



The Roger Bacon Academy

NC Charter School Advisory Board Monthly Meeting - February 6 & 7, 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:

February 6, 2017:

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/Meetings/ViewMeetingOrder.aspx?S=10399&MID=3057>

February 7, 2017:

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/Meetings/ViewMeetingOrder.aspx?S=10399&MID=3058>

February 6, 2017 Meeting

The CSAB meeting consisted mainly of approving new charter applications for the 2018-19 school year. These applicants went through their Clarification Reviews last month, and will be going through an hour-long interview today. Five applications were approved to move forward, two applications were not approved, and one application's decision will be made later when more information is given.

II. Application Update

- **Apprentice Academy of NC – Not Recommended to the SBE**

Union County – Grades 6th – 12th

Application can be found:

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

NC Charter School Accelerator Program assisted this charter application. The school's mission statement focuses on keeping students from dropping out by providing a flexible, alternative path to a diploma. They specifically target students who are not going to a university. The school will offer an apprenticeship program. They will use a web-based curriculum blended learning program. The board said they had already met with members of the Chamber of Commerce to provide the apprenticeship opportunities. An important piece is the partnership with businesses.

While this is an "alternative" model, it is not an "alternative" discipline program. The school's representatives did not understand that to be considered "alternative" in the school accountability program there were certain criteria of students attending.

Many of the CSAB did not think the application was well written, or thought out. There was some discussion of they types of diplomas - traditional or occupational - or if both would be given.

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The Three Laws

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every child will learn.

Law 3 - Watch the children,
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you're not following the first two laws.*

The CSAB felt there was a need for this type of school and would like to see them come back with a better application.

Vote was 7-3 to not move forward.

- **Anson Charter Academy – Recommended to the SBE**

Anson County – Grades K-5th

Application can be found:

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

This would be the first charter school in Anson County. Since the county is under a desegregation order, this will have to be considered when receiving student applications. There is a LEA board member that is also on the proposed charter school board. The Board member said he would resign when the charter school opened. This is a classical “back-to-basic” model using the Core Knowledge Curricula. Looking at locating the school in Wadesboro, centrally located in the county and to build an economic base. Knowing good schools will draw families.

Concern were voiced regarding Goodall starting schools to help his business, but he stated he would remove himself from the board if the school wanted to use his CPA services.

Unanimous vote to move forward.

- **Next Generation Academy – Recommended to the SBE**

Guilford County - Grades K-6th

Application can be found:

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

There will be a strong focus on literacy at the school. Located in a Guilford County zip code having very poor reading scores. A retired school principal, Sam Misher, is the chair of the board, but is looking at being the school’s principal when it gets started. The board has several retired educators who will work for free if needed. They are planning to provide transportation and a lunch program. They already have a certificate of occupation for a school at the church where they will be located.

Unanimous vote to move forward.

IV. Application Updates/Interviews, Continued

- **Essie Mae Kiser Foxx Charter School – Decision to be made later**

Rowan County – K-8th grade

Application can be found:

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

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 application was written first without a management contract, and needs to be reworked reflecting the changes throughout the application.

CSAB voted to table until March. Asked the charter board to work with the management company and bring back a better understanding of the financial commitments.

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be incorporating Steven Covey's 7 Habits of Effective People, and the "Leader In Me" school model. Will be providing transportation and lunch program for students. The CSAB felt the application was well written, and would provide a quality school in the county. Unanimous vote to move forward.

- **Emereau: Roanoke Valley – Withdrew –**

The charter board applicants decided to get Emereau: Bladen started before getting another charter application approved. This will also give the CSAB and the SBE more information for a second charter to this board.

Halifax County – Grades K-12th

Application can be found:

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

CSAB DIVERTED FROM AGENDA TO ADDRESS ANOTHER AGENDA ITEM

State Board of Education Updates – Moved from Feb. 6th agenda

Presented by Dave Machado, Director, Office of Charter Schools

- Kestrel Heights – SBE is reviewing the recommendations of the Office of Charter Schools. SBE delayed final approval of the CSAB's recommendations until the March meeting.
- SBE approved many recommendations made by CSAB:
 - EICS 10- Johnston Charter Academy One-Year Delay Request
 - EICS 11 – Johnson Charter Academy's Request to Amend its Charter
 - EICS 12 – STARS (Sandhills Theater Arts Renaissance School) Mission Statement Amendment
 - EICS 13 – Recommendation for Pine Springs Charter School to Begin with its Yr. 2 Projected ADM
 - EICS 14 – One year Delay Request for Rolesville Charter Academy
 - EICS 15 – Commonwealth High School Amendment Request to Adjust its Required Teacher Licensure Percentage
 - EICS 16 – Steward Creek High School Amendment Request to Adjust its Required Teacher Licensure Percentage
 - EICS 17 – Central Wake High School Amendment Request to Adjust its Required Teacher Licensure Percentage
 - EICS 18 – Evergreen Community Charter School's Request to Amend Lottery Process in their Application
 - EICS 1 – 2017-18 Grade Enrollment & Expansion Requests
 - EICS 2 – Renewal Recommendation for Charters Expiring June 2017
Removed Carter G. Woodson School from list, and the rest of recommendations were approved
 - EICS 3 – Request for 2nd delay opening from Cardinal Charter Academy @ Knightdale
- SBE said they were concerned about the increasing request for a year delay from new charters. The OCS provided information regarding the 12 one-year delay request over the past three years. Eleven of the request had to do with facility issues. Two of those relinquished the charter, and 9 opened a year

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late. Most of these problems stem from the applicants building a new building. CSAB asked the OCS to report back regarding the EMO model of building new buildings instead of remodeling existing structures, compliance information regarding those who started a year later than their original charter, and enrollment information on these schools. CSAB said they would discuss this further to give more information to the SBE.

- DPI proposed a NEW School Mental Health policy, which specifically included all charter schools. The CSAB read the proposed policy and had many concerns. There was lots of discussion!
Walker: we are asking charters to implement something that we have no idea what will cost – employee all of these suggested school support personnel - this can completely burst the budget.
Turner: The SBE sent us a policy regarding School Health Committees, and we recommended that charters be omitted; NOW they are considering this policy, which includes charters. I do not understand why they are doing this. There is NO WAY charters have the ability to implement all this policy mandates.
Quigley: My concerns center around the lack of flexibility and innovation this allows for charters. Charter schools are not supposed to be little LEAs, where does this policy allow for innovation.
Sanchez: The SBE continues to pass policies to make charters look just like LEAs, which is totally inconsistent with the purpose of Charters. This hinders autonomy needed by charters. This is a “one-size fits all” meant to be good, but limits our innovation requiring specific employee hires.
Maimone: This policy is not good for traditional schools. We need to make sure this does not hinder any school from being flexible and meeting the needs of their schools. We have heard that LEAs complain about Charters having less regulations, I think this is a time we can work together regarding more unfunded mandates.

CSAB decided to send recommendation to the SBE on these policies:

- 1) **Recommend that charter schools not be included in the policy – all references to charter schools be removed.**
Unanimously passed
- 2) **Recommend the policy be redone to give flexibility and allow for innovation across the state including all LEAs.**
Unanimously passed

BACK TO AGENDA ITEMS:

- **Moore Montessori Community School – Recommended to the SBE**

Moore County – Grades K-6th grade

Application can be found:

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

NC Charter School Accelerator Program assisted this charter application. This school is expecting to be located in Aberdeen and enroll a diverse student population. It will be a partnership with a Montessori private pre-school, Garden Montessori Preschool. Their 3 and 4 year old program will be housed with this charter’s kindergarten class. The 3 & 4-year-old program is private and only a half-day. The Charter’s kindergarten program is public and will be all day. They are planning on having a weighted lottery to ensure diversity in the school enrollment. The charter school has established a relationship with “Wildflower Montessori,” which is a network of lab schools serving as

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research sites advancing the Montessori method. Assistant teachers in the school will be able to become certified Montessori teachers through a planned pathway of mentoring and coaching. The Board will raise funds needed to help these assistant teachers become certified. Unanimous vote to move forward.

IV. Application Updates/Interviews, Continued

- **Inner Banks Innovation Academy – Not Recommended to the SBE**

Beaufort County – Grades 4th - 12th

Application can be found:

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

CSAB was very concerned about the grade configuration. The first year the school would have 4th - 9th grade. Having elementary, middle, and high school grades all in the first year seemed very difficult. When questioned, the applicant's board said they decided that configuration based on community feedback. The school would be using a blended learning model with computers. CSAB recognized the tremendous need in the Beaufort County area, but did not think the application was focused. Suggested they work on the application, consider starting with elementary school and moving slowly to middle and high school. There were also concerns regarding the budget and enrollment numbers.

Vote 7-4 to NOT move forward to the SBE.

VI. School Updates - The two Virtual Charter School gave an update on enrollment/withdrawals, academics, student demographics, and learning coaches.

- NC Connections – Second year – serving K-10th grades.

The withdrawal rate this year (with legal exceptions) - 5%.

Learning coaches can be either a parent/legal guardian or another adult that the parent/legal guardian chooses. Both the learning coach and the parent/legal guardian have on line sections they must go through during the registration process. They take attendance and monitor the student, but are not the teacher. The school implemented ten new initiatives to increase the academic performance of the students. There was an 89% return rate for last year's students. Currently serve 1781 students; 73% from public schools, 22% from homeschooling, 5% from private schools.

- NC virtual Academy

Learning Coaches are identified in the application process, and orientation is provided before the start of school. Family Academic Support Team (FAST) works quickly to resolve any issues that a Learning Coach faces. The school implemented several new initiatives to increase academic performance for the second year. There is a wait list of 574 students. Students come from 104 different counties, with 66% economically disadvantaged, and 12% special education. The withdrawal rate (months 1-5) this year (with legal exceptions) - 5%.

VII. Planning for March 6

In March CSAB will conduct the Clarification Reviews to determine if application proceeds forward for a full interview with the CSAB. There are 11 applications remaining for the Clarification Reviews. These reviews consist of 30 minutes each and will done all on one day, March 6.

Adjourn – 3:15 pm

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