stating each member’s expertise in the area of charter schools and amount of work required making the last round of recommendations. 10 Members voted to accept – Cheryl Turner recused since she is the State Board’s appointee. Resolution can be found: https://eboard.eboardsolutions.com/meetings/TempFolder/Meetings/CSAB%202016%20Resolution_612873gk21vjdwrsl11jotpmz0yb.pdf

VI. Planning for the Sept. Meeting

- Update on all new charter schools to be open this fall: 11 new schools, all scheduled to open on time.
- Discussion held on schools getting a year delay:
 - SW: Letter they receive stating if they do not have CO by July1, their charter is revoked. Need to change wording. This sees harsh.
 - DM: Would like to see some wiggle room. However, we want to make sure they are on target to open.
- **MOTION:** If a school receives a year delay, they should acquire CO on/before July 1. If the school has not received a CO by that date, then school needs to report to the CSAB details of not obtaining the CO. Passed.

Next Meeting

- September 12, 2016
 - Strategic Calendar , School update, Application update, Performance Framework update

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