



The Roger Bacon Academy

NC State Board of Education – September Meeting Wednesday Aug. 31, 2016 – Thursday Sept. 1, 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:

Aug 31: <https://eboard.eboardsolutions.com/Meetings/ViewMeetingOrder.aspx?S=10399&MID=2678>

Sept 1: <https://eboard.eboardsolutions.com/Meetings/ViewMeetingOrder.aspx?S=10399&MID=2681>

Aug .31 Notes:

Committee Reports

II. A. Educator Standards & Practices

- *ES&P 1* – Educator Preparation (Approved on Thursday) The “new” requirements in state statute for Educator preparation programs were presented. Students in Ed program will now have to take a “pedagogy assessment” on top of the “content assessment.” DPI recommended the edTPA developed by Stanford University (Linda Darling-Hammond). Fee is \$300. See: http://www.edtpa.com/PageView.aspx?f=GEN_AboutEdTPA.html Lots of new requirements were in HB 97 (Appropriations Bill over 400 pages)
- *ES&P 2* – General Licensure Requirements – (Approved on Thursday) Changes to “Continuing Licensing” – every 5 years
- *ES&P 3* – Exceptions from Licensing Requirements (Approved on Thursday) Policy includes ways a teacher can get a waiver from the requirement or an extension of time to obtain licensing. Another policy allows schools of ed to request exceptions to testing requirements on behalf of students.
- *ES&P 4* – Beginning Teacher Support Program— DPI separated the policies and procedures – developed a handbook for LEAs. Each LEA has to develop their own programs – based upon these documents.
- *ES&P 5* – Adjunct instructor policy – Allows for HUGE flexibility in hiring teachers for the Career & Technology courses. If they teach no more than 10 hours a week – they do not have to obtain teaching licensing.

New Business (lots of new items due to legislation)

- Licensure Exam Cost – (I don't think they included the cost for the NEW pedagogy assessment recently added to state statute.) - Cost to teach in NC: \$333 - \$558

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The Three Laws

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- RFP for Local Alternative Teacher Prep Programs (LATP Programs) Came about through the General Assembly. Want to open up ways to increase retention of lateral entry teachers in classrooms. State Bd will select 5 LATP programs for approval by March 15. Programs must come from LEAs.
- RFP criteria for Teacher Compensation Models & Advanced Teaching Roles. General Assembly directed - DPI will select 10 LEAs to participate in the pilot program. 3-yr pilot program to develop advanced teaching roles & organizational models that link teacher performance & professional growth to salary increases for classroom teachers (\$9.8 million for grants to LEA).
- New Mentor Requirements: Support for New Teachers- DPI's presentation of their interpretation of the law – showed how it would be impossible for implementation.
 - Gregory Alcorn: Give principals authority to interpret law and implement – look at the spirit of the law – talk to who sponsored the bill.

IIB – Business Operations Committee

- *BSOP 1* – Restart School Funding Model (Approved on Thursday) Ten low performing schools have been approved for “Restart” model
 - Fund as Charter School: without transportation funds, EC & LEP funds included. Restart Model provides the same exemptions as a Charter School. Establish a new program report code for tracking expenditures.
- *BSOP 2* – Title V – State Abstinence Ed Grant (Approved on Thursday)
 - Fed - \$2.5 million; State – \$1.1 million
 - Grants given to 28 LEAs – \$1.4 million given to counties (not sure if any money can be given to Charters – or included in Charter allocations) [Probably do not want this money, too many strings attached - LK]
- *BSOP 3* – State Personnel Development Grant - NC SIP (NC State Improvement Project) – EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN'S DIVISION (Approved on Thursday)
 - Federal Funds - \$7.4 million over 5 years beginning in 2016
 - To improve the quality of teachers' instructional competencies – to impact students' academic performance (STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES)
 - No charters were mentioned in this grant.
- *BSOP 4* – Biennial Expansion Budget Request: Beginning discussions regarding the budget request for 2017 session. Price wants input from State Bd. for budget request to the Office of State Budget & Management. OSBM said agency should submit reductions of 2% of the 2016-17 budget (adjusted for non-recurring items) Agency can only requested in the 2017-19 budget 2% figure. (Expansion requests)
 - 2% figure is \$173 million.
 - ACTION at the Oct. meeting.
 - Needless to say – State Board discussed various ways to gets “NEEDS” to the attention of the Governor.
 - McDevitt: ADM is no longer a “budget continuation”
 - A.L Collins: Asked how many allotment formulas – Price: 40 different formulas.
 - A.L Collins: This is so confusing – there needs to be a bigger discussion of the complete funding model. Discussion about a different, easier funding model.
 - Gregory Alcorn: Need to make a better presentation – what we are doing is not working.

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- Wayne McDevitt: Possibility of having conversation about increase flexibility with increase of performance.
- Gregory Alcorn: Need to look at ROI (Return on Investment) for each item considered. Maybe include calendar flexibility.
- DISCUSSIONS WILL CONTINUE OCT WORK SESSION!
- **BSOP 5** – Revised Licensing Fees (action in Oct) Make licensing revenue neutral - fees must increase – Price presented a proposal.
 - Collin: Teachers will view this as a TAX – we increase their salaries, but then ask it back as fees. – said he would not support. Maybe include in budget discussions.
- **BSOP 6** – Collection & Calculation Method of Charter School: Alexis Schauss read new policy based upon legislation. NO comments from board. I talked to Teague about this – he said he was working with Walker to have a uniform method (form) to be used by all LEAs in reporting. The recommendation should come from CSAB.
 - **CONTRACTS** – 11 pages of money spent – NO COMMENTS ON ANY ITEMS
 - SAS Institute #10 – up to \$18 million this year with EVAAS
 - Pearson #9 – Power school – Up to \$57 million this yr.
 - MCNC #8– provide “CNE” technical consulting & selected support services related to connectivity & networking - charters are mentioned - \$10.9 million

II C. Student Learning & Achievement Committee

- **SLA 1** – LEAs official appeal for Field-testing exclusions- decisions made by DPI for the 2016-17 school year. (Approved on Thursday)
- **SLA 2** – Release of 2015-16 Accountability Report- TONS of data – DPI’s narrative – ALL areas are improving.
 - Douglass Academy – C
 - Columbus Charter – C
 - Charter Day School – B
 - South Brunswick Charter School – B
 - (9 charters got F – wondering how many of those might be Alternative Schools that can design their own alternate process for determining grade)
- **SLA 3** – Release of the Graduation Rate. Again this is “Historic HIGHS” – but no one is asking how many students use the ‘Credit Recovery’ pathway for graduation.
- **SLA 4** – 2016 Social Studies & Healthful Living Textbook Adoption (Approved on Thursday) [Waste of time – LEA can purchase from this list but do not have to use the list! No discussion- LK]
- **SLA 5**– Report to NC General Assembly - Comprehensive Plan for Reading Achievement - Done every two years. Report is 168 pages.
 - [Might find what they say about the ITBS and correlation between EOC interesting – Page 153-158 – LK]
 - Good bit of discussion
 - Recommendations to the General Assembly for legislation - Specifics on page 23-24 – [Gotta love the “State-wide Literacy Campaign” - sure that “teaches” reading- LK]
 - Olivia Oxendine and A.L Collins talked about recommendation #4 – using assessments to stop promotion at K-1-2 when kids are not on grade level [which should be implemented now! – LK]. Full discussion is needed in this area.

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- Oxendine: More Transitional classes at other grades.
- Required 90 minute blocks of instruction for reading

- SLA 6 – Alternative Schools Accountability Model – No discussion
 - This allows alternative schools optional ways to be accountable for their “School Grade”
 - [Wondering can Charter Schools apply for this Alternative Process of evaluation? This might have to do with some Charters getting a D or F. Might want to look into this alternative method for charter schools who focus on drop-out prevention. – LK]

New Business [Reports to Board – little discussion, running behind time- LK]

- Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) Report on cohorts 1 & 2 (57 LEAs & Charters) The implementation of providing interventions for struggling students. Discussion around SAM – Self-Assessment Method of MTSS. Responses back from the two cohorts over the past year.
 - Olivia Oxendine: Research needs more than a 15-18% submitting responses [less than 20% response rate DOES NOT provide “confidence” level in the information given- LK].
 - DPI agreed but did not require schools to participate in the evaluation survey. [AMAZING – again. What a waste of time. DPI said they learned a lot!?! - LK]
 - Report on Cohorts 3-4 for the 2016-17 school year. 110 LEAs & Charters to participate.
- ESSA Update- Fabrizio, Howard & Pruette did power point presentation. Fabrizio stated the Regulations just came from the DOE, and Congressman Klien made strong statement against the regulations. States are not sure what will happen. Lou read quote below:
See press release:

<http://edworkforce.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=400974>

“The Department of Education is threatening to unilaterally impose a multi-billion dollar regulatory tax on our nation's schools. This punitive policy will unleash havoc on schools and their students at a time when education leaders should be focused on helping children succeed in the classroom. America's poorest neighborhoods will be hit the hardest as communities are forced to relocate teachers, raise taxes, or both. Any supposed "flexibility" is really a limited set of bad choices dictated by the secretary of education. This is not at all what Congress intended, and those who helped enact this law cannot honestly believe differently.

What the secretary is proposing is unprecedented and unlawful. The only way to make this right is to scrap this convoluted regulatory scheme immediately.”

- A lot was said about Birth-to-4 – Grant opportunities [Very scary since we know what happened with Race to the Top grants -LK].
- Pruette said 49 systems use Title 1 money for preschool options.
- Using input from NC Early Childhood Foundation - <http://buildthefoundation.org>
- Interim Assessments: Name change to “NC Check-Ins” – Year 2 of Pilot, will be administered 3 times this year
 - Grade 5 Math – and Grade 6 ELA/Reading
 - Feedback from schools was positive
 - Data shows these did help academic achievement on assessment – will be discussed at Oct meeting

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II D – Education Innovation & Charter Schools Committee

- *EICS 1* – Revised Academic Improvement Plan for Rocky Mount - Approved
- *EICS 2* – Annual Charter Performance Framework Overview [Removed from agenda, will come back for Oct. – LK]
- *EICS 3* – Timeline for Achievement School District
 - Lots of Discussion [definitely point of disagreement between Bill Cobey and Lt. Gov. Dan. – LK]
 - Bill Cobey said timeline was NOT “Feasible” (DPI wants to delay the start till 2018-19)
 - Lt. Gov. Dan Forest said his committee to hire the Superintendent would meet this month, He felt they would be hiring a superintendent quickly. He wanted to give him the authority to decide when he can begin the program.
 - June Atkinson spoke up quickly and gave all the reasons why they should wait. [Lots of members and advisory members asking so many questions – no one has answers – LK]
 - Levinson says the statute is unclear – said he supposed the Superintendent would be making decisions on many subjects not clear. – said he did not think the General Assembly had any idea the administrative realities.
 - Levinson is handling project [he made it VERY CLEAR – these are NOT charter schools – they are “charter like”- LK]
 - Superintendent would choose “Operators”
 - June Atkinson chimed in that in order for this to succeed, relationships were critical – and it took time for relationships – between Superintendent, Operators, LEA, parents.
 - Lt. Gov. Dan Forest reminded everyone that the Superintendent could start with ONE school not 5 schools.
 - NOT taking any action this month

New Business

- Virtual Charter School report from 2015-16 school year.
 - Schauss gave report on Funding and ADM. She also reported on how withdrawal rate is calculated, and changed that were made during the short session. Different groups are now excluded from “withdrawal rates”
 - For the 2015-16 Withdrawal rate for Connections: 31.3%; Virtual Academy: 25% State Statute says withdrawal rates must be under 25%. IF those exclusions were same as now – both would be under the 25% limit. – Connections: 20.7%; Virtual Academy 12.5%
 - ADM is reported on 20th day and then adjusted on the 100th day.
 - A.L Collins: these are pilots – and we need to learn what works and what does not, need to get input from all the other virtual schools too. NC Public Virtual School and several systems that have their own virtual school.
 - Lt. Gov. Dan Forest: We need to include:
 1. Exit interview information and find out why students leave.
 2. Survey all parents to know why it is working – good stories – must learn the good stories not only look at a percentage that left as negative.
 - Dave Machado: the OCS is developing survey and will have that information in Oct.

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- Gregory Alcorn: how much money comes from LEA or from other reserves. Statute made way for students coming from homeschooling and private schools to receive funding from another source than the LEA.
- \$9 million came from LEAs; \$6.1 came from reserve
- Local money set at what county pays or \$790 per child – whichever is lower.
- Connections Academy Presentation: (Grade for school: F, did not meet growth)
 - Learned a lot, hired testing coordinator, many families choose NOT to take test.
 - Opt out factors: Could not participate in “retesting”
 - 58% white – 37-38% black – 52% ED – more males than females, 98% counties represented
- Virtual Academy Presentation: (Grade for School: F, did not meet growth)
 - 13% Disability; 55% ED
 - 4 levels of connecting with parents if they see lack of interaction on computer

II E – Special Committee on Digital Learning

- Acceptance of Digital Learning Plan Budget (Approved on Thursday)
2016-17 - \$4.7 million; 2017-18 - \$4 million
- MCNC Presentation: Broadband connectivity
 - MCNC owns and operates NCREN – North Carolina Research & Education Network. Supports the School Connectivity Initiative with Internet, network consulting services.

Report by Lt. Gov. Forest on Hispanic Participation in Charter Schools:

- After report negatively stating charters have fewer Hispanic students than traditional schools Lt Gov. Forest pulled together a task force on Hispanic Outreach.
- Found this is a problem across other states.
- Learned there is NO word to translate “charter” school in Spanish. They only have public and private schools. Need to refer to charters as “Public Charter Schools”
- Many charters do not have applications in Spanish
- Lack of Knowledge is main problem
- Look to Florida for solutions – they marketed and informed through churches.
- Jamey Falkenbury made presentation and mentioned that even with the lower percentage in Charters, Charters performance with this subgroup was higher than system schools.
- Not much discussion from Board

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Sept.1 NotesII – State & National Schools of Character Recognition

- 4 State recognized schools; 4 Nationally recognized schools
 - Union Academy Charter was both State & Nationally recognized.
 - More information: <http://character.org/schools-of-character/state-schools-of-character-overview/participating-states/ssoc-northcarolina/>

III – Atkinson’s report

- Report on Special Olympics in NC Schools.

IV – Consent Agenda

- Passed without any discussion – 13 items, see agenda.
- One dealt with Fast Track replication of Charter Schools:

“1. The SBE will make a decision whether to grant a charter through fast-track replication no later than October 15 of the year immediately preceding the year of the proposed opening of the school. This subsection applies beginning for schools proposing to open for Fast Track in 2018-19 and in subsequent years.” --- 20 page report to the Joint Ed Oversight Committee from the Office of Charter Schools on Fast-Track Replication:

https://eboard.eboardsolutions.com/meetings/TempFolder/Meetings/JLEOC%20Report_61627rzztxbfpdnpw51or0mlrf3kr.pdf

LK Summary:

Committees asked for a vote on each action item from yesterday’s meeting – they all passed unanimously

The 2015-16 assessment results and Graduation Rates released – with DPI’s spin.

Scores are increasing BUT VERY low rate of increase. I would say many grade levels performance is stagnate – NOTHING TOO GREAT!

DPI did not print subgroup performance data (only participation percentages). Will have to pull subgroups’ performance data together. Will need to do exactly what RBA did last time to compare.

Thought it was interesting that DPI compared A-F schools with that of system schools & charters. Can charter schools be categorized as an “alternative” school? Are some of the charter schools rated a D or F an alternative placement? If these schools are categorized alternative they could develop their own criteria for their grade.

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