



# The Roger Bacon Academy

## NC State Board of Education Monthly Meeting August 2 & 3, 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:

[August 2, 2017](#)

[August 3, 2017](#)

## August 2, 2017

### II. SBE Committee Meetings

#### A. Student Learning & Achievement Committee (SLA)

##### Action on First Reading

- SLA 1 – Required Changes to Policies Governing Services for Children w/ Disabilities  
Due to changes in the Federal Register regarding IDEA and the passages of [HB 149](#), DPI is aligning these required mandates to SBE policies that govern services for children with disabilities. One federal mandate would require removing the words “mental retardation” and replacing it with “intellectual disability.” HB 149, which is now session law, establishes the state’s definition for dyslexia. This mandate also requires SBE to post electronically information on this subject and available services for students. It requires LEAs to review the diagnostic tools and screening instruments specifically used for dyslexia.  
Definition: “Dyslexia is a specific learning disability that is neurobiological in origin. It is characterized by difficulties with accurate and/or fluent word recognition and by poor spelling and decoding abilities. These difficulties typically result from a deficit in the phonological component of language that is often unexpected in relation to other cognitive abilities and the provision of effective classroom instruction. Secondary consequences may include problems in reading comprehension and reduced reading experience that can impede growth of vocabulary and background knowledge.”  
All special education teachers must be certified, even though charter schools have flexibility with classroom teacher certification.
- SLA 2 – Dropout Prevention & Students At-Risk Program  
This agenda item updates the [current policy](#) removing charter schools. The SBE passed a new policy, [CHTR-020](#), which allows a process for charter schools to receive alternative status. There was no need for duplication of policy.

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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.*

## Discussion

- SLA 3 – Extended Content Elective Courses: Vocational Preparation; Health, Safety & Independent Learning  
DPI staff presented information on a pilot program from Nash/Rocky Mount LEA involving two courses for students with significant cognitive disabilities. These courses are instructed over 3 years involving vocational skills, community involvement, self-advocacy and adaptive skills. DPI is asking SBE to make these classes a requirement for their certification (graduation). These students are eligible to attend high school for 7-8 years and consist of less than 1% of the student population.  
[I was shocked to think these classes were not mandatory. These students need to know life skills to obtain a certificate. SBE asked the teachers responsible for the pilot site, what financial resources were needed for the new courses. The experts in the field said several times they taught these additional courses **without any additional resources**. In fact, one teacher used his class to start a school store and began to make money for extra curricula items. Seems SBE members cannot believe a good program can begin because of innovative ideas of employees/teachers, NOT new money.]
- SLA 4 – K-8 Mathematics Extended Content Standards Revision  
This agenda item takes the new K-8 Math standards recently approved and adapts the standards for students with significant cognitive disability. Public comments will be made for 30 days and the SBE will vote in September.
- SLA 5 – Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Draft Plan
  - The ESSA plan will be submitted to USDOE Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>.
  - There has been some discussion regarding how states report “Per-pupil Expenditure.” States are discussing the best way to align finances determining this figure.
  - NC is asking for a one-year delay implementing new programs using the 2018-19 school year data instead of the 2017-18 data. The state will wait for two years of data to classify schools low performing/continuing low performing. [Will be interesting to see if USDOE says anything about this delay in beginning identification and intervention of low performing schools. Especially since we have YEARS of data.]
  - The agency received 80 emails regarding draft #5, with 60 of them commenting on the early childhood aspects of the plan. There were also comments from CEOs advocating for chronic absenteeism to be included in the state plan.
  - DPI reminded SBE the General Assembly legislated all of the indicators to be used. SBE has included chronic absenteeism in their strategic plan.
  - Dr. Pitre-Martin, Deputy State Superintendent, reviewed the “Theory of Action,” which is not required by USDOE. She stressed how “personalized learning” will be the way the state delivers instruction once approved by SBE and USDOE. DPI included more information about the elements of PreK programs, the B-3 (birth-3<sup>rd</sup> grade) initiative in the [new draft](#). DPI has also strengthened the long-term goals of various subgroups, which was a concern last month. However, Vice Chair Collins and Board Member Oxendine again commented on the low expectations for some of the subgroups’ long-range goals. (See Appendix A: Measurements of interim progress, pages 146 - 150)

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- Vice Chair Collins questioned the state’s embracement of personalized learning and expecting all students to perform at a proficient level on the EOGs and EOCs at the same time.
- Dr. Pitre-Martin suggested the movement towards a more competency-based assessment would be helpful.
- Dr. Nancy Barbour, Director, District & School Transformation, presented the plan for CSO Schools (Comprehensive School Improvement) and TSI Schools (Targeted Support & Improvement). This is described on pages 42-46 of the draft.
- [The focus on “Personalized Learning” came from the [2012 USDOE’s Race-to-the-Top grants](#). According to an [article in Education Week](#) a year ago, “the research evidence behind ‘personalized learning’ remains thin.” It will be interesting if the emphasis on this new glamorous education mythology will produce the desired results. By the way, just asking, what are the consequences for not meeting the proficiency goals? As of now, the only consequence is getting attention and services from DPI. I remember a comment made by Charter school leaders when asked about the ESSA plan, “Without consequences there are no incentives to reach goals.” It will be interesting to see USDOE’s comments when this is reviewed.]

#### Information

- SLA 6 – Advisory Council Reports for the Residential Schools  
This is the annual report regarding three residential schools for deaf and blind students:
  - 1) NC’s School for the Deaf Morganton
  - 2) Eastern NC’s School for the Deaf Wilson
  - 3) Governor Morehead School Raleigh

There is a 5 member advisory council for each of the schools listed. This report listed several recommendations to help these schools. There is also a county map showing the students’ home residence when not attending these schools.

#### New Business

- NC Check-Ins Update (Postponed until tomorrow)  
No discussion
- Multi-Tiered System of support implementation Update (Postponed until Sept meeting)  
No discussion
- Assessing Writing  
Recently DPI received a notice from USDOE regarding the state not assessing writing. The state MUST incorporate writing in assessments at every grade level for alignment to the ELA standards. The writing response score must be included in the overall ELAs achievement score. DPI presented two proposals for incorporating writing 3-12<sup>th</sup> grade.  
[This agenda item was briefly brought up but not discussed. The state has required writing assessments in the past but stopped due to prompts being confusing and the cost of scoring. I remember the crazy prompts and when the SBE did not include the results in the state’s accountability report. NOW we have to start this again! Hopefully the state will not make it so complicated!]

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school. Wonder why this report was generated, and can we expect more SBE regulations/mandates regarding school nursing in charter schools?]

#### **D. Business Operations Committee (BSOP)**

##### Action on First Reading

- **BSOP 1 – Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program Awarded to NCDPI from the USDA**  
NC has been awarded \$4 million to the School Nutrition Section to be distributed among 175 elementary schools across the state. SBE is asked to approve the recommendations of the selected schools. A total of 299 applications were received for this competitive grant. The amount of federal funds to be distributed to each school will be based on the school's actual enrollment.  
[Not one charter school applied for this grant. I am not sure if the grant is only for traditional schools or the application is simply too regulatory/difficult for charter schools.]
- **BSOP 2 – Allotment Policy Manual Modifications**  
DPI is asking SBE to approve policy changes aligning with the state budget provisions passed in the 2017 Appropriations Act. The changes will be reflected in the Allotment Policy Manual.
- **BSOP 3 –Employee Salary & Benefits Manual Modifications**  
DPI is asking SBE approval to align the Employee Salary & Benefits manual to what was passed in the Appropriations Act of 2017. This includes the Salary Schedules for Public School Employees, principal pay and bonuses. There were 73 pages of changes.
- **BSOP 4 – School Attendance & Student Accounting Manual Modifications**  
Session Laws 2017-9 (HB13) made changes to class size requirements and reporting resulting in modifications to this manual. DPI is asking SBE to approve alignment changes.
- **BSOP 5 – Advanced Teaching Model Report**  
General Assembly directed DPI and SBE to issue a RFP for LEAs to compete for different ideas regarding teacher compensation models and advance teaching roles. There were 12 LEAs that submitted proposals for funding under this pilot program. Six of the proposals were approved for funding. DPI is asking SBE to accept their recommendation and approve these proposals to use in the 2017-18 school year. DPI gave two options for scheduling the funds to the LEA. The total funding of the 3-year project is \$10.18M.

##### Update on Contracts – No discussion

There are 30 contracts listed for August.

[Ones of interest to me:]

- Race to the Top” Enhanced Assessment Grant” made DPI the fiscal agent for a consortium of 10 states. This has to do with the NEW Kindergarten Entrance Assessment (KEA) that is currently being piloted in all NC schools. The states are working together for establishing this assessment. Maine Dept. of Ed - \$100,000; Arizona Dept. of Ed - \$100,000; North Dakota Dept. of Ed - \$25,000.
- College Board – this month they got \$126,000 with a focus on Ad. Placement Courses. However, the College Board gets a total of \$3.1M from our state to help with Ad. Placement Courses, Professional development and AP Exams.
- ACT, Inc. - this month they got \$195,000 - this is the company that NC uses to assess all 10<sup>th</sup> graders, 11<sup>th</sup> graders and those students who take “Work Keys” – Total amount for the year is over \$8M.

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- NC Universities to help consult LEAs on Special Education issues. East Carolina - \$155,000; Appalachian State - \$237,000; UNC Charlotte - \$358,000
- MTSS - new special education program for NC continues the Regional Consultants from LEAs – Cleveland Schools (2) - \$270,000; Caldwell Schools - \$128,000; Alamance Burlington Schools - \$132,000; Greene School (2) - \$266,000

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

#### Action

- ES&P 1 – Amendment to Licensure Testing Requirements Policy: LICN-003  
This updates the SBE policy to exempt students who perform high on the SAT assessment so they do not have to take the Praxis I testing requirement for teacher education program admission. Students can also be exempt from the Preprofessional Skills Tests in Reading & Writing, Mathematics, if they score high enough on either the SAT Verbal or Math tests.

#### Action on First Reading

- ES&P 2 – Educator Preparation Program Approvals  
This is the continuation of SBE approving the program descriptions and proposals from Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs). SBE has now approved over 1200 educator preparation program proposals since January.

#### Discussion

- ES&P 3 – Amendment to Licensure Testing Requirements Policy” LINC 003 – Academically & Intellectually Gifted & Birth-Kindergarten  
AIG Add-on License can be received with a qualifying score on the Gifted Education Praxis test.  
[This expands the pathway for AIG licensure! It is about time teachers can gain licensure without having to PAY more money for more university classes, while all the time they are qualified!!]  
In 2016 SBE defined “Highly Qualified” as a teacher who holds a NC Teaching License in the area appropriate for the course taught. There is no test required for BK (Birth-Kindergarten) license but does require it for consideration of “Highly Qualified.”

Adjourn - 3:40 pm

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**B. Consent Agenda – No Discussion – Passed Unanimously**

## Education Innovation &amp; Charter Schools

- EICS 3 – Recommended Changes to Charter School Finance & Governance Noncompliance Policy

These recommendations come from the CSAB. The changes in policy CHTR-006 align to statutory changes and current processes. This extends flexibility in addressing charter school financial and governance noncompliance and allows for noncompliance levels to be determined on severity.

## Business Operations

- BSOP 6 – Capital Improvements Projects Report

This is a report to the General Assembly on capital projects at the Residential Schools, NCCAT and DPI Building. These projects are funded through the Repairs and Renovations allocations.

## Student Learning and Achievement

- SLA 8 – Global-ready School & Global-ready District Enhancements

The Global-Ready School & District implementation rubrics have not been updated since 2015. These changes align with the SBE adopted Digital Learning Plan. These changes will be adopted for the 2017-18 school year.

- SLA 9 – Field Testing & Special Studies for 2017-18 School Year

DPI is asking SBE's approval for the proposed calendar before contacting LEAs & Charters. There is an appeal process LEAs & Charters go through if they do not want to participate. SBE will see the appeals and the Compliance Commission for Accountability's recommendations at the Sept. SBE meeting.

- SLA 10 – Read to Achieve Guidebook Update

This includes all changes and additions to the Read to Achieve Program since 2012.

**VI. Action & Discussion Committee Reports – (See notes from yesterday on all agenda items)****A. Business Operations Committee (BSOP)**Action on First Read – *all item passed unanimously*

- BSOP 1- Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program Awarded to NCDPI from USDA
- BSOP 2 – Allotment Policy Manual Modifications
- BSOP 3 – Employee Salary & Benefits Manual Modifications
- BSOP 4 – School Attendance & Student Accounting Manual Modifications
- BSOP 5 – Advanced Teaching Model Report

## Update on Contracts

**B. Student Learning & Achievement Committee (SLA)**Action on First Reading– *both items passed unanimously*

- SLA 1 – Required Changes to Policies Governing Services for Children with Disabilities
- SLA 2 – Dropout Prevention & Students At-Risk Program

## Discussion - see notes from yesterday

- SLA 3 – Extended Content Elective Courses: Vocational Preparation; Health, Safety & Independent Living

- SLA 4 – K-8 Mathematics Extended Content Standards Revision
- SLA 5 – Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA Draft Plan

Information – see notes from yesterday

- SLA 6 – Advisory Council Reports for the Residential Schools

New Business

- NC Check-Ins Update
- Multi-Tiered System of Support Implementation Update
- Assessing Writing

### C. Healthy Responsible Students Committee (HRS)

Information

- HRS 1 – The Role of the School Nurse in North Carolina

### D. Education Innovation & Charter Schools Committee (EICS)

Action

- EICS 1 – Restate School Applications - *passed unanimously*
- EICS – Aristotle Charter School Request to Contract with AAC  
This item was sent to the SBE attorneys (Ethics Commission) for clarification and will come back next month for vote.

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

Action - *item passed unanimously*

- ES&P 1 – Amendment to Licensure Testing Requirements Policy

Action on First Reading - *item passed unanimously*

- ES&P 2 – Educator Preparation Programs Approvals

Discussion - see notes from yesterday

- ES&P 3 – Amendment to Licensure Testing Requirements Policy – Academically & Intellectually Gifted & Birth-Kindergarten

## VII. Closing Comments

- North Carolina Civil War History Center Program Availability for Students Letter  
The SBE endorses the NC Civil War History Center and offers support for this project that was presented last month.  
[Oops - Hope the “politically correct” anti civil-war activist don’t get ahold of the SBE’s support for this project in Fayetteville, NC. There might be demonstrations at the SBE meetings.]

Adjourn - 11:45 am

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