



# The Roger Bacon Academy

## Charter School Advisory Board Meeting Monthly Meeting - October 13, 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://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/Meetings/ViewMeetingOrder.aspx?S=10399&MID=2770>

### II. Accountability Updates – Dr. Tammy Howard, Director of NCDPI Accountability; Dr. White, SAS In Schools

Dr. Howard explained there were corrections made during the “quality control window” for the 2015-16 Accountability Report. This “window” is a time when users of the data look over the calculations checking for any errors. This past year there were two major corrections made during this time:

- There was an error in respect to reporting NOT calculating, due to the number of students in reporting a subgroup. The minimum number of students used in a “sub-group” should have been 10. In some of the reporting the number of students was 5. Three schools were impacted in their School Performance Grade due to this error (2 school grades went up, 1 went down – 1 was a charter school).
- The second error involved SAS and the EVASS reporting (growth measurements). Dr. White from SAS explained this calculation error, which affected all schools. In reporting EVASS scoring, the consecutive tests (EOGs in Reading & Math) were given more weight than the non-consecutive tests (Science, EOCs). This should not have happened. Twelve schools were impacted in their School Performance Grade due to this error (6 schools' grade when up, 6 went down – 3 were charters).

#### *Discussion:*

Maimone: Some schools were more affected by the EVASS error because of the number of tests given by the school. The more tests a school gave the greater the error affected the school's grade. Schools testing only 3rd-8th grades give fewer tests than a 3rd -12th grade school. “Knowing these scores can be used as a basis to close charters I am concerned about accuracy of this complicated system. I don't understand why we cannot use a nationally norm assessment which accurately compares the performance of students across the country.”

Dr. White: SAS does not make policy decisions. Many of those models do not measure the “growth” component. SAS has developed internal auditing to prevent this issue from happening again.

3610 Thaddeus Lott Ln.  
Leland, NC 28451

Office 910-655-3600  
Fax 910-655-0310

[www.RogerBacon.net](http://www.RogerBacon.net)

## 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. Annual Ethics Presentation – Ms. Katie Cornetto, Attorney, NCDPI

Ms. Cornetto reminded the Board they need to take the NC Ethics Course every two years. Also, CSAB Members need to produce an annual statement of financial interest to the NC Ethics Commission.

*Discussion:*

Walker: Because of the actions of the SBE, it is clear that the CSAB is ONLY an ADVISORY board. CSAB is the ONLY advisory board out of hundreds in the state having to take ethic courses and file financial information. Do you know why?

Cornetto: CSAB is so important? I do not know, but it is in State Statute.

IV. State Board Education Updates*Annual Charter School Update* – Ms. Cande Honeycutt (Approved - sent to SBE)

This report takes the place of the draft “Performance Framework” report presented at last month’s meeting. The last report was 963 pages long, and included a mini report from each charter school documenting academic, operational and financial information. This report is in response to the SBE’s strategic plan. The Office of Charter Schools simplified the report to six pages. The report consists of items measured in the SBE Strategic Plan for charter schools.

See:

[https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/meetings/TempFolder/Meetings/Annual%20Charter%20Schools%20Update\\_10032016\\_64296knwf4d1ktymlcsy1dkd0h1k0.pdf](https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/meetings/TempFolder/Meetings/Annual%20Charter%20Schools%20Update_10032016_64296knwf4d1ktymlcsy1dkd0h1k0.pdf)

[This was in response to the extended discussion at the Sept. CSAB meeting. There was obviously a miscommunication between the CSAB and the Office of Charter Schools. (OCS) This report was a HUGE improvement over last month’s draft.]

*Discussion:*

Reeves: Is there a report like this for tradition schools?

Martez Hill: Yes

Reeves: Can you show me where it is?

Hill: I will have to get back to you. It might be found on the website where each respective division reports on their specific goals in the SBE Strategic Plan.

(See: <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/performance/> and

<http://stateboard.ncpublicschools.gov/strategic-plan/strategic-plan-full.pdf>)

Maimone: We need to report the charter schools’ impact on the over-all school performance for the state. We should dig-deeper and report charter school performance and traditional school performance disaggregated.

Townsend-Smith: We are going to report that information in the charter school report to the General Assembly first of next year.

*Thunderbird Preparatory Academy* – September Board Meeting Minutes

[This was added since the school in being closely watched by the CSAB.]

## The Three Laws

Law 1 - Reward good behavior, Law 2 - Teach to mastery, Law 3 - Watch the children,

*you'll get more of it.*

*every child will learn.*

*if they are not learning or behaving,  
you're not following the first two laws.*

*Discussion:*

Walker: What was their final 20-day count?

Machado: Between the 155-160 range. When should they meet again with CSAB?

Quigley: November, but we need to have firm data. There is a significant allotment on the front end with projected number of students attending and the accurate number. They contract with Acadia NorthStar for financial services.

*October SBE Work Session & Meeting* – Dave Machado, Director, Office of Charter Schools  
Introduced new Administrative Assistant - Mary Brown.

Update on SBE's Strategic plan was presented at the SBE's work session.

- Charter schools exceeded the SBE's target goal of having 58% of schools' student performance at or above Grade Level Proficiency (GLP). The final percent of charter schools having 60% of students performing at GLP was 59.7%.
- Another area of success: 76.9% of charter schools met or exceeded all financial and operational requirements.

The OCS is conducting surveys regarding the virtual charter school pilots, which were launched last year. Data summary will be given at a later meeting.

#### VI. Charter Application Update – Dr. Deanna Townsend-Smith, Lead Consultant, OCS

The SBE approved the CSAB's request to extend the application deadline because of technical online issues submitting applications. There were 38 applications received and fees paid for the 2017 Charter School Application Period.

See Applications: <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/charterschools/applications/submitted/2018-19/>

- Mecklenburg, Durham and Wake had the most applications.
- 17 of 38 had incomplete issues with their applications, and 14 answered the OCS and submitted more information.
- 3 applicants did not supply additional information and remain in incomplete status.

Several types of applications submitted:

Acceleration – Conversion – Fast Track Replication (1 request), EMOs – 4[? – not sure]

Assumption framework has not been worked out with process and policies.

Recruitment and training of external evaluators has been completed. Next month will start the first set of clarification interviews with CSAB. These interviews will be held in SBE Board Room. Alternate committees will interview, but whole board will listen to interviews. Not to exceed 30 minutes. Full CSAB will make recommendation for further interviews.

[This will be my first time to listen in on this process of evaluating applications. I was part of the process back in the 1990's, when I was on the founding board of Queen's Grant Charter School in

### *The Three Laws*

Law 1 - Reward good behavior,    Law 2 - Teach to mastery,    Law 3 - Watch the children,  
*you'll get more of it.*                      *every child will learn.*                      *if they are not learning or behaving,*

*you're not following the first two laws.*

Mecklenburg County. It will be interesting to see how this process has changed over the years and to observe its efficiency.]

#### VIII. Performance Committee – Mr. Joe Maimone, Committee Chair

OCS (Shaunda Cooper, Consultant) reviewed the renewal recommendation framework.

See: Overview of 10 year; 7 year; & 3-year renewal with stipulations criteria:

[https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/meetings/TempFolder/Meetings/CSAB%20Renewal%20Recommendations%20Framework%20Updated%2010072016\\_64551knwf4d1ktym1csy1dkd0h1k0.pdf](https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/meetings/TempFolder/Meetings/CSAB%20Renewal%20Recommendations%20Framework%20Updated%2010072016_64551knwf4d1ktym1csy1dkd0h1k0.pdf)

The OCS used the framework above to make recommendations on the 32 charter schools seeking renewal of their charter.

See: [https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/meetings/TempFolder/Meetings/2017%20Renewal%20Presentation%20Powerpoint%20CSAB%20Final\\_64552knwf4d1ktym1csy1dkd0h1k0.pdf](https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/meetings/TempFolder/Meetings/2017%20Renewal%20Presentation%20Powerpoint%20CSAB%20Final_64552knwf4d1ktym1csy1dkd0h1k0.pdf)

#### *Discussion:*

Walker: Reminded the board the “Framework” is a guideline, not an absolute. The CSAB can accept the OCS’s recommendation or not.

Maimone: The OCS made the 7-year renewal based on the LEA’s performance, and we should keep in mind large LEAs may have a difference performance based on the schools located in the charter school’s location. We need to look at the community served by the charter and not just the performance of the large LEA.

The CSAB voted on each school’s request, and only approved 10-year renewals. All other schools are being asked to come and present to the CSAB.

All the approved renewals are subject to the LGC’s audit, which is due by the end of October. Any compliance issues in the audit will affect the 10-year renewal recommended by the CSAB.

Nine charter schools will be asked to come before the CSAB for a review, and 23 charter schools were given a 10-year renewal. (Approved - sent to SBE)

[I was very impressed with some of the charter schools’ performance with EC and ED subgroup of students. There were 23 charters out performing the LEA with economically disadvantage students. Three schools popped out to me. SBE should look closely and LEARN. Excuse me, that is the purpose of charters, right?]

### **The Three Laws**

Law 1 - Reward good behavior, Law 2 - Teach to mastery, Law 3 - Watch the children,

*you'll get more of it.*

*every child will learn.*

*if they are not learning or behaving,  
you're not following the first two laws.*

- Francine Delany New School for Children – Buncombe County - K-8 – 169 students  
Economically Disadvantage – school has 46%; LEA has 43.1%  
Performance of this subgroup – charter school GLP is 63.1% while LEA is 45.3%
- Maureen Joy Charter – Durham County - K-8 – 618 students  
Economically Disadvantage – school has 84.4 %; LEA has 64.8%  
Performance of this subgroup – charter school GLP is 59.2% while LEA is 32.3%
- Sallie B. Howard School for the Arts – Wilson County – 842 students  
Economically Disadvantage – school has 65%; LEA has 56.2%  
Performance of this subgroup – charter school GLP is 58% while LEA is 35.6%

#### IX. Policy Committee – Mr. Steven Walker, Vice Chair, CSAB

*Recommendations to SBE regarding accepting/rejecting the CSAB’s approval of charter applications.*

There was concern regarding this past year’s recommendations to the SBE, and that body of policy makers rejecting 5 applications approved by the CSAB. The CSAB spends hours reviewing application and interviewing the applicants to have their recommendations ignored.

Walker presented several recommendations to expedite the SBE approval of the charter applications that are approved with a majority of the CSAB.

- 1) Any charter application receiving a 75% or higher approval from the CSAB would be placed on the consent agenda for the SBE.
- 2) Any charter application approved by a majority of the CSAB, but has concerns from the SBE will be sent back to the CSAB for further discussion and review. The SBE will not simply deny the application.
- 3) Any charter application approved by a majority of the CSAB has a 60-day timeline to be approved by the SBE.

#### *Discussion:*

Helton: There is interest in a “Rolling Application Process” where CSAB sends the recommendation of approved applications directly to the SBE for final approval. If an application is denied by the SBE, doing it this way, the SBE can hear from the citizens. Also, the outside external evaluators, are hired by DPI not this board. In fact, this board is not even consulted on these evaluators. I have seen some of the notes, and not sure some comments are balanced. I also would like to see the notes of the OCS before given to the SBE. The SBE said the notes and our votes were not aligned. However, the discussions are not centered on what we think is right on the application, but what we think might cause problems, or issues.

Quigley: There is a need for CSAB members to state “WHY” they support the positive or negative reason for casting their vote. Having this final statement would help the SBE to understand the recommendations. The discussion on applications centers on weaknesses, which leans towards negative comments – digging out all the issues we see within an application does not mean we do not approve the application. Also we have discussed the importance of votes not being unanimous.

Martez: Isn’t this the role of the planning year - to demonstrate how the applicant has listened to the comments and recommendations of the CSAB?

### **The Three Laws**

Law 1 - Reward good behavior,      Law 2 - Teach to mastery,      Law 3 - Watch the children,  
*you'll get more of it.*                      *every child will learn.*                      *if they are not learning or behaving,*

*you're not following the first two laws.*



X. School Updates

The only school update was from Hope Charter Leadership Academy in Wake County. This school has been before the CSAB for several months. It is a very low performing school, and the CSAB is considering revoking charter. The CSAB gave the school a 3-year renewal in 2016, but the performance continues to remain very low. The school has 123 students. School performance grade has been “F” for the past three years. The school did not meet growth in 2015-16. The school has 99.2% Economically Disadvantaged and their GLP was 26.5%.

CSAB was not satisfied with school’s “academic status update” report, and the school will need to appear before the CSAB in November with a comprehensive plan to improve student performance. Some of the Board members asked about the “Assumption” process. It was clear the Office of Charter Schools has not established this policy. The CSAB suggested this might be a route for this school if performance is not quickly turned around.

Adjourn

3610 Thaddeus Lott Ln.  
Leland, NC 28451

Office 910-655-3600  
Fax 910-655-0310

[www.RogerBacon.net](http://www.RogerBacon.net)

## 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.*