



The Roger Bacon Academy

NC State Board of Education

Monthly Meeting - January 4 & 5, 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:

January 4, 2017

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/Meetings/ViewMeetingOrder.aspx?S=10399&MID=2933>

January 5, 2017

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/Meetings/ViewMeetingOrder.aspx?S=10399&MID=2934>

January 4, 2017 Meeting

[General summary/observations: This was the first meeting the new State Superintendent, Mark Johnson, attended. These two days had numerous agenda items, but VERY little discussion. I found it interesting the Board Chair, Bill Cobey began the meeting several times without all the Board members and Mr. Johnson in their seats. Maybe this was simply getting the meeting started on time, but I have never seen Mr. Cobey start a meeting without June Atkinson in her seat, if she was near the boardroom. I wonder if this has to do with the SBE suing the State of North Carolina over the General Assembly's attempt to take power from the SBE and giving it to the Superintendent. The newly elected State Treasurer, Dale Folwell, attended for the first time on Tuesday, Jan 4. On Tuesday Treasurer Folwell made serious comments regarding the Pension and Health Insurance for Gov't employees, which includes over 180,000 school employees.—LK]

II. SBE Committee Meetings

A. Student Learning & Achievement Committee

Discussion Items:

- *SLA 1 – Reappointment or Replacement of Compliance Commission*
SBE established the Compliance Commission to serve as an advisory body to make recommendations to the SBE through DPI on testing issues and other issues related to school accountability and improvement. The Commission is composed of 22 members; 9 members expire in 2016; 13 members expire in 2018. Members are appointed for 4 years. The SBE is asked to reappoint 5 members, and has already approved two new members:
 - Ashley Lanning – High School Math Teacher in the Rowan-Salisbury Schools
 - Christine Fitch – Chair of Wilson County Bd of Ed. – Just completed a year of being the Local Board Advisor to the SBE.

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[I always wonder if the SBE interviews these recommended appointees. I also wonder if DPI feels successful in just finding someone who fits the region and category, so a seat is filled.—LK]

- *SLA 2 – Council on Education Services for Exceptional Children – Membership Vacancies*
This Council is established in federal & state law as an advisory council to the SBE. The Council advises the SBE on unmet needs of children with disabilities. 51% of the Council is made up of parents. DPI is looking for 3 parents within regions 7, 4, and 2 to serve. DPI said it was hard to get parents to serve because of work schedules.
[Again, wonder how these folks are chosen by DPI, and what type of interview process they go through with SBE. Who knows? Let me know if you are interested in applying.—LK]
- *SLA 3 – Change to Course for Credit Policy*
This change has to do with technical updates including the name of high school Math 1,2,3 courses.
[This is a very important policy regarding graduation credits. It discusses at length “Credit Recovery.” This refers to a block of instruction that is less than the regular semester for a subject. However, the student receives credit for graduation. The LEA cannot limit the number of these credits. The state does not disaggregate the number of students graduating with regular credits, or “Credit Recovery” credits. LEAs can also provide for “Credit by Demonstrated Mastery.” (CDM). This is a process where the LEA awards a student credit in a particular course without requiring the student to complete classroom instruction for a certain amount of seat time. Again, we have no idea how many students receive credit using this pathway. These pathways are how the state reached historically high graduation rates, with very little oversight for rigor and quality. Don’t be fooled, no one really knows the value of a high school diploma in NC.—LK]
- *SLA 4 – Change to State Graduation Requirements Policy*
This involves technical updates including the names of the integrated Math courses for high school.

New Business:

- *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Update* – Lou Fabrizio, Tammy Howard
This is a monthly report on the State Plan to be submitted to the USDOE by Sept. 18, 2017.
New information:
 - The 145-page report, linked below, conforms to the USDOE template. Make note of the wording in Red: means holding a place for details; Yellow: decision item; Green: new text. See: <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/succeeds/draft-state-plan.pdf>
 - DPI will be meeting with General Assembly members to keep them aware of the State Plan. The State Plan will be presented to the Governor’s office for 30-day review process.
 - Superintendents have concerns about the capability of schools to impact absenteeism, and that is used as an accountability measure.
 - Discussion:
 - McDevitt suggested the need for alignment of the ESSA State Plan with the SBE Strategic Goals, Legislative Agenda, The Whole Child Model, etc.

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- Collins had several comments and felt a need to hit the “restart” button based upon concerns coming from Superintendents across the state. He is also disappointed the plan does not include and refer to the Digital Learning Initiative, and felt this should be a signature part of the plan.
- [Key word for this is still “uncertain” since we do not know what the new US Sec. of Education will expect, and if the congressional review process will change other regulations. Also, will be interesting to see how the Gov’s office will revise the State Plan.—LK]
- *English Language Arts & Math Standards Revision Update*
 - DPI is currently implementing a “MRI” – Math Resource for Instruction linked to standards for high school math; Math 1, 2, and 3. This is an integrated approach voted on by the SBE in July 2016. [This is controversial since the traditional course progression of Algebra I; Geometry; Algebra 2 no longer exists – except in high-achieving charter schools who are not following DPI’s mandates, and high-achieving private schools. DPI is currently focusing on implementation “inputs” and not “outputs.” To evaluate these decisions, we will need to focus on ACT scores in Math at the 11th grade and the success of students in AP STEM courses after 4-3 years. I hope SBE made the right decision – we will see. –LK]
 - Currently DPI is facilitating the review, revision and implementation planning for K-8 Mathematics and K-12 English Language Arts. The public can comment on the English standards here: <https://www.research.net/r/eladraft2survey>
 - Discussion
 - Collins asked DPI to help him understand the progression of the 4th year of math in high school. What is the alignment for the 4th year math course? Will Math 3 prepare students for pre-calculus? What is the bridge for students to be college and career ready?
 - Oxendine asked DPI to get feedback from university mathematicians on the Math standards.
 - [Since NC has the LOWEST percent of students meeting the English benchmark on the ACT in the country, wonder if they are looking at other state standards, which produce higher students' performance? See: <http://www.act.org/content/act/en/research/condition-of-college-and-career-readiness-report-2015.html?page=0&chapter=9> –LK]
- *Textbook Purchase Update*
DPI presented an update on textbook purchases, and online materials. Asheboro City Schools presented on changes in their Science curriculum material, using an online digital resource, “Discovery Techbook.” These changes had very positive results on the 5th grade EOG assessment after implementation.

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B. Special Committee on Digital Learning

Action on First Read:

- *SCDL 1 – School Connectivity Initiative*
This is a report to the General Assembly on accomplishments made in 2016 for traditional and charter school classroom connectivity. It also gives consideration for what will be accomplished in 2017.

New Business:

- *Digital Learning Update*
This is a partnership between DPI and the Friday Institute at NC State. There was a PowerPoint presentation on the 1) Professional Learning cohorts 2) Cooperative Purchasing of Content 3) Infrastructure Maintenance & Supports 4) Updates State Policies on Digital Resources. The presentation updated how the digital material is on Home Base.

C. Business Operations Committee

Action on First Read:

- *BSOP 1 – Bonuses for Advance Placement (AP) & International Baccalaureate (IB) Allotments*
 - The General Assembly allotted \$4.3 million to give AP and IB teachers a bonus based on the number of student in their class that passed the exam. (Grade 3 or above on AP exams; Grade 4 or above on IB exams.) Teachers receive \$50 for each exam passed, up to \$2,000 per year.
 - This chart is calculated at \$50 multiplied by the total # of exams that meet the criteria, and total possible amount in the state is \$3.6 million. DPI and LEAs must return any unused funds to the state. Charter schools are not eligible to receive these funds.
 - Davis asked for a study on this pilot to see if the desired outcomes are achieved, and what unintended consequences might occur. DPI staff said statute requires a report on the pilot in March 2018
- *BSOP 2 – Local Education Agency Distribution of Merit Pay Bonus Plans Report*
This report to the General Assembly states how LEAs used the funds to award one-time merit pay to State-funded non-educators (not paid from the teacher salary schedule). LEAs used a variety of rubrics to determine “merit.” This was not available to charter schools. [Interesting the report is just a compilation of 115 plans. I could not find the total amount the state paid for this bonus, nor any evaluation of this expenditure of funds.—LK]
- *BSOP 3 – Third-Grade Teacher Reading Bonus Allotments*
 - The General Assembly allotted \$10 million total for a bonus to 2015-16 third grade reading teachers based upon their EVAAS (student growth) scores. \$5 million went to top scoring 25% of teachers across the state, and \$5 million was split across 115 LEAs to their top 25% of teachers. To receive the bonus teachers must still be employed at the LEA, in the same school and grade they taught last year when the scores were evaluated. Charter schools teachers are eligible for the top teachers in the state, but not the LEA portion of the bonus. Traditional teachers are eligible for both allotments. Lowest award for teacher = \$1,824. Highest award for teacher = \$8,770.

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- [Willoughby made a statement regarding why the 1st & 2nd grade teachers do not get a bonus, because they lay the reading foundation. However, third grade teachers are rewarded on the amount of academic growth in their classrooms. This bonus is VERY valid since third grade is where Read to Achieve requires a child score a level 3 or above in order to move to 4th grade. This year is extremely important to the academic success of the student. These bonuses are based on student growth and not proficiency scores. Bonus is paid a year after the assessments are given, and teacher must continue teaching in the same grade and same school to be paid the bonus. This criterion encourages high performing 3rd grade teachers to stay teaching in the same school and same grade. –LK]
- *Contracts: SBE did not have one comment on any of these contracts.*
 - List of DPI’s contracts totals over \$25,000 for the month. Over 30 different contracts to various providers for various reasons.
 - [Several contracts (#1, #3, #4) deal with the collection of data for individuals. Part of the P20W longitudinal data collection. See: <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/data/ncp-20w/p20w-presentation.pdf> There is also a \$211,600. (Federal Grant - #30) contract to a non-profit, SHIFT NC, to provide assistance with implementation and training on “Supporting Transgender Students: A Primer for Administrator” and “How to Be an Ally” supporting LGBTQ students. –LK]

D. Education Innovation & Charter Schools Committee

Action:

- *EICS 1- Program Approval Requests Under the Cooperative Innovative High School (CIHS) Program Recommendations*
Thirteen recommended applications for CIHS were presented for SBE approval. If approved the applications go to the NC Community College Board, and UNC Board of Gov. for approval and then on to the General Assembly for final approval and funding. [These schools partner with a community college or a university to allow students the ability to exceed the general high school curriculum. These schools have a very high graduation rate.—LK]
- *EICS 2 – Charter Schools Advisory Board TCS-U-017 Policy Recommendation Changes*
These are the policy recommendations for the assumption process of an inadequately performing charter school. [These are important to pass since there is a charter school in Mecklenburg County that is currently in the process of assumption. The OCS said they had received 4 RFPs regarding the assumption.—LK]

Action on First Read:

- *EICS 3 – Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee: Annual Charter Schools Report*
 - This is the Annual Charter School Report that goes to the General Assembly (29 pages). This report has better information than in years past. The Academic Performance section confirms that charter schools have a higher percentage performing at the A/B/C ratings and D/F ratings, than traditional public schools. Therefore, there are less “C” charter schools than traditional schools.
 - [Charter schools often have been the target of attacks alleging “creaming” or taking the more advantaged student. This report addresses the issues associated with tracking

Economically Disadvantaged (ED) students in charter schools. The report does an excellent job explaining how difficult it is for charter schools to get an accurate number of poorer students attending due to the fact that ED numbers are determined by surveys sent home with the National School Lunch Program, which many charter schools do not participate in. 17 charter schools did not report their data. Most likely, figures underrepresent the true ED population in charter schools. When comparing racial demographics, charters have more black, white and Asian students, but fewer Hispanic students. I was very disappointed that the report did not include the EOG performance average of charter schools compared with the performance average of traditional public schools. The overall state charter school average is about 10 percentage points higher, than the traditional school average, in addition to 11 of 13 student demographic categories performing better on EOGs at charter schools. Currently, The Roger Bacon Academy performs these important calculations and verifies the data with DPI. DPI needs to be doing this work. See report on charter vs. traditional school EOG performance for the 2014-15 school year:

<http://www.rogerbaconacademy.net/newsandupdates/blog/3679/3679/> —LK]

- Discussion: All of these items have been approved by CSAB but now need approval by SBE.
 - *EICS 4 – 2017-18 Grade Enrollment & Expansion Requests*
 - *EICS 5 – Recommendations for Charters Expiring June 2017*
 - *EICS 6 – Recommendation to allow Pine Springs to Begin with its yr. 2 Projected ADM*
 - *EICS 7 – One-year Delay request for Rolesville Charter Academy*
 - *EICS 8 – Commonwealth High School Amendment Request to Adjust its Teacher Licensure %*
 - *EICS 9 – Stewart Creek High School Amendment Request to Adjust its Teacher Licensure %*
 - *EICS 10 – Central Wake High School Amendment Request to Adjust its Teacher Licensure %*
- All of these requests to adjust teacher licensure percentages deal with the fact these charter applications stated they would have 100% of NC Certified/Licensed teachers. NC’s charter school law allows public charter schools flexibility and allows 50% of teachers to be qualified, but not necessarily have NC’s “paperwork.” These three schools discovered they DID want this flexibility but needed to amend their charter to order to now have the flexibility.
 - *EICS 11 – Second Request for One-year Delay for Cardinal Charter Academy*

New Business

- *Office of Charter Schools Presentation on the Charter School Assumption Process*
The OCS gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the assumption process and timeline. Assumption happens when a charter is continually low performing and the board of that charter is willing to allow another entity to take over the charter. The presentation included the specifics regarding the “first” assumption of a charter in NC; Community Charter in Mecklenburg County.

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E. Educator Standards & Practices Committee

Discussion:

- *ES&P 1 – Policies on the Beginning Teacher Support Program: Mentor Requirements*
 - The General Assembly passed legislation for DPI to develop a Beginning Teacher Mentor Program, and gave specific criteria for the quality of the mentor teacher. Based upon these mandates there are not enough mentor teachers to match the number of beginning teachers in the state. DPI needs to go back to the General Assembly and ask for broader criteria in order to get more mentor teachers. This was an unintended consequence of the legislation.
 - [Sad the state does not have enough teachers rated at the “accomplished level” to match with a beginning teacher. Based upon the specific criteria for a mentor teacher, there are 28 LEAs with schools that do not have enough mentors for their beginning teachers. Columbus County has two schools with NO available mentor teachers.—LK]

New Business

- *Educator Preparation Program Approval Process Modification*
 - This is a huge task for the Schools of Education around the state. All higher education programs in every college/university must submit a review of their coursework. This includes each undergraduate (initial) education degree program, each graduate degree, Master of School Administration programs, School Social Work and School Counselor programs. The report includes revisions based upon graduates’ performance on licensing assessments, and compliance with new legislative requirements. This includes current programs and any proposals for new programs.
 - [This is important if we want to make sure the teacher preparation programs are producing quality educators. Looking at outputs instead of only inputs. I think this report is a beginning, linking the teacher candidate to their performance on licensing exams, but needs to also follow how the teacher after graduation performs in the classroom. NC State was trying to link the teacher’s performance to the higher education institution the teacher attended. Will need to check if they are still compiling this information. –LK]

SBE open session adjourned at 3:00 pm and then went into closed session for the day.

January 5, 2017 Meeting

See all the notes above from Jan 6th meeting on specific items.

II. Special Recognitions

- New State Board of Ed Local Advisor: Ms. Amanda Bell, Vice Chair, Rockingham County Schools

III. Chairman’s Report to Board

- Legislative Report – Ms. Rachel Beaulieu
 - The Draft Legislation Agenda had 27 items listed. It was a long list of items not associated with any specific bills.

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- Discussion
 - Taylor had concerns with an item regarding charter school funding: “Equitable allotment through a new and separate state fund.” She felt this item did not have enough specifics, and suggested it be removed.
 - McDevitt was concerned about the alignment of this list with the SBE’s Strategic Plan, State ESSA Plan, budget requests, and the Whole Community Whole Child Whole School program. He suggested the draft stay a draft and come back next month with alignment.
 - [Since there was not a vote taken, it will be interesting to see if charter funding stays on the list. I have concerns about any item without specifics since we all know the “devil is in the details.”—LK]

IV. Superintendent’s Report to the Board – Mark Johnson

- This was the first statement from the new State Superintendent. Since he had only been on the job for three days he shared why he wanted to pursue the office of State Superintendent. This desire came from his experience as a Teach for America teacher at West Charlotte in Mecklenburg County, and what he has experienced as a local school board member in Forsyth County.
 - He had three goals:
 - Urgency – there is no time to waste in improving academic outcomes in the state.
 - Ownership – DPI needs to own the issues facing schools and students in the state.
 - Innovation – Education needs to embrace innovation to meet the needs of students.
 - He announced a “listening tour” that would begin immediately. He wants to hear from educational leaders across the state.
 - [The Superintendent has little authority to really accomplish anything at the agency. Will see what happens as the SBE sues the General Assembly’s law giving the Superintendent more authority over the agency, DPI. Time will tell if the goals will be met.—LK]

V. Consent Agenda - All items passed unanimously - no discussion

- *EICS 12 – NC Virtual Public School Annual Report*
- *EICS 13 - Recommendation for the GLOW Academy Weighted Lottery Amendment Request*
- *EICS 13 – Joint Legislative Ed Oversight Committee: Virtual Charter School Pilot Report*
- *EICS 15 – Recommendation for Charlotte Lab School Weighted Lottery amendment Request*
- *EICS 16 – NC Leadership Academy’s Amendment Request to Change its NON-Profit Name*

VI. Action & Discussion Agenda

A. Special Committee on Digital Learning

- Action on First Read:
 - *SCDL 1 – School Connectivity Initiative* – passed unanimously
- New Business
 - *Digital Learning Update*

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B. Education Innovation & Charter Schools Committee

Action

- *EICS 1 – Program Approval Requests Under the CIHS Program Recommendations* - Passed Unanimously
- *EICS 2 – CSAB TCS-U-O17 Policy Recommendation Changes (Assumption Policy)* - Passed Unanimously

Action on First Read

- *EICS 3 – Joint Legislative Ed Oversight Committee: Annual Charter School Report* - Passed Unanimously

Discussion (will be voted on in February)

- *EICS 4 – 2017-18 Grade Enrollment & Expansion Requests*
- *EICS 5 – Recommendation for Charters Expiring June 2017*
- *EICS 6 – Recommendations to Allow Pine Springs to Begin with its Year 2 Projected ADM*
- *EICS 7 – One-year Delay Request for Rolesville Charter Academy*
- *EICS 8 – Commonwealth High School Amendment Request to Adjust its Teacher Licensure Percentage*
- *EICS 9 – Steward Creek High School Amendment Request to Adjust its Teacher Licensure Percentage*
- *EICS 10 – Central Wake High School Amendment Request to Adjust its Teacher Licensure Percentage*
- *EICS 11 – Second Request for One-year Delay for Cardinal Charter Academy at Knightdale*

New Business

- *Office of Charter Schools presentation on the Charter School Assumption* (presented on Jan. 4)

C. Business Operations Committee

Action on First Reading

- *BSOP 1 – Bonuses for Advance Placement (AP) & International Baccalaureate (IB) Allotments* - Passed Unanimously
- *BSOP 2 – Local Education Agency Distribution of Merit Pay Bonus Plans Report* - Passed Unanimously
- *BSOP 3 – Third-Grade Teacher Reading Bonus Allotments* - Passed Unanimously
- *Update on Contracts* - Passed Unanimously

D. Educator Standards & Practices Committee

Discussion (will be voted on in February)

- *ES&P 1- Policies on the Beginning Teacher Support Program: Mentor Requirements*

New Business

- *Educator Preparation Program Approval Process Modification*

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E. Student Learning & Achievement Committee

Discussion (will be voted on in February)

- *SLA 1 – Reappointment or Replacement of Compliance Committee*
- *SLA 2 – Council on Educational Services for EC – Membership Vacancies*
- *SLA 3 – Change to Course for Credit Policy*
- *SLA 4 – Change to State Graduation Requirements Policy*

New Business

- *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Update*
- *English Language Arts & Math Standards Revision Update – Implementation for HS*
- *Textbook Purchase Update*

VII. Chairman’s Closing Comments:

State Treasurer, Dale Folwell, asked Chairman Cobey if he could make a statement. Cobey agreed. Treasurer Folwell said he did not go to sleep at night thinking about education, but went to bed every night thinking about pension issues and the health insurance issues facing every state employee. Basically the state was in a huge deficit on these two items. He said these two items are not political or emotional, they are math. The Pension Plan for the state is \$10-16 billion underfunded and has not grown as expected over the past years. Promises have been made and money set aside, but not enough. A government employee’s family insurance premium is as much as \$700 a month. Many people serving the state have to work 5 days a month to just pay the insurance premium. This is not right – not good. To accommodate these two items the state would need to appropriate \$4 billion a year for the next 15 years. This affects every other line item for the state - \$4 billion for 15 years JUST for pensions and health care. He wanted SBE to know those two items were the most important factors in his world.

There was silence in the room. Chairman Cobey simply stated, “Those are sobering comments.”

Adjourned at 10:40am

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