



# The Roger Bacon Academy

## Charter School Advisory Board Meeting Monthly Meeting - January 10, 11 & 12

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:

#### January 10:

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/Meetings/ViewMeetingOrder.aspx?S=10399&MID=2962>

#### January 11:

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/Meetings/ViewMeetingOrder.aspx?S=10399&MID=2963>

#### January 12:

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/Meetings/ViewMeetingOrder.aspx?S=10399&MID=2961>

### January 10, 2017 Meeting

#### II. Application Update

This month CSAB continues to review the 38 applications for charter schools, for the 2018-19 school year. The process begins with external reviewers grading the applications. External reviewers evaluate 6 areas: Section I-Application/Contact Info; Section II-Mission/Purposes; Section III-Education Plan; Section IV-Governance/Capacity; Section V-Operations; Section VI-Financial. CSAB then conducts a clarification/review taking about 45 minutes to determine if the application moves forward for a full interview. After the full interview the CSAB votes to approve or deny applications. All approved applications proceed to the SBE for their approval. All application, external evaluators' reviews, letters of impact from LEAs can be found here: <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/charterschools/applications/submitted/2018-19/>

- **Bishop George W. Brooks Academy – Denied full interview**
  - Guilford County – K-8<sup>th</sup> grades – Specifically for young men
  - Mission Statement: Institute a school for young men with a learning environment that produces lasting gains in academics & character ultimately generating life-long learning skills.
  - External evaluators - 5-passed Section I; 5-passed Section II; 1 passed, 4 failed Section III (Ed Plan); 5 passed Section IV; 2 passed, 3 failed Section V; 5 passed Section VI.
  - Next Generation Academy helped with writing of charter application.

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### The Three Laws

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### III. Policy Committee

- TCS-U-007 - Charter Schools Renewal Process – Passed unanimously, sent to SBE for approval. Renewal process had changed over time and the policy needed to align with current practices.
- TCS-U-010 – Continually Low-Performing Charter Schools.  
This policy outlines what exactly is in State Statute on Low-Performing schools, and public charter schools in particular.
  - Walker suggested the policy was not needed since was basically a “cut & paste” from State Statute. There was nothing new or different in the policy.
  - Turner said it was hard to find specific detail in state statute, and thought the policy was needed for simplification when users are trying to find this information.
  - CSAB voted unanimously to send this policy to the SBE for final approval.
  - [The General Assembly defines: “Low-performing schools are those that received a school performance grade of D or F and a school growth score of ‘met expected growth’ or ‘not met expected growth’ §115C-83.15 However, the consequences for a “low-performing” traditional public school does not necessarily include closing the school as in the circumstances of a public charter school. General Statute for Charter schools can be found: §115C-218.95 – “Causes for nonrenewal or termination; disputes.” If charter schools are continually low performing their charter can be revoked or taken over by assumption.—LK]
- TCS-U-20 – Alternative School Classification  
This policy was expanded from last month. Passed unanimously – Sent to SBE for approval

### V. Application Update/Reviews

- **CE Academy - Denied for interview**
  - Wake County – K-8<sup>th</sup> grade – Chinese & English bilingual charter school
  - Mission: CE Academy will dedicate passion for our community to create a global educational environment through language and multicultural programs, multiplying our students’ chances to succeed in secondary studies and beyond.
  - External evaluators: 5-passed Section I; 2-passed, 3-failed Section II; 5-failed Section III (Ed Plan); 1-passed, 4-failed Section IV; 5-failed Section V; 5 failed Section VI
  - Discussion:
    - Walker: Application was rough around the edges, academic goals were not clear. There was no survey on need. Liked the idea of a Chinese & English bilingual charter school. The application did not address how the Chinese language would be intertwined in the curricula. How would they be able to attract the right type of teachers with the specific language needs? Encouraged the board to go back and work on the application and come back for the next round of applications.
- **Raleigh Oak Charter School - Approved for interview**
  - Wake County – K-8<sup>th</sup> grade - Repeat application
  - Mission: Raleigh Oak Charter provides a K-8 education inspired by the principles of Public Waldorf. ROCS nurtures the whole child through an integrated curriculum that cultivates each individual’s innate creative, intellectual emotional, physical, and social capacities.
  - External evaluators: 5-passed Section I; 5-passed Section II; 6-passed Section III (Ed Plan); 5-passed Section IV; 5-passed Section V; 1-passed, 4 failed Section VI (Financial Plan)

- Discussion:
  - Quigley: Very strong board. The ADM is too low to make the budget work.
  - Turner: Concern about the limited use of technology, and would like to hear more. Weighted lottery - how and why with clarifications. Is there a demand of the Waldorf methodology? How is it linked to assessments?
- **Emereau: Roanoke Valley - Approved for interview**
  - Halifax County/ Roanoke Rapids City Schools / Weldon City Schools - K-12<sup>th</sup> grade students
  - Repeat – passed CSAB, but denied by SBE last year
  - Mission: At Emereau, we illuminate to embark; we investigate to discover; we innovate to transform; we cultivate to sustain; we celebrate to thrive – realizing the potential within us – we graduate, e+i(3)c(2)g!
  - External evaluators: 5-passed Section I; 4-passed, 1-failed Section II; 6-failed Section III (Ed Plan); 5-passed Section IV; 5-passed Section V; 5-passed Section VI (Financial Plan)
  - Kate Alice Dunaway worked with Board on application.
  - [There was concern that there were no board members from Halifax County. The Ed plan has a lot of different items mentioned, but does not address how they align with one another. – LK]
  - Discussion:
    - Quigley: Not sure what is the rush – they have an application for Bladen County and that school is to open fall of 2017, this year. Concern about all 6 external evaluators failed the Ed plan.
  - The vote was split 4 to 4. Since it was a tie, CSAB decided move ahead with full interview.

### SBE Update

- Mr. Machado told the CSAB these items were passed by the SBE:
  - Assumption Policy
  - Annual Charter School Report to the General Assembly
  - Several Consent Agenda items
  - GLOW Charter School Weighted Lottery
  - Johnson Charter is asking for a one-year delay due to facility issues. Zoning and DOT issues are slowing the charter down. EMOs usually look for property, while the “Ma & Pa” charters usually begin in an existing building.

### Ready to Open Update (Report on Jan. 11<sup>th</sup> agenda – VII. State Bd. Updates)

- Report by Dr. Townsend Smith:
  - There are 13 charter schools schedule to open in 2017.
  - Schools Requesting Delay: Rolesville Charter Academy & Johnston Charter Academy request to open in 2018. Cardinal Charter Academy at Knightdale requested to open in 2018, but this is their second delay. The 13 charter schools submitted all of their reports on time.
  - Update on the five required planning sessions and which schools attended.
  - Discussion regarding the DOT issues requiring charters to pay for road changes miles away from the charter school.

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- External evaluators: 5-passed Section I; 5-passed Section II; 3-passed 2-failed Section III (Ed Plan); 4-passed, 1-failed Section IV; 5-passed Section V; 5-passed Section VI
- [There were concerns about low enrollment projections and financial needs, also the evidence of need in the county. While the application mentions “Aspire Charters” – there is no connection with this organization. Transportation plan is weak; also child nutrition.—LK]

#### **V. Global Education – presentation from Carolina International School Presentation**

- Ms. Fasciano, Special Assistant for Global Education in DPI, made a presentation to the CSAB regarding the SBE’s Global Education Strategic Plan. DPI has developed a rubric for teachers to obtain a “Global Educator Digital Badge,” and for districts and schools to obtain a “Global-Ready” designation. These designations are not mandated. At the November SBE meeting Carolina International School was recognized for their desire and progress in obtaining a “Global-Ready” distinction. This school has a “Global Education Plan” tied to their mission. They have “Sister City/County Partnerships” for each grade.
- Hawkes asked about their academic performance and if the global focus was a distraction from overall academic performance in reading and math. DPI and the school felt this designation would be helpful in obtaining high academic performance. The school received a “C” performance grade for 2015-16.

#### **DPI Review of Charter Funding on the SBE’s Draft Legislative Agenda**

- Alexis Schauss, Director School Business led a discussion with CSAB on why “Charter Funding-Equitable allot through a new and separate state fund,” item was on the SBE’s Draft Legislative Agenda the previous week. At the SBE meeting Ms. Taylor asked for this item to be removed since there was no detail. She felt the item needed to be researched further before being on the legislative agenda. SBE decided the complete list needed more work and did not vote on the draft.
- Schauss stated the accounting process needed review since it had not been changed in 20 years, and the cap had been removed. With more charter schools in the state, they were looking for a more efficient process. Schauss explained a need to simplify the accounting process between LEAs and Charter Schools. One solution would be for charter schools to have a separate line item in the budget. Schauss’ department does not know which statute needs to be changed, but a solution is being discussed.
- Discussion:
  - Maimone: Asked Schauss to please keep the CSAB in the loop and to keep a close eye on any solutions that might be proposed, and any statute that might need to be changed.
  - [There were concerns of unintended consequences if there are two “pots” of money.—LK]
  - Schauss: There is no intent to change any amount of money and to help the continue growth of charter schools. This is only to streamline the budget process for both traditional and charter schools.

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## **VII. Application Update/Reviews**

- **Moore Montessori Community School - Approved for interview**
  1. Moore County - K-6<sup>th</sup> grades – Montessori program
  2. Mission: MMCA is a vibrant learning community, where diverse students build strong academic foundations, executive functional skills, and trust in their abilities in preparation for lives of joy and purpose in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
  3. External evaluators: 5-passed Section I; 5-passed Section II; 5-passed, 1 failed Section III (Ed. Plan); 5-passed Section IV; 3-passed, 2-failed Section V; 3-passed, 2-failed Section VI (Finances)
  4. NC Public Charter School Accelerator assisted in the application
  5. Discussion:
    - Taylor: this application had the best description of a Montessori program.
    - [Are they going to have a weighted lottery application – they will need one if they want to serve ED students. It is mastery based and effective for lower income students. They will have a preschool program that is paying. (Like Sterling Charter) Well-written application but the numbers are too low and the budget is too tight. –LK]

## **II. School Update – Kestrel Heights**

- Kestrel Heights self-reported several months ago they had found where graduated senior had not received all academic credits needed for graduation but had received a NC diploma. CSAB asked the administration of Kestrel Heights to review all the graduation cohorts of the school since their first graduation class of 2008, and give a full report back on this issue. The school found that 160 graduates (out of 399) did not complete all the credits needed for graduation.
- Maimone: Appreciated the careful deliberation of the CSAB over the issues facing Kestrel Heights Charter School. This situation would have been easy if the school had not “self-reported,” and their charter would be quickly revoked. However this cannot go without some sort of disciplinary action.
- The CSAB gave Kestrel Heights a three-year renewal with these conditions:
  1. Beginning next fall the school can only have K-8<sup>th</sup> grades. Must give up their high school.
  2. Provide a way for the 160 students to take credits missing at no cost to the students so they can achieve a NC Diploma
  3. Continue to try and contact these 160 students. Make a monthly report to the OCS on your efforts.
  4. Come before the CSAB every 6 months for an update
  5. May not have any grade expansions for term of charter
- Passed unanimously and sent to SBE for final approval.
- If the school does not accept these options, their charter will go into assumption.
- Walker: This goes without saying – there should not be any issues with your 2017 graduating class.

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January 12, 2017

## II. Application Update/Reviews

- **Anson Charter Academy - Approved for interview**
  - Anson County – Impact statement from LEA – K-5<sup>th</sup> grades – Classical Program
  - Mission: Our mission is to develop each child into an academically thriving citizen by partnering with parents and the community, utilizing high expectations and a rigorous classical education, delivered with purposeful and spirited devotion.
  - External evaluators: 4-passed Section I; 3-passed, 1-failed Section II; 4-passed Section III (Ed. Plan); 4-passed Section IV; 4-passed Section V; 4-passed Section VI (Finances)
  - [Seemed like a realistic application, the goals were appropriately difficult. This would be the only charter school in Anson County. The educational plan included Core Knowledge, but would like more information on “Heroes and Villains.” Same board is applying for another application? Yes, this the same board for Monroe Charter Academy. Opening two schools with same objectives will allow the board to bundle services. Will Goodall Consulting provide financial services, and then will Eddie Goodall stay on the board? No, Goodall will resign from the board when/if he gets the contract for financial services. The board is reviewing three other financial service companies.—LK]
- **Kaleidoscope Charter Academy – Denied for interview**
  - Wake County – 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades
  - Mission: Kaleidoscope Charter High School students will benefit from a student-centered learning environment, a creative and dynamic 21<sup>st</sup>-century curriculum, preparing students for higher education and beyond.
  - External evaluators: 5-passed Section I; 3-passed, 2-failed Section II; 3-passed, 2-failed Section III (Ed. Plan); 5-passed Section IV; 6-passed Section V; 3-passed, 2-failed Section VI
  - The LEA schools the students are coming from are A+ rated schools. Need is based on overcrowding versus and academic need. More pieces on the application need to be explained. The academic goals are very low considering the performance of surrounding schools. – 70% proficient.
  - The school will be Montessori based, but high school teachers would not be Montessori certified. The school would be “student-centered,” versus “teacher-centered.”
  - Discussion:
    - Maimone: school got good reviews from external evaluators. Overcrowding is a serious problem in this area.
    - Sanchez: The financial and educational plans had 2 failures. The merits of what is written are not fully explained.
- **Apprentice Academy of NC – Approved for interview**
  - Union County – 6<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grades
  - Mission: The mission of Apprentice Academy of NC is to prevent students from dropping out of school by providing a flexible, alternative path to a high school diploma for graduates who are well prepared to respond to current emerging and changing global workforce needs and expectations.



- External evaluators: 5-passed Section I; 4-passed, 1 failed Section II; 2-passed, 3-failed Section III (Ed. Plan); 2-passed, 3-failed Section IV; 4-passed, 1 failed Section V; 5-failed Section VI (Financial)
- This is an alternative school for students at risk of failure. Would be available for the LEA to suggest the school as an alternative. CSAB wants more information on marketing plan and how they describe an “at-risk” student. Ed plan failed – but had blended learning and mastery learning. They need to explain how these two plans integrate. Liked the partnership with South Piedmont Community College. There are concerns about the enrollment and meeting budget.
- Split decision with equal votes – CSAB voted to move forward
- **Young Inspiration STEAM Academy – Denied for interview**
  - Mecklenburg County – K-8<sup>th</sup> grades
  - Mission: Securing Tomorrow By Influencing The Youth of Today
  - External Evaluators: 4-passed Section I; 4- failed Section II; 4-failed Section III (Ed. Plan); 4-failed Section IV; 2-passed, 2 failed Section V; 2-passed, 2 failed Section VI (Financial)
  - [No one from the school was present. This does not clearly express a need in the community. The proposed population does not align with application. Not a clear explanation of how they are different from the LEA. Very weak application!—LK]
- **Ascend Leadership Academy: Lee County - Approved for interview**
  - Lee County – 6<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grades
  - Mission: The mission of Ascend Leadership Academy is to develop successful student leaders by growing their self-efficacy, intellectual understanding, and social competence. AA will accomplish this by applying innovative teaching methods, incorporating students’ cultural realities and cultivating student ownership in the learning community.
  - External evaluators: 5-passed Section I; 5-passed Section II; 5-passed Section III (Ed. Plan); ); 5-passed Section IV; 5-passed Section V; 4-passed, 1 failed Section VI (Financial)
  - The Board Chair is founder of Voyager Academy. The same board has applied for two charters: one in Lee County and one in Durham County. The reason is that most of the board members have ties to Lee County too.
  - Discussion:
    - Walker: Goals are not specific enough. Wonder why there is not representation from Lee County on the board. The school explained there is room on the board from representation from Lee County once the charter is awarded.
    - Reeves suggested the application were the same, but the counties are very different.
    - Walker stated that Durham had numerous charters, but there was not a charter in Lee County. He was interested in having one application move forward, but wait for the second application.
- **Ascend Leadership Academy: Durham County – Denied for interview**
  - Durham County – 6<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grades
  - Mission: The mission of Ascend Leadership Academy is to develop successful student leaders by growing their self-efficacy, intellectual understanding, and social competence. AA will accomplish this by applying innovative teaching methods, incorporating students’ cultural realities and cultivating student ownership in the learning community.
  - External Evaluators: 5-passed Section I; 5-passed Section II; 6-passed Section III (Ed. Plan); 5-passed Section IV; 5-passed Section V; 4-passed, 1 failed Section VI (Financial)

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- This application was discussed during the Lee County application above. CSAB felt that one application needed to proceed, and advised the board to come back and apply for a second school after one was demonstrating success.

### **VIII. School Update:**

- Update on Thunderbird Preparatory Academy provided the CSAB with a site visit report from the Office of Charter Schools. TPA provided the CSAB with all requests made. TPA will be present at the Feb. CSAB meeting and report on enrollment, budget and academic progress.

### **New Business**

- In light of the issues associated with Kestrel Heights the CSAB discussed what action could be taken to avoid this problem. There was a suggestion of spot-checking high school records making sure students have completed all credits for graduation. This was discussed but no action taken. Will be discussed further at a later time.
- [This is a serious problem, but a problem that might be found across our state. Remember, the administration at Kestrel Heights self-reported after they found errors when checking transcripts. States have had a focus effort on raising graduation rates since the passing of No Child Left Behind, which required states to set goals for graduation rates. Kestrel Heights gave credits where credits were not earned. However, a credit-giving pathway called “Credit Recovery” (CR) is full of possible abuses. CR is available to students who fail a course. According to SBE policy CCRE-001, “the term ‘credit recovery’ (CR) will be used to refer to a block of instruction that is less than the entirety of the Standard Course of Study for that course.” These CR classes are taken online, and provided by various vendors. The LEA determines the length of CR and manages the oversight of this program. Interesting that a local board of education cannot limit the number of CR courses a student obtains for graduation credits. I have asked the SBE to require DPI report the number of students acquiring credits through CR versus the traditional classroom course. At this time we have no idea how many students are graduating with CR credits.—LK]
- Center for Public Education reported on this initiative, and possible abuses back in 2012. See: <http://www.centerforpubliceducation.org/Main-Menu/Staffingstudents/Credit-recovery-programs/Credit-recovery-programs-full-report.html>
- [Maybe this is one reason why the graduation rate for NC is at an all-time historic high. Last year our state had an 85.8% graduation rate thus issuing NC Diplomas, while only 49% of students performed college & career proficient on End of Course exams taken in high school. What really is the academic standard for a NC Diploma?—LK]

CSAB adjourned at 2:00

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