



The Roger Bacon Academy

Charter School Advisory Board Meeting Monthly Meeting - November 15 - 16, 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:

Nov. 15:

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/Meetings/ViewMeetingOrder.aspx?S=10399&MID=2825>

Nov. 16:

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/Meetings/ViewMeetingOrder.aspx?S=10399&MID=2827>

November 15 Meeting:

II. Application Update

The CSAB began the first step in the 2017 charter approval process. A CSAB committee reviewed applications determining if the applicant would continue to the next step, which is an interview with the full CSAB. The charter applicant had representatives present answering any pressing questions. Applications with reviewers' comments can be found on the link under the name of the charter application. There were eleven applications reviewed, four were denied, and seven were approved to move forward.

Approved Applications:

- *High Point Charter Academy* – Approved for interview
K-8th grade - Guilford County
<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/charterschools/applications/18-19/high-pointtribric.pdf>
Mission: “to provide character, leadership, and academic development to children and families who are academically, socially, and economically at-risk for academic failure.”
Notes: Charter board contracted with National Heritage Academies (NHA) for management of the school. NHA currently operates 13 schools in North Carolina, and can be found in 8 other states.
- *West Lake Preparatory Academy* – Approved for interview
K-8th grade - Lincoln County
<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/charterschools/applications/18-19/westlakerubric.pdf>
Mission: “to provide students with a rigorous education program offering personalized learning plans in a technology rich environment preparing each student to excel and compete in a global environment.”

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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.*

Notes: Charter board is working with Charter Schools USA (CSUSA). CSUSA is an education management company that works in 7 states, and manages 77 schools. They currently manage 8 in North Carolina.

- Hillside Academy* — Approved for interview
K-8th grade - Mecklenburg County
<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/charterschools/applications/18-19/hillsiderubric.pdf>
Mission: "to provide a high-quality education that places each student on the path to college readiness through a rigorous curriculum and collaboration between parents, students, and staff in an environment that values achievement and strong character."
Notes: Charter board is working with National Heritage Academies. During this discussion, Quigley asked for the Office of Charter Schools to compile information on how much money each of the EMO/CMO receives in North Carolina. Need to make sure the individual boards embrace the applications written by these companies. It would be good to see the amount of "investment" made by each of these companies. Need to get a "bigger" picture of these out of state companies.
- Union Preparatory Academy at Weddington*— Approved for interview
K-8th grade - Union County
<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/charterschools/applications/18-19/unionrubric.pdf>
Mission: "to offer a learning environment that is academically rigorous and enhanced with personalized learning plans to enable students to apply their knowledge of concepts and principles within a vibrant academic community."
Notes: Applied as a "Fast-Track" application, but did not meet the criteria for this type of application. The board is working with CSUSA for management. The application stated the school to be replicated was Cardinal Charter Academy in Wake County. This application has the same board as Union Prep at Indian Trail. Sanchez questioned the student subgroup performance at Cardinal Charter Academy in Wake County. He wanted more information on this issue when the applicant comes back for an interview.
- North Wake Preparatory Academy* - Approved for interview
K-12th grade – Wake County
<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/charterschools/applications/18-19/north-wake.pdf>
Mission: "With a strong education program and moral focus, North Wake Preparatory Academy strives to create a nurturing environment where each individual is treated with unconditional positive regard and acceptance; helping every student, K-12, discover a path to college, a career, and beyond whilst being a valued and contributing member of our community."
Notes: Charter School Office attached an Education Management Organization (EMO) Report. This charter board wants to contract with two management companies:
PrepNet, LLC (manage and operate 9-12 program) &
National Heritage Academy, Inc. (manage and operate K-8 program)
PrepNet operates 5 current high schools in Michigan. All five schools partner with both PrepNet & NHA. PrepNet is new to North Carolina.

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- Ronald Reagan Academy* – Approved for interview
4th – 8th grades – Robeson County
<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/charterschools/applications/18-19/ronaldrubric.pdf>
Mission: “Ronald Reagan Academy serves students from rural, socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds. The focus on mathematics, English, history, science, and physical fitness will prepare students to succeed in a university curriculum and capitalistic society.”
Notes: This charter board is not contracting with any management company, but is planning to partner with the University of NC at Pembroke. There was much discussion regarding the grades being served and reasoning behind this configuration of starting in 4th grade.
- Bonnie Cone Classical* – Approved for interview
K-6th grades – Mecklenburg County
<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/charterschools/applications/18-19/bonnierubric.pdf>
Mission: “Bonnie Cone Classical Academy (BCCA) will equip students with the tools of learning to think critically, reason effectively, and communicate persuasively through the rigors of a classical education.”
Notes: This is one of the charters approved by the CSAB last year, but denied a charter from the SBE. The applicants have come back again. The board is not contracting with a management company.

Denied Applications:

- Prep Academy* – Denied to move forward
6th – 8th grades – Duplin County
<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/charterschools/applications/18-19/preprubric.pdf>
Mission: “to prepare rural, at-risk and educationally disadvantaged middle school students for success in high school, post-secondary education, and twenty-first century careers.”
Notes: The board plans for the school to partner with James Sprunt Community College. Two external evaluators “failed” the application in the “Education Plan.”
- Clara Science Academy* – Denied to move forward
4th – 7th grades – Mecklenburg County
<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/charterschools/applications/18-19/clararubric.pdf>
Mission: “to provide a Science, Technology and Mathematics focused curriculum that will build self-respect while preparing diverse students to become life-long learners, demonstrate critical- thinking and adapt to our changing technological world.”
Notes: The CSAB was concerned about the grade configuration beginning in 4th and ending in 7th grade. The expected first year enrollment was less than required for sustainability. The external reviewers failed this application in several sections, especially noted in the “Financial Plan.” One comment had to do with the application not having enough voting board members.

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- Legacy STEEL Academy* – Denied to move forward
6th - 12th grade - Guilford County
<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/charterschools/applications/18-19/legacyrubric.pdf>
Mission: “to produce highly literate students able to face challenges, build their communities, and apply technology through rigorous standards utilizing the STEEL platform so that they might create a lasting legacy of success.”
Notes: The board’s intention is to partner with Edison Learning, Inc. This is a management company currently not present in North Carolina. Charter School Office attached an Education Management Organization (EMO) Report on this new EMO.
- Hobgood Academy Charter School* – Denied to move forward
<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/charterschools/applications/18-19/hobgoodrubric.pdf>
Mission: “ We help children learn how to learn to be both physically and academically healthy so they will know how to live successfully in a rapidly changing world.”
Notes: This is a private school conversion. The CSAB’s vote was split, but denied going forward. Concerns centered on the racial diversity of the private school, and their ability to fill seats. The private school was started in 1969, and currently has very little racial and economic diversity. CSAB recommended the board to apply again after they incorporated a plan to accommodate the economic and racial diversity they would like to attract. The school already admits students using the Opportunity Scholarship Program. Walker suggested they might want to continue using that initiative instead of changing to a charter school, due to the flexibility of that program.

VII. Policy Committee

- Assumption Process*
Dr. Townsend-Smith, Assistant Director in the Office of Charter Schools, presented information on state statute and SBE policy on assumption of a failing (continually low-performing) charter school. This process is to be used on a case-by-case basis in lieu of termination or nonrenewal of a charter. The school’s non-profit board that is eligible for assumption will have 30 days to agree with the assumption or revocation procedures begin. An existing charter school or a new entity may apply to assume a charter school by submitting a Request for Proposal (RFP). The CSAB’s responsibility is to suggest revisions to the SBE policy, decide to accept or revise the recommendations from the Office of Charter Schools, and develop a timeline process.

 - Walker commented there might be some schools ready for this process now, and the importance to accelerate and finalize this process.
 - These suggested policy changes were approved and will be sent to the SBE for their December meeting.
- Report to the North Carolina General Assembly – Virtual Public Charter School Pilot Program*
This report was presented to the CSAB for approval before sending to the SBE and then on to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee. The report included information of the initial year for two virtual public charter schools: NC Connections Academy and NC Virtual Academy.

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The report covered 6 aspects of the schools:

- 1) Number of students enrolled
- 2) Number and types of courses offered
- 3) Withdrawal rate of students after enrollment
- 4) Student performance and accountability data
- 5) Information on implementation, administration, and funding for the pilot program
- 6) Recommendations on expansion of the program

In September 2016, DPI conducted a survey of the parents with children attending these two schools. Approximately 27% or 761 parents responded to the survey. “In general, all parents were satisfied or very satisfied with the virtual public charter schools, with 92% of parents whose students completed a full year, and 72% of parents with withdrawn students expressed overall school satisfaction. NC Virtual Academy responded to the report with a letter highlighting their specific successes and implementation changes for their second year. This letter also questioned the inclusion of several comments and conclusions about virtual schools in general. The report (p.4) refers to a 2015 national study by the Center of Research on Education Outcomes (CREDO), which states, “virtual school performance showed, on average, that these schools lag far behind traditional public school counterparts.” The letter pointed out that this study did not include any North Carolina specific data. Several other national reports evaluating virtual educational environments were mentioned in the letter for added input.

November 16:

[I was not able to attend this day of meetings. Agenda items are posted. I am awaiting the audiotapes to finish these notes. LK]

II. School Updates

CSAB requested these two schools to come back before them and enhance their strategic plan to improve student performance, and financial situations. Both schools are in jeopardy of revocation.

- Hope Charter Leadership Academy – Wake County
- Z.E.C.A. School of Arts and Technology – Onslow County

III. State Board Updates

- 2016-17 New Charter School Enrollment – 11 new schools, 1st month ADM – 3,697 students. There are five schools that were granted charters, but asked for a one-year delay in opening. These schools will open in 2017-18.
- Enrollment Report from Thunderbird Preparatory Academy. This charter school has been under the CSAB’s watch for several months beginning April 2016. The school’s projected ADM was 462 students, but the actual ADM is 155 students.
- DPI made a presentation to the CSAB on the SBE’s Healthy Active Children’s policy. The SBE asked for input by the CSAB on School Health Advisory Councils (SHAC), and if charter schools are mandated to implement these councils and SBE policy HRS-E-000. The CSAB voted unanimously against mandating these councils and agreed that charter schools are not under this SBE policy.

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The CSAB was asked to endorse the Resolution from the SBE on the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child Framework.

[This will be interesting when the vote goes back to the SBE. There were some SBE members wanting to mandate this policy on all charter schools.]

IV. Union Academy Charter School

- Administrators from the school made a presentation on its recognition as a National & State School of Character.

V. & VI. Charter Renewal Presentations

- Alexis Schauss, Director of School Business presented a financial review of the 32 charter schools requesting renewals as of July 2017. There are 15 schools with no current financial concerns; 9 schools have not submitted their 2016 LCG Audit; 8 schools have current or previous financial concerns.
- DPI also gave information on all charter schools' ADM from 2015-2017, the 2016 withdrawal rate and any financial non-compliance issues (probationary, cautionary, disciplinary, and cleared)
- DPI also presented the financial Performance Framework on 26 schools.

[The CSAB did not approve these renewals in the October meeting. CSAB requested a report from each school. I do not know how the CSAB voted on each of these renewals. LK]

- Charlotte Secondary School - gave an update on student performance data.
- Grandfather Academy – gave an update on their mission and statistical information of enrolled students.
- Community Charter – gave information on their declining and low enrollment.
- Children's Village Academy – gave information on their student performance when compared with similar demographics in the LEA schools.
- Rocky Mount Preparatory School – gave power point presentation on 2016-17 Academic Improvement and Progress Plan.
- Wilmington Preparatory Academy- gave information on their student performance when compared with similar demographics in the LEA schools.
- Guilford Preparatory Academy - gave information on their student performance when compared with similar demographics in the LEA schools.
- Community Charter School – gave power point presentation on their strategic plan.
- Preeminent Charter School – managed by National Heritage Academies – presented a power point and gave information on their student performance when compared with similar demographics in the LEA schools.
- Carter G. Woodson School – gave information on their student performance when compared with similar demographics in the LEA schools.

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