



# The Roger Bacon Academy

## NC State Board of Education

### Monthly Meeting - March 1 & 2, 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:**

March 1, 2017

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/Meetings/ViewMeetingOrder.aspx?S=10399&MID=3081>

March 2, 2017

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/Meetings/ViewMeetingOrder.aspx?S=10399&MID=3082>

#### **March 1, 2017**

#### **II. SBE Committee Meetings**

##### A. Student Learning & Achievement Committee

###### Action:

- SLA 1 – Report to the NC General Assembly: Career & College-Ready Graduates  
This program, mandated by the General Assembly in 2015, requires the State Board of Community Colleges (SBCC) to develop a math, reading and English high school curricula for seniors needing remediation. These classes will be mandatory for students with an unweighted GPA of 2.7-2.75 and below the ACT Benchmark of 18 for English, and 22 for math. Seven community colleges will be piloting this program. Dr. Oxendine asked if the remedial class meant the student would miss the required literature in senior English. DPI confirmed the student would miss the literature. [DPI did not say how many students are participating in the program. According to 2015 ACT data, only 47% of students in NC met the “18 benchmark score” in English, and only 32% of students met the “22 benchmark score” in math. There are many questions about this program – first of all – HOW MANY Students will be taking these remedial courses?]

###### Action on First Read:

- SLA 2 – Approval of Calendar for the NC Residential Schools for Deaf & Blind

###### Discussion:

- SLA 3 – Council on Ed Services for Exceptional Children Membership  
Vote to add new parent member: Ms. Leslie Sellers

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## 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.*

- SLA 4 – English Language Arts Draft Standards Revision  
This is the third draft of the ELA Standards. The presentation by DPI emphasized the input from NC teachers and the public. The presentation also made distinctions between standards and curricula.  
Chair Cobey stated he appreciated the process and hoped this would put an end to the standard “being” Common Core. He was glad we could now say the standards were North Carolina Standards.  
Dr. Oxendine believed some changes might be in order. Clarification of the standard’s needed work, but DPI said more clarification would occur as soon as the standards were approved.  
Vice Chair Collins asked Dr. Oxendine if she thought the controversy of Common Core Standards was corrected in this draft. Dr. Oxendine said standards are a work in progress, but thought these were a step in the right direction.  
Changes: 125 Standards - major change; 45 Standards – minor change; 179 standards remained the same; 8 standards removed; one new standard.  
[The ELA standards have been controversial for years. Before adopting Common Core standards in 2012, the standards were considered weak and vague. Adopting Common Core brought about the Academic Standards Review Commission in 2015. DPI has now completed a review process and a draft that goes before the SBE for approval. Some might consider these new standards “Common Core Light.” Since teachers and folks only in NC made these changes, one might think it wise to get an expert opinion from outside the state. Dr. Sandra Stotsky, expert in the field of ELA Standards, [is willing to review](#). Wonder if she will be asked before the SBE votes on the standards next month?]

#### New Business

- NC Check-Ins Update  
The NC Check-In is an interim assessment being piloted across the state. There are 322 schools piloting the 5<sup>th</sup> grade math, and 185 schools piloting the 6<sup>th</sup> grade ELA. These assessments are given three times (October, January, March) before the summative End of Grade assessment. These interim tests should help teachers know which students need remediation before the end of the year. Almost 25% of the pilot districts are giving these assessments along with their local benchmark assessments.  
[The “testing company” at DPI is alive and well. While everyone was asking for fewer tests, DPI created MORE! These assessments still do not give us any national norms so we have no idea how NC students perform against students of the same grade and age in another state, or nationally. It boggles my mind why the SBE is so concerned with “global education,” while not concerned with how our students compare with the state next door. Most of the nationally normed achievement assessments (in the free market) have interim benchmarks available. These assessments also provide a “check & balance” tool to see how well our standards & curricula align to other states. If we are going to take the time from teaching, the assessments should tell us more than whether a student is learning NC curricula. It will be interesting to see if these added assessments make a difference in the percentage of students passing the End of the Grade assessment in May.]
- ESSA Update  
Agenda item move to tomorrow

## The Three Laws



and now there is a desire for these schools to have a venue to learn best practices. The “District & School Transformation” Division of DPI monitors these schools.

[The ability for schools to have this flexibility came under state statute that lifted the charter cap of 100. LEAs having flexibility is good! I find it interesting this model of becoming “charter like” is the most popular and growing quickly. However, will this establish a system of “rich” and “poor” charter schools? This would not be a concern if the charter vs. district funding inequities were resolved. But until then – Charter receive about 30% less in funding, and this needs to be addressed!]

- EICS 6 – Coastal Prep Charter School’s Amendment request to amend its 1<sup>st</sup> year enrollment School is delayed in opening and would like to use the second year’s enrollment projections instead of year one. It is a simple amendment, but needs SBE approval.
- EICS 7 – Coastal Prep Charter School’s Amendment request to amend its Charter The charter board would like to partner with Challenge Foundation Academy, and the original charter needs to be amended to reflect changes.
- EICS 8 – Unity Charter School’s Request to amend its charter The charter board would like to partner with Challenge Foundation Academy, and the original charter needs to be amended to reflect changes.

#### C. Educator Standards & Practices

##### New Business:

- Statewide Service Support Team Update  
DPI presented to the SBE how this level of employees provides services to districts across the state. There are four service support teams with cross agency staff members serving four regions of the state. There is a fifth team to support charter schools. The teams meet face-to-face with the regional districts to support DPI’s priorities. They try to align their services to local needs. This group works with the Regional Education Service Alliances (RESAs).  
[This report gives the SBE an update on DPI’s regional efforts working with districts/charters. This is on top of the nine RESAs and six regional accountability offices. I wonder if there is overlap? DPI gives explanations for the existence of these initiatives, especially during budget time at the General Assembly? Coincidence?]

#### D. Healthy Responsible Students

##### Discussion:

- HRS 1 – School-Based Mental Health Policy  
This is the second month a draft School-Based Mental Health Policy has been presented. The draft [has changed considerably](#) with input from both charter and district school leaders. The draft still has concerns relating to MOU between a [Managed Care Organization](#) (MCO) and all districts & charter schools. DPI stated there was confusion over what was mandated and what was meant to be a suggestion. DPI said the policy was meant to make a district/charter school know what they were doing in prevention, intervention and referral.  
[There was an outcry from the NC School Board Association and charter schools across the state. This was an example of another unfunded mandate and regulations put on administrators and teachers. It will be interesting to see what next month brings as the SBE is asked to approve this policy.]

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- School Breakfast Resolution

SBE passed a resolution regarding the school breakfast program. North Carolina has the sixth largest program in the country. DPI shared how the federal Dept. of Agriculture helped the state during Matthew storm and flooding in the state. Mr. Robin Bailey, Regional Administrator from the US Department of Agriculture, reported on the importance of the breakfast program.

[It was good to hear how these agencies worked together to meet real needs of families during the crises in our state. I was surprised that NC was the 6<sup>th</sup> largest participant of this program. My granddaughter attended Beverly Woods Elementary in Charlotte, and this school participates in the program. It was always concerning to me that the elementary school next to the country club (Quail Hollow) that hosts the PGA tournament provides free breakfast to every student in the school. Don't miss what I am saying, give to the students who can't get food at home, but do we want to expand the role of the school to serve breakfast for every child?]

#### IV. State Superintendent's Report

State Superintendent Mark Johnson is on a listening tour around the state. He shared his visit to West Charlotte. He taught at this school during the 1990s. Superintendent Johnson was impressed with the higher graduation rate, and he commented on the commitment of teachers at the school.

#### V. Information Agenda

##### A. Education Standards & Practices

- ES&P 1 – Educator Effectiveness & Equity

Teachers in North Carolina are evaluated and rated: In Need of Improvement, Effective, and Highly Effective. This agenda item consisted of a report by DPI linking teacher effectiveness from school year 2015-16 to SBE's Strategic Plan. The report demonstrates a need for the SBE to establish better targets regarding teacher quality. Here is a [link](#) to the NC Teaching Standards, which are the criteria used to evaluate teachers. During the 2015-16 school year, there were a total of 27,961 teachers rated, 74% were Effective, 13.9% were Highly Effective, and 12.1% were In Need of Improvement. This report also looked at Principal and Assistant Principals evaluation ratings.

##### B. Student Learning & Achievement

- SLA 5 – Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS): Implementation Progress

This report from DPI updates the number of districts & charter schools implementing this new initiative. All [115 districts and 50 charter schools](#) either have, or are in the process of implementation. MTSS is a multi-tiered framework which promotes school improvement through engaging, research-based academic and behavioral practices. More information on the program can be found on the [MTSS Live Binder](#).

#### VI. Consent Agenda – No Discussion – **Single vote pass unanimous**

(See last month's notes for comments on these items)

##### A. Education Standards & Practices

- ES&P 2 – Revisions to Policy on Renewing Continuing Licenses
- ES&P 3 – Joint Legislative Ed Oversight Committee Report: Educator Preparation Report Cards
- ES&P 4 – Local Alternative Teacher Preparation Program

##### B. Education Innovation & Charter Schools

- EICS 9 – Report to General Assembly: Evaluation of Cooperative Innovative High School Programs
- EICS 10 – Recommendation on the Revocation of a Charter For Lack of Academy Performance



- EICS 6 – Coastal Prep Charter School’s Amendment Request for 1<sup>st</sup> year enrollment
  - EICS 7 – Coastal Prep Charter School’s Amendment Request to amend charter
  - EICS 8 – Unity Charter School’s Request to Amend its Charter
- C. Educator Standards & Practices  
New Business: (See notes from yesterday)
- Statewide Service Support Team Update
- D. Healthy Responsible Students Committee  
Discussion: (See notes from yesterday)
- HRS 1 – School-Based Mental Health Policy
- E. Business Operations Committee  
Action on First Reading – **All items passed Unanimously**
- BSOP 1 – Mathematics & Science Partnership (MSP) Grant
  - BSOP 2 – Amendment to SBE Third-grade Reading Bonus Policy
  - BSOP 3 – Policy Amendment to - Classifying the EC Accountability Tracking System (ECATS)
  - Special Ed module to a Uniform Ed Reporting System Compliant System
- Update on Contracts:
- VIII. Chairman’s Closing Comments
- A. New Business
- Motion to hire Adam Levinson as new Chief Finance Officer – NC DPI  
**The vote was NOT unanimous.** Adam Levinson has been in various positions at DPI, since 2007. This is a very important position in providing transparency to the complicated school finance system in our state. He will manage the annual \$10 billion spent on K-12 education in NC. [I am hoping for better transparency, time will tell.]
  - Motion to allow the Superintendent to hire a Government liaison  
**Vote was unanimous.** The Superintendent is now able to hire one person in the Agency. [These hiring votes are controversial due to a lawsuit. [SBE is suing](#) the law passed last year giving the Superintendent hiring authority over the agency. While this is being determined in court, SBE continues hiring.]
  - Recognition of Philip Price – resigned as Chief Finance Officer – NC DPI  
Mr. Price is retiring after 35 years at DPI.

Adjourn: 1:30pm

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