



# The Roger Bacon Academy

## NC State Board of Education Monthly Meeting - May 2, 3, 4, 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:

[May 2, 2017](#)

[May 3, 2017](#)

[May 4, 2017](#)

### May 2, 2017

#### III. OPENING COMMENTS & CALL TO ORDER

Today's meeting was the SBE's spring work session. The discussions centered on the federal Every Student Success Act's (ESSA) state plan. Chairman Bill Cobey and Vice Chair Collins welcomed nearly 30 Superintendents attending. He thanked them for their time and commitment to the children of North Carolina. Vice Chair Collins shared his conversation with Congresswoman Foxx after the passage of ESSA. She told him that states now have the flexibility to do what they think is best. States needed to use this new flexibility to provide innovative initiatives to improve education.

#### IV. EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT: ACCOUNTABILITY & TESTING REQUIREMENTS OVERVIEW & CONTEXT

Dr. Howard, DPI's Director of Accountability Services, presented an overview of key requirements and the flexibility of the accountability indicators under ESSA.

- States must report on performance indicators: academic achievement, academic progress, graduation rate and progress in achieving English Language Proficiency.
- The states must also report School Quality / Student Success (SQSS) indicators. SBE can decide what to use as the SQSS indicator and the weight of all the various indicators.
- The performance indicators must count significantly more than SQSS indicators
- Elementary, middle and high school can have different indicators, but whatever indicators are used for a grade span must be used consistently within the grade span throughout the state.
- All performance indicators must be disaggregated for all students & subgroups
- Achievement levels for proficiency must be Career & College Ready (Level 4&5)

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### The Three Laws

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[The data [in this report](#) incriminates DPI. The report disaggregates the performance of Indian, White, Black, and Hispanic subgroups. **Over 50%** of 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade Black, Hispanic and Indian subgroups were **below grade level performance** in reading and math for the last **3 years!** (Slide #7) The EOC's scores were not much better. (Slide #8) Look at the Advance Placement and SAT data. (Slides #10 & #11) Meanwhile, don't worry! Over 80% of each subgroup is graduating with a NC Diploma. Do you see any inconsistencies? This should cause alarm across the state. Looking at this data you have to come to the conclusion the NC High School Diploma is an Attendance Award.]

- SLA 2 – Update to READY Accountability Annual Performance Standards Policy  
This deals with eliminating the double testing of 8<sup>th</sup> graders taking Math I. Currently 8<sup>th</sup> graders who take Math I must also take the 8<sup>th</sup> grade math EOG. The federal requirement for a math assessment in high school will be Math III for these 8<sup>th</sup> graders.

Discussion: (These will be voted on next month.)

- SLA 3 – Change to Course for Credit Policy  
DPI wanted to bring this to the attention of the SBE. There are going to be issues regarding transcript recording of dual enrollment of high schools & community colleges. Some CC courses meet a total of 16 hours, while traditionally a high school credit meets 180 hours. Possible proposals could be to not give the student high school credit for those classes, but do give the student community college credit. SBE will decide.
- SLA 4 – Extended Content English Language Arts K-12  
This aligns the standards used for special needs EC students to the new ELA standards adopted last month.
- SLA 5 – K-8 Mathematics Standard Course of Study Revisions  
Dr. Maria Pitre-Martin, DPI's Chief Academic Officer, led the discussion on having an external review process for any new standards presented to the SBE. She gave two recommendations:
  - Consultation with the Chief Council Of State. – Using these states as consultants: VA, KY, OH & MN (short-term solution)
  - Third party – peer reviews – develop a review/revision process. (long-term solution).
 Standards are reviewed every 5 years. Recommendation is to have an external review of all standards.

[I hope DPI looks at states where we see higher performance on [NAEP](#).]

- SLA 6 – State Advisory Council on Indian Education Nominees for Membership  
Move to Action on First Read  
The NC Commission of Indian Affairs Board is recommending 6 new people for this council. Chad Pierce (Lumbee); Connie Harland (Lumbee) ; Joy Rector (Waccamaw-Siouan); Lesa Locklear (Coharie) ; Sabrina Arch (Cherokee); Will Paul (Sappony)

New Business:

- Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Update  
DPI discussed the ESSA flexibility regarding the high school accountability assessments. The state could use a nationally recognized assessment instead of the 3 EOCs (English II, Math I, Biology). The state could use SAT, ACT or Smarter Balanced. If the state decides to use one of these assessments it would require content alignment and determination of the 5 achievement levels.

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[It was obvious DPI wants to stay with status quo. The state pays millions for every 11<sup>th</sup> grader to take the ACT. We should already be aligning to the ACT when we see weaknesses of NC test takers. Time will tell!]

The SBE discussed several House Bills that deal with ESSA plan. The most discussion centered about the Proficient vs. Growth weight. Right now it is 80% Proficient, and 20% growth weight for school performance grades. [One bill filled](#) will have proficiency and growth the same weight, 50%. [Another bill filed](#) will give schools two grades: one for proficiency and one for growth.

## **B. Education Innovation & Charter Schools Committee (EICS)**

Action:

- EICS 1 – Restart School Applications:

Gaston County Schools, Kannapolis City Schools, Edgecombe County Schools, Pitt County Schools, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, Rowan-Salisbury Schools and Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Schools.

Recurring Low performing Schools can apply for one of the [4 Reform Models](#) to try and improve student performance. The “Restart” model allows the district school to operate with the same exemptions from state statute (flexibility) as a charter school. The approval of these schools means there will be 56 district schools using this model. With these approved schools there will be over 100 “restart” schools across the state.

[The ability for schools to have this flexibility came under the same 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! Don’t think LEAs would choose this model if the same amount of money was attached to “charter” like restart models.]

Action on First Reading:

- EICS 2 – 2017 Charter School Application Timeline & Process  
SBE is asked to approve the process for the 2017 charter school applications. The application process will begin June 23, 2017. The application submissions are due Sept. 22, 2017.

Discussion: (These will be voted on next month.)

- EICS 3 – Recommendations for Charter Schools Proposing to Open 2018-19

There were 38 applications submitted last year for charter schools opening in 2018-19 school year. The CSAB approved 24 applicants to move forward to a full one-hour interview. After the intense interview, 15 applicants are now being recommended to the SBE for a charter.

Board Member Taylor asked specific questions regarding: Bonnie Cone Classical Academy, Essie Mae Kiser Foxx Charter School, and Monroe Charter. All of these approved applications had a split vote from the CSAB.

[It will be interesting to see if the SBE approves all recommended applicants, or if they only approve those applicants with a unanimous vote from CSAB. In 2016, the SBE did not approve 5 charters that had been recommended with a majority of votes from the CSAB.]

- EICS 4 – Recommended Changes to Charter Amendments for Existing Public Charter Schools  
If a charter school board wants to change something in their charter, they must amend the charter and this can be a rather lengthy process. The CSAB recommended these policy changes to streamline the amendment process. This policy outlines what amendments the Office of Charter Schools can approve, amendments the CSAB can approve and what amendments SBE must approve.
- EICS 5 Recommended Changes to Planning Year for New Preliminary Charter Schools  
The CSAB is recommending to the SBE that the acceleration process can be extended to applicants who can show an exceptional need for the school in the specific location, and has already identified a facility they can occupy.  
[This hopefully will encourage more applicants to apply for acceleration.]

#### New Business:

- NCDPI Presentation on its Support of Charter Schools  
Rocky Mount Preparatory (RMP) Charter School presentation demonstrated how the Office of Charter Schools (OCS) has partnered with divisions in DPI to help support this school. This charter school was in serious trouble with low performance. CSAB almost revoked the charter but the Board of the school change direction with new school leadership. The new leadership presented last year to CSAB asking for a renewal. CSAB gave the school a 3-year renewal with an expectation of raising student performance. With a change of leadership and working with DPI through the OCS, the school is turning around. The staff at RMP wanted to express their appreciation for all the assistance over the past year.

### C. Special Committee on Digital Learning

- Textbook Adoption Process Modernization  
Report on how this process in being streamlined and updated. This modernization is allowing for products to be down loaded onto a secure platform. It is updating the vetting criteria and making the process interactive. The process allows the vendors a digital platform to change information quickly (real time).
- Power Teacher Pro Implementation Plan  
A group of teachers have been working to develop “Power Teacher Pro,” which is part of PowerSchool dealing with grade book input, reporting standards base grading and linking it to individual reports. This is going to be a time saver for teachers.
- Digital Learning Initiative Professional Learning Update  
Friday Institute gave a presentation on what they are doing on a regional and district level with professional development. MTSS has been an example of online professional development offered. Working with Regional Education Service Agencies (RESAs) this online service is reaching more teachers.

### D. Business Operations Committee (BSOP)

#### Action:

- BSOP 1 – 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Grant Allotment Policy  
This is to change policy and reflect 3-year grant opportunities instead of 4-year, which can be done under ESSA.

- BSOP 2 - Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee Report: School Business System Modernization Plan

This is a report to the General Assembly. It was discussed last month. The cost is between \$150-250 million in one-time funding and will take 6-8 years to implement. This is a huge update but needed.

[Both the House and Senate see a need for this update. House appropriated \$31.7M (what is asked for in the report), and the Senate appropriated \$29.3M]

Action on First Reading:

- BSOP 3 – Equipment Assistance Grants for the School Nutrition Program  
This is a grant from USDA for the purchase of commercial equipment for cafeterias. The amount is \$955,032.74. DPI takes the money and distributes it based upon the eligibility of the school under the grant’s criteria. SBE established a procedure for a competitive/discretionary grant application process. The recommendations consisted of 45 LEAs (74 schools) and 3 charter schools.
- BSOP 4 – 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center Grants  
These are Federal grants to afterschool programs selected by DPI and approved by SBE. These are 3-year grants. Eligible applicants may request funds between \$50,000 and \$400,000 per year. The recommended amount for 2017-18 funding is \$14.9 million. There were 45 proposals being recommended by DPI.

[Interesting that President Trump has removed this program in his [budget](#) (page 17). The total amount the Federal Gov’t spends on the program is \$1.2 billion. There have been studies in the past showing no sustainable academic gains from these programs. I am not aware of any studies done in North Carolina to validate the academic gains. This documents tells all about the process for distribution of the funds, but nothing about the evaluation of the programs’ impact. No wonder the President has proposed ending the program.]

- BSOP 5 – McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act/Education of Homeless Students Competitive Grants

This is another competitive Federal grant. Awards are based on a 3-year grant cycle. The allocation to North Carolina is \$1.9M, with \$1.6M being competitive sub-grants to LEAs. The SERVE Center at the University of NC Greensboro carries out the application and sub-grant process for the state. They are recommending 49 LEAs for receiving this grant.

[Another Federal Grant with lots of paperwork attached. Charter schools are currently not eligible for these funds.]

Discussion: (This will be voted on next month.)

- BSOP 6- Bertie County Financial Recovery Plan  
This system was found to be in [serious financial deficiencies](#) and violated General Statutes for spending more than appropriated. There was a \$704,996 deficit in the General Fund and \$135,078 in the restricted fund. SBE was asked to approve a five-year financial recovery plan for the system.

[The Bertie County School Board replaced former Superintendent, Elaine White, and the CFO, but no mention of further consequences for such financial mismanagement. If this had been a charter school it would have been closed immediately.]

## New Business:

- Return on Investment (ROI) for Public School Graduates  
Harrison Wicker, DPI Intern, reported on his research. He first showed the savings the state receives if a student graduates from high school. He then linked graduation with performance on the ACT. His next point was the impact [District & School Transformation](#) teams had on low-performing schools and their graduation rate. Based upon his research the SBE should invest in the District & School Transformation teams to get the best ROI. Chairman Cobey suggested he make the presentation to the General Assembly.  
[Interesting report. However, he never mentioned the major discrepancy between the percent of students proficient on EOCs (55%), the percent of students scoring proficient on the ACT (55%) and then the graduation rate of 86%. I am not sure the ROI will be the savings he expects if the diploma does not mean an academic standard, but an attendance award.]

Update on [Contracts](#)

There are 7 pages of contracts this month.

Contract #2 & #4 deal with the [Federal Enhanced Assessment](#) Grant for the Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA) process. North Carolina received \$6.1 million. While these contracts refer to the consortium of 10 states, [this assessment](#) is being implemented across our state.

[This assessment [rates a 5-year-old child on five domains](#). Most parents have [no idea](#) how intrusive the KEA is to their children. Some of the domains are objective while others (Social & Emotional Development) are subjective. The assessment can include the teacher taking short videos of the child demonstrating evidence of a skill, or an emotion. Right now charter schools are not mandated to implement, but it probably is coming!]

**E. Educator Standards & Practices (ES&P)**

## Action:

- ES&P 1 – Competency-Based Education Alternative Licensure Program: NC State-UNC-CH  
NC State & UNC Chapel Hill colleges of education developed an online lateral entry program for higher ed graduates. SBE must approve the program.  
[I am glad SBE is considering an alternative to certification and licensing. I often say our state does NOT have a teacher shortage. Our state DOES have a HR problem with certification and licensing, which restricts many individuals who could teach. [South Carolina recently adopted an alternative pathway](#) outside of the “UNC box.” Our state should look into this program, [Teachers of Tomorrow](#), alternative pathway.]
- ES&P 2 – Alternative growth Measures for Career & Technical Education Teachers  
This was discussed last month. DPI is developing a process to evaluate all CTE teachers using a process to determine “student growth” measure in each subject.

## Action on First Reading:

- ES&P 3 – Educator Preparation Program Approvals  
This is a list of educator programs to be approved or denied by the SBE. Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) are resubmitting all program descriptions and proposals for evaluation and review. More than 1200 educator preparation program proposals will be submitted between Jan – May 2017. This month there are 9 pages of programs from various universities.

**The Three Laws**

Discussion: (These will be voted on next month.)

- ES&P 4 – Amendment to General Licensure Requirements Policy: Addition of Specific World Languages  
DPI is asking SBE to approve 13 language specific K-12 teaching licenses.
- ES&P 5- Licensure Renewal Policy: Digital Learning Competencies for Teachers & Administrators  
DPI is asking SBE to approve adding 2 [“digital teaching and learning”](#) competencies in the requirements for licensure renewal.
- ES&P 6 – Amendment to the General Licensure Requirements Policy: Career & Technical Ed Alternative  
These are curriculum changes based on certifications recommended by business and industry. SBE must approve these changes.
- ES&P 7- iSTEM Teacher Education Program – Request from UNC Wilmington to Add Certification Area  
This item was removed from the agenda.

**Adjourn:**  
**Closed Session**

**May 4, 2017**

## II. SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

### National Title I Distinguished School

- Saluda Elementary School, Polk County Schools  
The school leaders did a presentation and stated that relationships were vital to their success. Teachers address the state standards through interdisciplinary thematic units, combined with arts integration & hands-on experiential learning.  
The school has approximately 165 students. In the 2015-16 school year there were only 8 Hispanic students, no African Americans and 66% are economically disadvantaged.  
[This is a very small mountain school. Demographically the school is significantly the same, and might be why they can produce higher academics. This may have little to do with their emphasis on arts-integration.]

### National Blue Ribbon Schools

This is a [US Department of Education program](#) created in 1982 to honor schools with high academic performance or significant improvement in closing the achievement gap among student subgroups.

- Bald Creek Elementary School, Yancey County Schools
- Central Academy of Technology & Arts, Union County Schools
- Davis Dr. Elementary School, Wake County Schools
- Jay M. Robinson Middle School, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools
- Morrisville Elementary School, Wake County Schools
- Pisgah Elementary School, Buncombe County Schools
- The Early College @ Guilford, Guilford County schools
- Wrightsville Beach Elementary School, New Hanover County Schools

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### III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE BOARD

Legislative Update – Ms. Cecilia Holden, Legislative Director

Ms. Holden gave an update on the bills that had met the crossover deadline, moving from one legislative chamber to the other. She [highlighted 28 of the most significant bills](#). She also reported the bills in light of the SBE strategic plan.

### IV. STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD

Superintendent Johnson gave a presentation on his travels this last month. He visited [Rowan Salisbury Schools](#) and [Tarheel Challenge Academy](#). The Tarheel Challenge Academy is a quasi-military program ran by the NC National Guard and funded mostly by Federal money. It is for at-risk high school dropouts.

Superintendent Johnson also complimented his staff for their hard work. He also stated he was in a meeting where DPI was talking about the number, 720, which is the number of days a student is taught between kindergarten and third grade. DPI had highlighted the importance of each day so the student is able to read well by the end of third grade.

### V. CONSENT AGENDA – *There was no discussion and item passed unanimously*

#### A. Education Innovation & Charter Schools (EICS)

- EICS 6 – Nomination to the North Carolina Virtual Public School Advisory Council
- EICS 7 – Discovery Charter School One-Year Delay Request
- EICS 8 – Montcross Charter Academy One-Year Delay Request
- EICS 9 – UpRoar Charter School's Request to Amend its Transportation Plan
- EICS 10 – KIPP Charlotte Request to Amend its Charter
- EICS 11 – Research triangle High School's Request to Amend its Charter

#### B. Business Operations Committee (BSOP)

- BSOP 7 – Report on Supplementing Low-Wealth Supplemental Funds & Small School System Supplemental Funds
- BSOP 8 – Evaluation of the Local Alternative teacher Preparation (LATP) Pilot Program
- BSOP 9 – Evaluation of the teacher Compensation Models & Advanced Teaching Roles Pilot Program

#### C. Educator Standards & Practices (ES&P)

- ES&P 8 – Educator Preparation Program Approvals

### VI. ACTION & DISCUSSION AGENDA

#### A. Special Committee on Digital Learning – *see notes from yesterday on each of these items*

- Textbook Adoption Process Modernization
- Power Teacher Pro Implementation Plan
- Digital Learning Initiative Professional Learning Update

#### B. Business Operations Committee (BSOP)

Action: *Items passed unanimously – See notes from yesterday*

- BSOP 1 – 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Grant Allotment Policy



- EICS 4 – Recommended Changes to Charter Amendments for Existing Public Charter Schools
  - EICS 5 Recommended Changes to Planning Year for New Preliminary Charter Schools
- New Business: *See notes from yesterday*
- NCDPI Presentation on its Support of Charter Schools

### **E. Educator Standards & Practices (ES&P)**

Action: *Items passed unanimously – See notes from yesterday*

- ES&P 1 – Competency-Based Education Alternative Licensure Program: NC State-UNC-CH
- ES&P 2 – Alternative growth Measures for Career & Technical Education Teachers

Action on First Reading: *Items passed unanimously – See notes from yesterday*

- ES&P 3 – Educator Preparation Program Approvals

Discussion: *See notes from yesterday*

- ES&P 4 – Amendment to General Licensure Requirements Policy: Addition of Specific World Languages
- ES&P 5- Licensure Renewal Policy: Digital Learning Competencies for Teachers & Administrators
- ES&P 6 – Amendment to the General Licensure Requirements Policy: Career & Technical Ed Alternative
- ES&P 7- iSTEM Teacher Education Program – Request from UNC Wilmington to Add Certification Area (Removed from the agenda)

## **VII. CHAIRMAN’S CLOSING COMMENTS**

Chairman Cobey recognized all the SBE advisors since this was their last month attending SBE meetings. New advisors will be seated at the June SBE meeting.

He also encouraged members to visit the [Governor’s School](#) as it begins session on June 19.

Cobey reminded the members that the June meeting would begin on Tuesday, May 30, with another workshop on ESSA.

### **New Business**

Board Member Alcorn made a series of motions: All passed unanimously

- Removed the Chief of Staff from SBE Policy – SBOP-013
- Add a Chief District & School Support Officer to SBE Policy – SBOP-013
- Create a “Chief of Staff” position that reports directly to the State Superintendent
- Put these changes in the [Executive Leadership Organizational Chart](#)

These changes would allow the State Superintendent to hire his own Chief of Staff.

Board Member Alcorn moved to hire Dr. Maria Pitre-Martin, DPI’s chief of academic & digital learning, the new deputy superintendent.

Superintendent Johnson asked the Board to not approve this hire based on the process used in the hiring. Board Member White voted no based on the issues involved with the hiring process.

However, the majority of Board Members approved the hire.

**Adjourn: 12:15 pm**

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