



The Roger Bacon Academy

NC Charter School Advisory Board Monthly Meeting - April 10 -11, 2017

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:

April 10, 2017: <https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/Meetings/ViewMeetingOrder.aspx?S=10399&MID=3197>
April 11, 2017: <https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/Meetings/ViewMeetingOrder.aspx?S=10399&MID=3198>

April 10, 2017

II Application Updates

The CSAB conducts an in-depth interview with nine charter applicants during the two days. If the charter application is approved by the CSAB, the recommendation for final approval goes to the SBE. The Office of Charter Schools has a [complete list of the applicants](#) and the decisions made regarding the 2017 application process.

There were 38 applications at the beginning of this process and the CSAB will recommend 15 to receive their charter from the State Board of Education at their May meeting. These schools are scheduled to open 2018-19 school year.

The new round of charter applications will begin June 23, 2017, and the deadline for accepting applications will be September 22, 2017. These applications will be for the opening of the 2019-20 school year.

[Congrats to the 15 applicants who will be recommended to the SBE to begin their year of planning. The process for opening a charter school in NC is NOT for the faint of heart! It is a long and demanding one.]

- **Carolina Charter Academy** Moved **forward to SBE for final Approval.** (Unanimous)
Challenge Foundation Academy – Team CFA partner school
Wake County – K-8th grades
Application can be found:
<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/charterschools/applications/18-19/carolina-charterrubic.pdf>
External reviewers: Section I, Contact Information, 5 passed; Section II, Mission & Purpose, 5 passed; Section III, Educational Plan, 3 passed & 2 failed; Section IV, Governance & Capacity, 1 passed & 4 failed; Section V, Operations, 2 passed & 3 failed; Section VI, Financial Plan, 5 passed.
The mission of Carolina Charter Academy is to provide a classical education to elementary and middle school students while preparing them to be engaged, active citizens and building students of good character through community outreach and involvement.

3610 Thaddeus Lott Ln.
Leland, NC 28451

Office 910-655-3600
Fax 910-655-0310
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.*

This school will be using Core Knowledge Curricula. The charter school will draw from three counties: Wake, Johnson and Harnett. The board has already begun reaching out to the Latino community through Catholic churches in the area.

- Davidson Charter Academy** **Moved Forward to SBE for final Approval.** (Unanimous)
 Challenge Foundation Academy – Team CFA partner school has received help from Leaders Building Leaders & NC Public School Accelerator Program
 Davidson County – K-8th grades
 Application can be found:
<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/charterschools/applications/18-19/davidsonrubric.pdf>
External reviewers: Section I, Contact Information, 5 passed; Section II, Mission & Purpose, 5 passed; Section III, Educational Plan, 4 passed & 1 failed; Section IV, Governance & Capacity, 5 passed; Section V, Operations, 5 passed; Section VI, Financial Plan, 5 passed.
 A Challenge Foundation Academy – Davidson Charter Academy, in partnership with parents and community members, will foster student learning and achievement, and inspire students to become independent thinkers, effective communicators and contributing citizens of a global society.
 The school will attract from all three systems in Davidson County – Davidson County Schools, Lexington City Schools, and Thomasville City Schools.
- Kaleidoscope Charter High School Denied** **Does NOT move forward**
 Wake County – 9th – 12th grades
 Application can be viewed here:
<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/charterschools/applications/18-19/kaleidoscoperubric.pdf>
External reviewers: Section I, Contact Information, 7 passed; Section II, Mission & Purpose, 5 passed & 2 failed; Section III, Educational Plan, 5 passed & 3 failed; Section IV, Governance & Capacity, 8 passed; Section V, Operations, 8 passed; Section VI, Financial Plan, 5 passed & 3 failed.
 Kaleidoscope Charter High School students will benefit from a student-centered learning environment, a creative and dynamic 21st-century curriculum, preparing students for higher education and beyond.
 The application was approved last year by the CSAB, but SBE denied the final approval due to some comments and split vote of the CSAB. This year the CSAB was disappointed there were not changes addressing some weak areas of the application. CSAB suggested the board rework their goals and budget. They also need to justify the goals they set for the school. There was much concern about the goal of having such a low percentage of students (25%) meeting the ACT benchmark.

IV. Application Updates/Interviews

- Monroe Charter Academy** **Moved Forward to SBE for final Approval.**
 Union County - K-5th grades
 Application can be found:
<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/charterschools/applications/18-19/monroerubric.pdf>
External reviewers: Section I, Contact Information, 5 passed; Section II, Mission & Purpose, 4 passed & 1 failed; Section III, Educational Plan, 4 passed & 1 failed; Section IV, Governance & Capacity, 4 passed; Section V, Operations, 5 passed; Section VI, Financial Plan, 5 passed.

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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.

There was some concern since this board is asking to open two charters at the same time.

The board is the same – the other application is: Anson Charter Academy. The board believes it will increase efficiency if they can open two schools concurrently.

- **The Experiential School of Greensboro** Moved Forward to SBE for final Approval.

Guilford County – K-8th grades

Application can be found:

<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/charterschools/applications/18-19/experientialrubric.pdf>

External reviewers: Section I, Contact Information, 4 passed; Section II, Mission & Purpose, 4 passed; Section III, Educational Plan, 4 passed; Section IV, Governance & Capacity, 4 passed; Section V, Operations, 4 passed; Section VI, Financial Plan, 4 passed.

The Experiential School of Greensboro educates the whole child through a high quality, project-based, experiential curriculum. We are committed to an inclusive, open, experience-based learning

V. School Presentations

- Ms. Amy Jablonski, Director, Integrated Academic & Behavior Systems
DPI presented the background information [Multi-Tiered System of Support \(MTSS\)](#). This is three – tiered instruction/intervention system. This initiative has been implemented in all [114 LEAs and 50 charter schools](#). The agency is planning on including the rest of the charter schools in a cohort beginning January 2018.
- Lincoln Charter School Presentation – The presenters showed how Lincoln Charter began the process of implementing MTSS using their Mission Statement. This was a year long process and involved the six critical components of the program: leadership, building capacity for implementation, communication & collaboration, data-based problem solving, three-tiered instruction/intervention and data-evaluation.

[I found it very interesting how the school used its mission statement and took many elements they were already using to report on this initiative. The presenters emphasized how they used this program to enhance what they were already doing in the classroom. Using MTSS helped them think of how to measure and evaluate what they wanted to see happen in the classroom.]

VI. State Board of Education Updates

- Recognition was given to Cheryl Turner (Sugar Creek Charter School) & Eric Sanchez (Henderson Collegiate) for hosting the OCS training camp for continually low performing schools. The OCS heard “glowing” remarks about the quality of the program and the hosting schools’ hospitality. There were 23 school represented and 66 participants. The OCS will be offering these two training camps each year for charter schools to participate.
- Decision on Kestrel Heights
Kestrel Heights Charter School requested the SBE provide a review panel to hear objections regarding the non-renewal of the high school program. The panel upheld all five stipulations that accompany the 3-year renewal from the Charter School Advisory Board. The panel agreed with the decision to not renew the high school program. The panel added one more stipulation: the school should hire an

outside auditor to conduct a “thorough program audit of its K-8 operations” to be completed by Oct. 31, 2017.

- Charter amendment requests that will be going to the SBE in May:
 - Discovery Charter School – Durham - One-year delay in opening.
 - Montcross Charter School – Gaston - One year delay in opening
 - UpROAR Leadership Academy – Mecklenburg - Board would like to amend their charter regarding transportation and the lunch plan.
Vice Chair Walker said he was concerned about this type of amendment and suggest the school’s board come to the CSAB next month and discuss this change in the charter.
 - SBE wanted to see if anyone would like to assume the “Twin-City” Charter that was relinquished last month. The OCS has begun that process.
 - SBE approved new English Language Arts Standards.
 - SBE will be discussing the ESSA Plan in May and requests input from the CSAB.
 - SBE approved a Mental Health Policy and training will begin for Charter Schools in 2018-19.
- Application from the NC Office of Charter Schools to the USDOE for [Charter School Program \(CSP\)](#) Grants to State Entities. The CSP consists of \$147 million to be given to various states. This is a competitive grant and must be submitted by May 18, 2017. The Grant could be as much as \$10 million a year, up to 5 years. If awarded the Office of Charter School will then “sub-award” grants as much a \$900,000 for quality charter expansions.
- Renewal visits by the Office of Charter Schools have already begun for the 2017 Charter School renewals. The Office is also looking closely at the 14 low performing, at risk schools.
- Mr. Machado explained how the OCS has taken steps to provide better professional development sessions to charter schools. Craig Tucker, Consultant in the OCS, is developing more regional seminars, and “training camps” for schools. The OCS is also working with NCCAT to offer training at their facility in Cullowhee, NC.

Adjourn: 5:30 PM

April 11, 2017

II Application Updates/Interviews

- **East Voyager Academy Moved Forward to SBE for final Approval.**
NC Public Charter School Accelerator Program & Leaders Building Leaders help with application Mecklenburg County – K-8th grades
Application can be viewed here:
<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/charterschools/applications/18-19/voyagerrubric.pdf>
External reviewers: Section I, Contact Information, 5 passed; Section II, Mission & Purpose, 4 passed & 1 failed; Section III, Educational Plan, 3 passed & 2 failed; Section IV, Governance & Capacity, 5 passed; Section V, Operations, 5 passed; Section VI, Financial Plan, 5 passed.
The mission of East Voyager Academy is to graduate its students with English-Chinese bilingual proficiency, strong academics, and cultural diversity awareness.

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- The Paideia Academy** Moved Forward to SBE for final Approval.
 Cabarrus County – 6th – 12th grades
 Application can be viewed here:
<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/charterschools/applications/18-19/paideiarubric.pdf>
External reviewers: Section I, Contact Information, 4 passed; Section II, Mission & Purpose, 3 passed & 1 failed; Section III, Educational Plan, 4 passed; Section IV, Governance & Capacity, 4 passed; Section V, Operations, 4 passed; Section VI, Financial Plan, 3 passed & 1 failed.
 The Paideia Academy promotes a culture of community that nurtures scholarly pursuits and personal integrity. We prepare lifelong learners who value, foster, and honor intellectual autonomy and earned success.
- Essie Mae Kiser Foxx Charter School** Moved Forward to SBE for final Approval.
 Rowan County – K-8th grade
 Torchlight Academy Schools, LLC will be the education management organization (EMO)
 Application can be viewed here:
<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/charterschools/applications/18-19/essierubric.pdf>
External reviewers: Section I, Contact Information, 9 passed; Section II, Mission & Purpose, 8 passed; Section III, Educational Plan, 8 passed; Section IV, Governance & Capacity, 8 passed & 1 failed; Section V, Operations, 9 passed; Section VI, Financial Plan, 9 passed.
 Essie's School will promote academic excellence and cultivate confident, lifelong learners and leaders by developing the unique gifts and talents of each student, nurturing curiosity and fostering creative and critical thinking.
 Torchlight Academy is planning on being the management company. There were lots of questions regarding the budget and the contract between the board and the management company. The non-profit board and the management company presented a much clearer proposal and budget to the CSAB.

III. Application Updates/Interviews

- Global Achievers School** Moved Forward to SBE for final Approval.
 Nash County – K-8th grades
 The application can be viewed here:
<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/charterschools/applications/18-19/globalrubric.pdf>
External reviewers: Section I, Contact Information, 4 passed; Section II, Mission & Purpose, 4 passed; Section III, Educational Plan, 4 passed & 1 failed; Section IV, Governance & Capacity, 4 passed; Section V, Operations, 4 passed; Section VI, Financial Plan, 4 passed.
 Global Achievers school enhances the quality of education through project-based learning as we prepare all students within the communities we serve for a global society.

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VI. Policy Committee

- Charter Amendments for Existing Public Charter Schools - Policy
The CSAB is putting into policy specifically what the Office of Charter Schools can approve, what the CSAB can approve and what needs to go to the SBE for approval. A material revision of the provisions of a charter application shall be made only upon the approval of the SBE. Additions to the policy outlines the documentation needed to make an appeal to the SBE.
- Planning year for New Preliminary Charter Schools
This policy outlines the planning year for new charters but also outlines the acceleration process. The SBE may accelerate the mandatory planning year if they choose.
[Many times the CSAB will deny an application but would like to accelerate the application if the board works hard and revises the application. The CSAB would like to recommend this acceleration process to some applicants.]

VII. Planning for May 8-9

- The Office of Charter Schools is not expecting a long meeting for May 8, and they cancelled the May 9 meeting. Since the application process will be sending recommendations to the SBE in May there is no need for a two-day meeting next month. Heritage Collegiate Leadership Academy is in non-compliance in every area. The CSAB asked for that school to come and answer questions at the May meeting.

Adjourn: 3:00 PM

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