



The Roger Bacon Academy

NC Charter School Advisory Board Meeting September 12, 2016

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=2641>

II. Tom Winton, NC Gov's School Report

- Powerpoint presentation describing the admission process and education philosophy used at the Gov's school.
 - Three areas of instruction: Academic & Arts, Philosophical Thinking, Personal Reflection
 - Cost: \$500 per student, responsibility of nominating entity, scholarships available
 - Process begins in September – Nominating Packages sent to schools
 - It was said several times – this school is highly selective and “cherry picks”
 - Charter schools: last year 68 nominated; 24 accepted – 35% acceptance rate (same as system schools.)

III. State Bd. Updates

- MTSS (Multi-Tiered system of Support)
 - Amy Jablonski – Director, Integrated Academic & Behavior Systems
 - Extensive report, new process for identifying EC students.
 - Impacts the whole school – data implementation looks at inputs rather than outputs.
 - Total school improvement piece – 3 tiered instruction/intervention
 - Recently finished Cohort 1&2 – 1065 schools (8 charters)
 - Only 16.8% completed the evaluation survey (not mandated)
 - Discussion:
 - Joe Maimone: Mentioned the “39” steps for identification of student – this system includes too much paperwork, many charter schools do not have help of a “central office.” Struggle for priority: help student, do paperwork. PLEASE SIMPLIFY PAPERWORK!
 - Dave Machado: Lincoln Charter was in cohort #2 – process helped with identification.
- State Board approved 2015-16 Testing Data
 - Presentation by Deanna Townsend-Smith. See Charter Report:
https://eboard.eboardsolutions.com/meetings/TempFolder/Meetings/CharterDataSummary2016_Final_09112016_63023tcbzvscbfsydj0wwogvlats0.pdf

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- Charter schools have more A's B's and F's; less C's; about the same D's as system schools.
- 14 "F" Charter Schools - Two of those charters revoked this year.
- 32 charter schools (out of 158; 20%) classified "Low-performing" this year.
- 72% of system schools met or exceeded growth (EVAAS)
- 82% of charter schools met or exceeded growth (EVAAS)
- Quoted 2013 Stanford University Center for Research on Education Outcomes (CREDO) Charter School Growth & Replication Study: *"for most charter schools their ultimate success or failure can be predicted by year three of a school's life."*
- Summary of report found:
<https://credo.stanford.edu/pdfs/CGAR%20Growth%20Executive%20Summary.pdf>
- Presentation highlighted charter schools opened in 2013; 2014; 2015 and plotted their School Performance Grade.
- Presentation the 32 Charter schools planned for 2017 renewal process. Five of these schools were low performing. (D-F schools)
- Reviewed the 11 Charter schools planned for 2018 renewal process. One school was low performing (F School)
- Steven Walker: There are NO "F" schools from any charters approved by this Board since we begin in 2014.

- Items of Attention from September State Board's meeting:

- Union County Charter School received recognition on being a 2016 State and National School of Character
- Approved Amendment Request from Northeast Aerospace & Advance Technology Charter School
- Approved JLEOC Report & Recommendation on Fast-Track Replication of High-Quality Charter Schools
- Approved revised academic improvement plan for Rocky Mount Preparatory Academy
- Both Virtual Schools gave update and information on final ADM numbers and withdrawal data.

IV. Policy Committee Report – Two discussion items

- Should Charter schools be eligible to gain alternative school status?
 - SBE Policy GCS-Q-001
 - Discussion:
 - Joe Maimone: How many of the 14 "F" schools might be eligible for "Alternative Status?" [That question was never answered.]
 - Steven Walker: We should look at the policy to frame the issue. Right now there are not any charter schools with this status. A charter school could apply for this status, but according to the policy they would give up their flexibility regarding certified and licensed teachers. With this status charter schools must have 100% of their teacher licensed and this could cause a hardship. Does that need to be changed in policy? However, a charter with this status could use the Alternative School Accountability Model. The school could develop their own alternative accountability model and present their proposal to the State Board for approval.

- Deanna Townsend-Smith: There is ONE charter, Commonwealth High School in Charlotte, not mandated to have 100% licensed teachers due to legislation allowing them to be a pilot. They also were not included in the SPG for one year only.
 - Steven Walker: This policy is 12 years old – ripe to review. I am torn about the language we might use for the parameters of an alternative status. Maybe, if the words “dropout prevention” were used in their charter application they would receive “alternative” status. If a school’s mission is to accept students who have already dropped out, it would be “odd” if they did not receive an “F” for their SPG. Maybe we should mirror what traditional schools use for their definitions. However, will ESSA make this a non-issue in a few years? Maybe we should say if a school desires alternative status they put it in their application, or amend their charter.
 - Cheryl Turner: This would need to be monitored so the school stays consistent with their charter if they receive “alternative” status.
 - Joe Maimone: I think it is critically important that we offer this status, and we need to give flexibility regarding the mandate for 100% licensed teachers. I would think they could use more staff geared towards psychology. Especially if it is a dropout prevention program. I agree that we should monitor to make sure the school stays married with their definition in their charter.
 - Tony Helton: It is wrong to mandate 100% of teachers licensed, when as charters we are given flexibility. That aspect is what makes us a charter.
 - Steven Walker: Present state – charter schools have the ability to obtain this status, but let’s work on a policy that reflects what we are talking about.
 - Alex Quigley: Let’s make sure “alternative” does not mean the school has a “unique” mission.
 - Steven Walker: We need to make recommendations and the CSAB needs to take a stand on this issue.
- Collection & Calculation Method of Charter School Per Pupil Share
 - New Policy based on GS115C-218-105(d)
 - Discussion:
 - Steven Walker: Some have been thinking, having a template for LEAs compiling financial information would be a good idea. This way each LEAs reporting will be similar. So CSAB should discuss. Having LEAs give their annual county supplemental tax, total current expenses, 20 day average, other funds coming, federal grants – whole idea with the program evaluation on local funding. Tom Miller has done a lot of work on this too. The problem is we don’t KNOW what is shared with charter schools? What is the idea you have, Schauss?
 - Alexis Schauss: This is more procedural than the policy itself and will come through the Financial Accountability based on their financial statement. It will not be the same for everyone.
 - Steven Walker: The legislature wanted to know how much is in the shared fund – in other words – how much is not in Fund 2 vs. Fund 8
 - Cheryl Turner: CMS simply started with a number – I have no idea how they got that number. The information was of no use to me. What CMS gave us does not tell us anything.
 - Steven Walker: This is the information that the General Assembly wants to know before they pass the Charter School Equal Funding bill and no one was able to provide solid concrete numbers. So Schauss – can we get some detail information from the LEA - the Office of

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Charter Schools is not in this position to validate any of this financial information. 115 LEAs submitting, will this tell if they are compliant?

- Alexis Schauss: This is a financial statement – numbers that are uniform – student count information.
- Joe Maimone: How in the world - for 12 years LEAs can keep the money from following the kids – so there is a simple message – HOW do we fix it? One of the problems is the contention with billing the LEA. Charter Schools are seen as an expense line item.
- Tony Helton: Yes, there is friction between the school and LEA – maybe we could get the county commission to send money. Maybe we can fix it in a more congenial manner.
- Steven Walker: We do not need to take any action, but get ideas to Schauss.

VI. Performance Committee

- Application System went down and applications could not be submitted.
 - Maimone: There were issues last week when the application system went down. So the office of Charter Schools would like to extend the deadline for submitting charter applications by three days. The State Board has to set the timeline, so we must ask the State Board for approval. Maybe we can get discretionary approval if this type of situation happens again.
 - **Motion:** ask State Bd. to extend deadline.
- Discussion of expectations regarding charters that are delayed a year.
 - Maimone: This is the Letter we want to present to the State Board. We discussed changes to this letter at our last meeting due to this letter stating if the charter board did not have a Certificate of Occupancy by July 1, their charter would be void. We decided the charter board would be able to come explain to us (CSAB) why they did not have their CO, and their plan to get one.
 - Walker: Do we need a “sworn affidavit?” If we get something from the building contractor – I think that would be enough. Also, in the one-year delay, is their ADM limited to year one or year two? [not answered definitely]
 - CSAB agreed to remove “notarized affidavit.”
 - **Motion:** moved to send the letter as a recommendation to the State Board.
- Changes in the state “growth” accountability model.
 - Joe Maimone: I would like to ask for a report from the Accountability Division of DPI on the changes in the state “growth” accountability model. I do not understand the changes that were made at the “11th hour.” I also have to say, I spent a year on the State Assessment Committee and the committee wanted a model with a true national norm comparison. DPI “trumped” the study committee and wrote their recommendations, not the committee. I want that on the record.
 - Deana Townsend-Smith: When the test scores were originally released SAS and the Accountability Division found errors and this is what happened 2-3 days before the test scores were released, and the scores were changed.

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VIII. School Updates

- North East Carolina Preparatory School - <http://necprepschool.com>
 - New Executive Director – as of June – Thomas Schuck – made lots of changes. “Now on right track”
 - Next year this school will be in the “renewal process.”
- ZECA - <http://www.zecaschoolofhearts.com>
 - Jacksonville, NC – Ms. Stacey Owens-Howard
 - Currently working with Charter Success regarding finances and Tom Miller consulting on governance and academics. It has been three months since last report. They have a large at-risk population. Met growth but very low proficiency numbers. [Members of the CSAB – very concerned over lots of issues- LK]
- Thunderbird Preparatory Academy - <http://www.thunderbirdprep.org/>
 - Dr. Emanuel Vincent
 - Administration invited Tom Miller as a consultant to the school, taken care of issues - mold, pest control
 - The biggest issue is the number of students. Projection was 400 students, but actual ADM is 150-160 students. Lots of discussion about CSAB’s revocation and the affect on school. Lower enrollment than anticipated.

XI. Performance Framework Update

- Presentation from Cande Honeycutt
- Reasons for Performance Framework (PF)
 - Clear & Consistent Annual Measure of Performance, Provide Feedback & Transparency, Outline Performance over time, State Bd.’s Strategic Plan – Goals & Objective
 - Looks at three areas: Academic, Operational & Financial
- 2016 Statewide Implementation and Data Review
 - CSAB is presented the PF first, and then give to State Bd. for approval & publication.
 - Financial Compliance – 88% of schools in compliance
 - Academic Compliance – 24% of schools in compliance [Major problem regarding way of determining “compliance”]
 - Measures on State Board’s Strategic Plan:
 - Measure 2.4.1a: Percentage of charter schools at or above 60% on EOG &EOC’s scoring levels 4 & above – Actual 37.3%; State Bd. Target for 2016 – 43.0%
 - Measure 2.4.1b: Percentage of charter schools at or above 60% on EOG &EOC’s scoring level 3 & above – Actual 58.2%; State Bd. Target for 2016 - 58%
 - Measure 2.4.2 – Percentage of charter schools meeting or exceeding expected annual academic growth – 67.7%; State Bd. Target for 2016 – 75%
 - Measure 2.4.3: Percentage of charter schools meeting or exceeding all financial & operational goals as measure by the Office of Charter School’s performance framework – (Not available yet)
- Discussion (over an hour)
 - Steven Walker: Commented on the fact that the report was 963 pages long. He thanked the Office of Charter schools, but felt this was WAY too much expected from the office and schools. Why was this necessary since the schools already comply with an audit? Feel we are “building the plane, while flying.”

- Cande Honeycutt: This is highly efficient way to provide data over years. However, Next year the PF will have fewer items because they will move to the audit
- Cheryl Turner: I never agreed to the subgroups' performance being used to determine "compliance." Why are we doing this? Having such a high percentage of "out-of compliance" schools is NOT accurate and NOT productive for PR.
- Steve Walker: Whole idea of the Framework is a BAD idea. #1 complaint from schools is the PF, Schools already do a LGC audit; state grades the school with a performance grade, and now they have the PF.
- Deanna Townsend-Smith: This is information we have always collected. We understand the concerns of the board. We are trying to be more compliant to the State Board. We are not in any way trying to portray schools in a particular fashion, than what they are. We are trying to meet the needs of everyone. The Office gets calls from parents appreciating the transparency of the Framework. We want to present information in a consistent manor.
- Cheryl Turner: With the way you report, you have almost 80% of charter schools "not compliant" with academic performance. That is a huge PR problem. This goes way beyond statute or strategic plan requirements.
- Dave Machado: We know the timing to collect the information from schools was not the best this year. I think this board has a problem with the word "compliance" and "non-compliance" in rating the schools and the subgroup performance. The OFC needs to review the wording.
- Cande Honeycutt: The Board requested the subgroup reporting
- Cheryl Turner: I don't mind reporting we have always done that; I do not want it listed on a report as Non-compliant.
- Steven Walker: Motion to the State Board that we remove the Performance Framework from the strategic plan for charter schools [Great motion – Never voted on- LK]
- Deanna Townsend-Smith: Is there a way for us to handle that component and still have all relevant data when requested. This report goes to the State Bd. next month for approval. Recommendation of what you want us to do.
- Alex Quigley: The subgroup data has been reported. Do not understand why it is reported again? Maybe we need to go to the State Board and explain our reasoning. Not simply send a request to do away with the PF.
- Martez Hill: If this board wants to do away with the performance framework, then you must come up with something to satisfy the State Bd.'s strategic plan. We are all in support of transparency. Present it in a way the State Board will accept.
- Steven Walker: Charter schools operated 17 years without the PF.
- Alex Quigley: Steven and I can go present to the State Board the reasons for possibly not requiring this type of PF, and ask them specifically what are they trying to achieve in their strategic plan.
- Martez Hill: State Bd. has authority for monitoring charter school.
- Deanna Townsend-Smith: Data is already collected for every school, every year. We want to provide the most relevant data, there was not an efficient way. We decide to go to the school and gather the information.
- Alex Quigley: Can we have some revisions on how the data is reported and bring it back to us in Oct. before the State Board votes on the report?
- Deanna Townsend-Smith: Statue does not require a time. Can we hold off until November?

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- StevenWalker: Martez, can we ask the State Board to remove it from their agenda until we have a chance to talk with them? Let’s go and talk to the State Board about the Performance Framework, and discuss with the Office of Charter the reporting issues.
- [CSAB will review and discuss more at a later meeting, meanwhile the report may be pulled from State Board agenda for October.- LK]

XII – Vice Chair Nominations

- Joe Maimone was nominated, but refused since he lives so far from Raleigh.
- Steven Walker was nominated, accepted and confirmed as Vice Chair.

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