

**Minutes of the
North Carolina Charter Schools Advisory Board Meeting
February 10, 2020
NC Department of Public Instruction
State Board Room 755 – 9:00AM**

Attendance NCCSAB	Joel Ford Bruce Friend Joseph Maimone (non-voting) Sherry Reeves – <i>absent</i> Cheryl Turner Lynn Kroeger	Alex Quigley Jeannette Butterworth – <i>absent</i> Steven Walker Heather Vuncannon Lindalyn Kakadelis Rita Haire – <i>absent</i>
Attendance SBE DPI	<i>Office of Charter Schools</i> Dave Machado, Director Ashley Baquero, Consultant Shaunda Cooper, Consultant Kebbler Williams, Consultant Jay Whalen, Consultant Barbara O’Neal, Consultant Joseph Letterio Maimone, Consultant Darian Jones, Consultant	<i>Attorney General</i> <i>SBE Attorney</i> Eric Snider

CALL TO ORDER

- The North Carolina Charter School Advisory Board (CSAB) meeting was called to order at 9:00am by Chair Alex Quigley who read the Ethics Statement and CSAB Mission Statement. Mr. Quigley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion: To approve the January 2020 minutes.

Motion: Lynn Kroeger

Second: Cheryl Turner

Vote: Unanimous

☒ **Passed**

☐ **Failed**

Motion: To approve the February 2020 CSAB meeting agenda.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Bruce Friend

Vote: Unanimous

☒ **Passed**

☐ **Failed**

- Mr. Quigley stated he would like to select Ms. Sherry Reeves as Performance Committee Chair.
- Mr. Quigley introduced Mr. Doug Price as the Charter School Teacher of the Year Advisor to the CSAB. Mr. Price spoke about his experience in education.
- Mr. Dave Machado, Director of the Office of Charter Schools (OCS), introduced Dr. Darion Jones as a new OCS Consultant.

RECONSIDERATION OF CLARA SCIENCE ACADEMY APPLICATION

- Mr. Quigley stated the State Board of Education (SBE) heard all application recommendations at its February meeting. The SBE expressed concerns about the 6-4 vote for the Clara Science Academy application and sent the application back to CSAB for reconsideration.
- Ms. Ashley Baquero, OCS Consultant, read the previous vote approving recommendation of Clara Science Academy (Steven Walker, Heather Vuncannon, Cheryl Turner, Lynn Kroeger, Jeannette Butterworth, Bruce Friend (6) Opposed: Alex Quigley, Lindalyn Kakadelis, Sherry Reeves, Rita Haire (4)).
- Ms. Lynn Kroeger stated she had a concern that three of the four members who opposed the application are not here today.
- Mr. Steven Walker asked if there was anything specific the SBE wanted CSAB to consider. Mr. Quigley and Mr. Machado stated the SBE wanted a general review of the application and that saturation in the area may be a concern. Mr. Walker stated he believed the CSAB took a good look at the application and had a fair review. Mr. Joel Ford agreed. He stated he highly respects the diligence the CSAB puts into reviewing these applications. He stated he would be for voting again and sending it back to SBE. Mr. Joseph Maimone stated the SBE might have set a precedent of sending back recommendations that are a close pass. Mr. Maimone stated he believes the SBE wants reassurance that the CSAB made the right decision.
- Mr. Walker and Ms. Kroeger spoke about the prior concerns from opposing votes. Ms. Kroeger stated it seemed to be less of an education plan issue and more about the appearance of a private school conversion. Mr. Quigley agreed and stated it was a flag that can draw a lot of attention. Mr. Ford asked about a previous conversion application. Mr. Bruce Friend stated this is not a conversion application. Mr. Walker stated that he is comfortable with the previous vote.

- Mr. Friend asked the school representative to confirm there is no overlap of the board of directors and no financial connections between the private school and the charter school board.
- Ms. Varsty Muhammad gave a statement on behalf of the charter school. She confirmed this application is not a conversion. She stated the board understands the sensitivity and stated the school and its board will continue to follow the law regarding charter school operation. She again confirmed this is not a conversion. She stated that the board has decided to seek another facility to prevent any misconceptions about the intentions of the school.
- Mr. Friend asked how far the facility would be from the previously proposed school location. Ms. Muhammad stated about five miles.
- Mr. Ford stated that the CSAB should not put additional barriers on applications that have passed review.

Motion: Full CSAB motion to forward applicant to Ready to Open.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Lynn Kroeger

- Mr. Quigley stated he continues to believe the educational plan is not sufficient. He stated he has no doubt about the commitment, but it's not quite right yet. He gave an example of spelling errors in the application. He stated those details bother him. He stated the heart is there. He stated the strengths in the application are the chosen curriculum programs.
- Ms. Cheryl Turner stated she was on the fence until the final vote, and she is still in support, but she is concerned about the opposing votes not being able to express their concerns. Mr. Quigley stated that is why attendance is important, but sometimes that takes place. He continued that if you are not here, you can't vote. Mr. Quigley stated the only other option is to have another called meeting, but he'd prefer to move forward today.
- Mr. Friend and Ms. Vuncannon stated they both supported the school initially and would continue to support the school even if the applicant hadn't proposed a new location.

Vote: Steven Walker, Joel Ford, Cheryl Turner, Lynn Kroeger, Heather Vuncannon, Bruce Friend (6)

Opposed: Alex Quigley (1)

☒ **Passed**

☐ **Failed**

SPECIAL RECOGNITION: LINDALYN KAKADELIS

- Mr. Quigley stated that Ms. Lindalyn Kakadelis has been a wealth of information and displayed dogged work ethic for school choice. He expressed the CSAB's appreciation for Ms. Kakadelis's commitment to charter school excellence and choice.

AMENDMENTS

- Ms. Baquero reviewed pending amendment requests and recent approvals through OCS. She presented the amendment request for this meeting: Hobgood Charter School. She explained Hobgood Charter School has previously requested expansion to 9th and 10th grade for the next academic year. She explained the school pulled that amendment after SBE concerns were raised regarding expanding by two years at once during the second year of operation.
- Ms. Baquero stated the school is now proposing expanding 9th through 12th, but one year at a time beginning with 9th grade in the 2020-21 school year. She explained this would only be an addition of 25 students each year with a total of 325 students in year five.
- Mr. Walker stated this is one of the strongest boards the CSAB has seen. He stated he believes every 8th grade parent, of every 8th grade student, has submitted a letter pleading for a high school option at Hobgood. He stated this is a school that knows how to operate as a conversion application. He stated the precedent we should be setting is that parents and children know better than the government as to where they should attend school. He continued there are no red flags with this school. He stated the data shows this is a solid school. Mr. Walker continued that we're talking about Halifax County – a county that is not known for its great local schools. He stated these parents and students need a choice to continue to allow their students to benefit from the school.

Motion: CSAB recommends approval of this amendment to the State Board of Education.

Motion: Steven Walker

Second: Heather Vuncannon

- Ms. Kroeger stated she echoes Mr. Walker's comments and this is a natural expansion.
- Ms. Turner asked if the concern from the SBE was expanding or expanding two years at once. Mr. Walker stated he believes there was concern about expanding in the second year and setting a precedent.
- Mr. Machado stated this would allow the school to expand thru 12th grade, but one year at a time. He stated this is not an enrollment increase, but a grade level increase.

Vote: Unanimous

☒ **Passed**

☐ **Failed**

NC ACCESS NOTIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- Mr. Jay Whalen, NC ACCESS Program Administrator, stated that a total of fifty letters of intent were submitted for the subgrant program. He stated applications are due March 1st.
- Mr. Whalen reviewed the number of schools that submitted letters of intent and the number of those that are eligible to apply for a subgrant.
- Mr. Whalen stated two schools applied for replication and those applications will be on a different timeline once they have applied officially to open a charter school.
- Dr. Barbara O’Neal, NC ACCESS Program Coordinator, spoke about the recruitment strategies used to encourage applicants. She spoke about round table events that were held to help address concerns about expansion. Dr. O’Neal spoke about making personal visits to schools to encourage applications.
- Mr. Maimone asked about the expenditure rate of the grant. Mr. Whalen stated that the program has moved away from the previous annual cap to better meet the needs of the charter school community. Mr. Quigley asked if the change to eligibility criteria helped recruit applicants. Mr. Whalen stated yes.
- Mr. Quigley stated we have to get this money spent. He praised the recruitment efforts. Mr. Machado and Mr. Walker praised the team’s efforts.

LATE AUDIT INFORMATION

- Mr. Walker asked that Financial Business Services provide a list of charter schools with late audits to OCS. He stated those schools with late audits should submit an explanation to OCS. He stated late audits are totally unacceptable. He stated maybe he could see a late audit in December with a reasonable explanation, but mid-February is ridiculous.
- Ms. Leigh Ann Kerr, School Business, stated they can get that information to the Office of Charter Schools.
- Ms. Kroeger asked if there is a correlation between late audits and the independent auditor. Ms. Kerr stated she does not believe so.
- Mr. Quigley asked what type of training is provided regarding the audit process.
- Mr. Kerr and Mr. Machado stated that topic is covered extensively in the RTO process and schools receive information from the newsletter and from the LGC website.

- Mr. Maimone asked if there is anything unusual happening this year and he wondered if this is happening in traditional LEAs. Ms. Kerr stated some traditional LEAs are late and she doesn't know what is causing the problem. She stated perhaps a lack of awareness or late start to the audit process.
- Ms. Turner stated it's the same time each year. She stated perhaps it is worth looking at whether there is a correlation between late audits and the selected auditor. Ms. Turner stated we need to consider putting some teeth behind that. CSAB members voiced agreement.

ESSIE MAE KISER FOXX UPDATE

- Ms. Tina Foxx Wallace, Board Chair, introduced herself and the accompanying board and staff members.
- Mr. Quigley asked why the audit is late. Ms. Wallace stated the board has entered an agreement with an auditor and are in the process of obtaining the audit. She stated she believes it should be finished in the next thirty days. Mr. Walker asked when the school when this agreement was put in place. Ms. Wallace stated she believes the middle of January.
- Mr. Walker asked if they knew the audit was due in October. Ms. Wallace stated they did know this, but didn't have the money to hire an auditor.
- Mr. Walker asked about the school's location. Ms. Wallace stated that they are relocating to East Spencer in the former Dunbar Center which was a community center.
- Mr. Walker asked how many people on the Essie Mae Kiser Foxx board are also on the Dunbar board. Ms. Wallace stated one, Mr. Kenneth Foxx. Mr. Walker asked if it is a nonprofit group. Ms. Wallace stated yes. Mr. Walker asked about conflict of interest. Ms. Wallace stated the board follows the conflict of interest policy and Mr. Foxx recuses himself from those matters. Mr. Walker asked if Mr. Foxx receives compensation from the Dunbar board. Ms. Wallace stated she doesn't know, but she does not believe he does. She stated the board is not a board that receives compensation. Mr. Walker asked if there is an agreement with the Dunbar group. Ms. Wallace stated there is a letter of intent and rent would be \$6500 per month.
- Mr. Walker asked if Mr. Little is still working with the board. Ms. Wallace stated yes.
- Ms. Turner asked if the new facility is similar in size. Ms. Wallace stated the new facility is larger to accommodate the growth.

- Mr. Quigley asked about next year's projected enrollment. Ms. Wallace stated 150. Mr. Walker asked about current enrollment applications. Ms. Wallace stated 106 returning students and 5 additional applications received so far. Mr. Quigley confirmed the school is on monthly allotments.
- Mr. Quigley asked about governance noncompliance. Ms. Baquero stated the noncompliance was issued October 2019 following the school's appearance at CSAB and regarded lack of operational and governance knowledge. Ms. Kerr stated the monthly allotment requirements is based on low enrollment.
- Ms. Kroeger asked about the school's cash flow. Ms. Wallace stated the school is receiving local funds and local contributions and grants. Ms. Kroeger asked how that amount. Ms. Wallace stated about 22-23k per month in local funds.
- Mr. Walker asked if they have submitted an amendment request for the relocation. Ms. Wallace stated no. Ms. Wallace stated she would get with OCS staff regarding the same.
- Mr. Quigley asked the principal, Mr. James Fisher, to speak to the school's academic progress. Mr. Fisher stated he is pleased with the scholars' work. He spoke about academic opportunities at the school. He stated he is not pleased with the NC Check-in data.
- Mr. Ford asked if Mr. Fisher is able to articulate the school's needs to the board for the academic success of the students. Mr. Fisher spoke about longitudinal view of the school. Mr. Ford asked what resources have been identified as needs from the board and needs from the community to help your scholars become successful. Mr. Fisher stated yes. He stated they need textbooks and technology. He stated that would help the scholars get to an even playing field. Mr. Fisher stated he needs community help.
- Mr. Quigley asked for the NC Check-in data. Mr. Fisher stated he does not know off the top of his head. Mr. Quigley stated he would expect the leader to know. Mr. Fisher stated you would expect that, but he doesn't. Mr. Quigley asked about other assessments. Mr. Fisher stated there are common monthly assessments and they use DIBELS. Mr. Quigley stated DIBELS only assesses fluency. Mr. Fisher stated he understands that, but those were needed for his scholars. Mr. Quigley asked if the school is using Istation. Mr. Fisher stated no. Mr. Quigley asked if the school is using mClass. Mr. Fisher stated no. Mr. Quigley stated you must use one or the other. Ms. Turner stated it is not optional for third grade; you must use one or the other. Ms. Turner and Mr. Quigley stated his teachers need to be trained ASAP. Mr. Quigley asked about devices. Mr. Fisher stated the technology is not supported. Ms. Turner stated the state provided devices. Mr. Fisher stated he did not realize that. Mr. Maimone stated a survey went out to all charter schools about technology needs. Mr. Fisher was unaware of this.

- Mr. Walker stated this school needs to come back in April and maybe this board needs to attend RTO sessions. CSAB members agreed. Mr. Maimone stated there is required information missing from the website. He stated there is no report card grade or board information on the website.
- Mr. Ford has asked that OCS staff assist the school in understanding what they need to do.
- Mr. Ford asked Ms. Wallace what the plan is to assist the head of school with getting the needed resources for students. Ms. Wallace stated they have received a gift of fifty devices and are in the process of purchasing a curriculum package. She stated they are partnering with local colleges to provide internal academic support.
- Mr. Ford asked for a firm date for having devices ready. Ms. Wallace stated she could confirm by the end of the month devices will be up and operating.
- Mr. Quigley stated that there are three areas for a school – academics, operations, and finance. He stated his general theory of turnaround is that if you have one area of issue, turnaround is possible. He stated that if there are two areas, turnaround is unlikely and if you have all three areas of concern, the school should shut down. He spoke about his personal experience as a school leader. He stated getting donations, is not a plan. He stated he is deeply concerned because it appears this school is fighting all three battles. He stated then you layer on top of that relocation. He asked if they can stay in the current location. Ms. Wallace stated it would be difficult because of space. Ms. Turner confirmed it would be a year-end move, not during the school year.
- Mr. Quigley stated the school needs to come back in April.
- Mr. Quigley asked about staffing. Mr. Fisher stated there is an operations person and an EC coordinator, but otherwise he is the only administrator.
- Mr. Maimone asked for current enrollment. Ms. Wallace stated 106. Mr. Maimone stated that the board needs to have a serious conversation about relinquishing the charter and whether the school is serving the kids.
- Mr. Ford stated he is rooting for the school, but it sounds like the school is on life-support and the board needs to reach out to the OCS staff for assistance.
- Ms. Turner stated they need to get in touch with Read to Achieve and Accountability immediately. She stated noncompliance in Accountability is a serious issue.

- Mr. Maimone stated all board members need to attend the April meeting and the board needs to see the audit results.

CHARLOTTE CHOICE

- Ms. Kerr gave an update on the financial status of the school. She stated there was a notice of going concern based on a decrease in student enrollment and an unassigned governmental fund balance deficit in 2018-19. The board members stated they don't think there is an issue with the audit. Ms. Kerr stated the 2019-20 audit may be different. Ms. Kerr stated she will double check the audit information she has and get back to the board.
- A board representative spoke about academics.
- Mr. Quigley asked about the school relocation and name change. Ms. Baquero stated the amendment is pending and does not require SBE approval because the move is less than five miles from the current location. A board representative stated the new facility should be finished in August.
- Ms. Kerr confirmed there was a going concern and unassigned governmental fund balance deficit in the 2019 audit.
- Ms. Turner asked how the school is building based on the financial position. A board member stated the school has investors that have been with the school since the beginning.
- Mr. Friend asked about the facility financing. Board members stated it is being financed through the Bank of the Ozarks and American Charter Development. Mr. Friend stated the website has already been changed to the new school name and there is no mention of Charlotte Choice.
- Mr. Ford asked about relationship with the investor. He asked what the school's responsibility and monthly obligation to the investor will be. Ms. Stevens stated that not knowing enrollment, they have entered a lease based upon 25% of the ADM. Ms. Turner clarified if that is 25% of state revenue. Ms. Stevens stated yes.
- CSAB members reminded the Charlotte Choice board that they cannot increase enrollment past 20% of this year's ADM. Ms. Stevens stated that is correct, but they plan to increase enrollment without receiving those state funds because they would still receive local funds. Ms. Turner stated that is going to be difficult.

- Mr. Quigley stated he has concerns with the financial situation and the enrollment. Ms. Stevens stated students are being educated. Mr. Quigley stated the school needs to return in April.

NC CYBER ACADEMY MONTHLY UPDATE

- Ms. Bridget Phifer, Board Chair, stated the audit has been completed. She stated monthly update materials have been submitted and board members are available to answer questions.
- Mr. Quigley asked if anyone is able to speak about academic data. Mr. Mullins stated math is up 15 points in math and biology was down 20 points for end of course testing. Mr. Mullins spoke further about academic data. Mr. Mullins stated enrollment is up with over 2400 students. Mr. Quigley asked about withdraws. Mr. Mullins stated about 100 over the last month. He stated this school year, the school has lost about 500 students. Ms. Phifer stated the workload for students is a lot and the transition to Edgenuity was not easy for all students.
- Mr. Friend asked about assessing incoming students to determine the academic ability of these students. Mr. Mullins stated Edgenuity conducts an assessment for new students and most students are struggling. Mr. Mullins stated about the benefits of Edgenuity.
- Mr. Friend asked how many administrative staff the school has. Mr. Mullins stated about fifteen. Mr. Friend asked how many teachers. Mr. Mullins stated 65.
- Mr. Ford asked about parent engagement. Mr. Mullins spoke about parent communication beginning with the enrollment process. Mr. Ford asked if there are clear communications to parents about what it takes to be successful in the virtual environment. Mr. Mullins stated yes, those are provided to parents.
- Ms. Phifer spoke about alerts that teachers and parents receive through Edgenuity. Ms. Phifer spoke about a new teacher acknowledged at the last board meeting.

CHARTER AND TRADITIONAL COLLABORATION

- Mr. Greg Schermbeck, Founder and Principal of SchermCo, introduced himself and accompanying presenters.
- Mr. Schermbeck spoke about how charter and district dynamics can appear bleak around the country, but when they happen intentionally it can be very successful. He spoke about family engagement and empowerment. He spoke about valuing and co-creating with families.

- Ms. Jamie Sumter, Movement School Principal, stated she was approached by Greg about this program and was excited to pioneer this work. She spoke about meeting with a local district school, Ashley Park Elementary, to determine common issues the schools were facing.
- Ms. Jolene Adams, Ashley Park Principal, spoke about the project and collaboration with Movement Charter School. She spoke about a recent family engagement event with over 400 attendees, which was the highest engagement in school history. Ms. Brenda Alston-Hasan spoke about how the collaboration allows both schools to be successful.
- Mr. Schermbeck spoke about the support from Wells Fargo in funding this partnership. He continued by explaining the measures used to determine impact and success. He spoke about the family empowerment events on evenings and weekends. He stated twenty date-based events took place last year. He stated 62% of parents from both schools attended at least one event. He stated 59.4% of Ashley Park families attended events. He stated 66.2% of Movement School families attended events. Ms. Sumter stated she was happy with the 66% but have worked to target the families that most need assistance. Mr. Schermbeck continued to speak about the program's findings.
- Ms. Adams spoke about working to improve middle school family attendance. Ms. Sumter spoke about communication strategies used to reach families. She stated the schools have learned five touchpoints are needed to get attendance. Mr. Schermbeck spoke about communication with families to allow them to plan for attendance.
- Mr. Schermbeck spoke about budget constraints. Ms. Sumter and Ms. Adams spoke about the opportunities presented through the grant.
- Mr. Price asked how district schools can navigate any resistance to this type of collaboration. Ms. Alston-Hasan spoke about her experience with Ashley Park and the leadership's support in the effort. Ms. Adams stated support has increased and they've had stakeholders such as board members attend events to see it in person.
- Mr. Ford asked Ms. Alston-Hasan who led the effort at the district. She stated Denise Watts. Mr. Ford stated she was a great leader who is unfortunately not with Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools any longer.
- Mr. Price asked if there is any data that indicates attendance at these events improves academic data. Mr. Schermbeck stated the preliminary data looks good, but still in the process of being analyzed. Ms. Sumter stated that anecdotally she has seen more parent engagement in general and from year to year for families that attend.

***CSAB adjourned for lunch at noon and entered open session at 1PM.*

A.C.E. ACADEMY PRESENTATION

- Ms. Laila Minott, Executive Director, and Dr. Bridgette Reese, Principal, spoke about improvements the school has made since last year. Dr. Reese spoke about curriculum and professional development.
- Dr. Reese spoke about walkthroughs, feedback, and teacher evaluations. Ms. Minott spoke about student culture.
- Mr. Quigley stated the data appears to be moving in the right direction. Mr. Quigley stated there are no financial issues, so the school just needs to continue its forward movement and positive trends. Mr. Quigley stated enrollment is also stable.
- Mr. Quigley asked about curriculum and classroom management choices. Dr. Reese stated the team worked together to determine the ELA curriculum Wit and Wisdom. She stated there is a lot of informational text and multicultural. She stated Teach Like a Champion was chosen based on workshops.

HALIWA-SAPONI TRIBAL SCHOOL PRESENTATION

- Mr. Warren Bell, Principal, gave an overview on the school's progress. He spoke about academic data, enrollment, staffing, and student support.
- Mr. Bell stated over 20% of students are in the Exceptional Children's program. He stated enrollment has been stable. He stated they presently have 156 students. He stated they are fully staffed and 11 out of 13 are licensed. Mr. Bell spoke about staff development with the Hill Center.
- Mr. Quigley stated the school is making progress and keeping enrollment stable, so it needs to continue to pull the academic scores up.
- Mr. Maimone asked about the impact on Halifax County schools. Mr. Bell stated that the school attracts a lot of students with IEPs from Halifax County because their needs are met. Mr. Maimone asked about Math 1. Mr. Bell stated only one student took it last year, but this year he has more students taking the course with stronger teachers.

THE INSTITUTE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF YOUNG LEADERS

- Dr. Yvette Munro introduced herself as the founder and Executive Director of the school. Dr. Thomas Miller stated his role as academic leader started at the school about four weeks ago. He reviewed the 2018-19 academic data for the school. He stated the school improved the overall score to 45 and missed exceeding growth by .7 percent. He stated the school increased growth score for the third year in a row. Dr. Miller reviewed the areas for improvement.
- Dr. Miller presented the school's 2019-2020 goals: exceed academic growth, retain 85% of students, and 85% of qualified teachers and staff.
- Dr. Miller spoke about strategies for reaching the school's goals. He continued by presenting the benchmark data from this year. He stated the data is based on teacher created assessments and the school's goal for this month is to determine a standard benchmark to use in the school.
- Dr. Miller spoke about the school's population: 370 students, 90% economically disadvantaged, 98% students of color, and almost 20% homeless population.
- Mr. Quigley asked for current concerns. Dr. Miller spoke about high expectations and holding adults accountable.
- Mr. Walker asked if Dr. Miller plans on staying at the school long-term. Dr. Miller stated that the plan is to have the advertisement for a new instructional leader out in thirty days. He stated his contract is for the remainder of the academic year.
- Ms. Kroeger asked if the school anticipates more teacher turnover due to the changes that were expressed today. Dr. Miller stated he thinks the teachers want to be held accountable and supported.
- Dr. Munroe spoke about social-emotional learning that takes place at the school.
- Dr. Miller stated the school is bringing an amendment request to OCS for expansion to high school. Mr. Walker stated it would be good to see data on the 7th and 8th grade academic performance. Dr. Miller stated he will provide that.
- Mr. Quigley asked about afterschool programming. Dr. Munroe spoke about the extended day programming and that the school has no intention of removing that from its programming.

NC VIRTUAL ACADEMY

- Ms. Lauren Acome introduced herself as the new head of school. She stated she has brought her new academic team with her as well.
- Ms. Acome reviewed last year's academic data. She continued by reviewing EVAAS growth data. She stated ten English teachers met growth and two exceeded growth. She reviewed math growth and ACT composite score data.
- Ms. Acome reviewed subgroup data. She stated the school only met growth with the Students with Disabilities. She stated the school has almost twice the state average of Students with Disabilities.
- Ms. Acome presented 2019-2020 benchmark data and spoke about student intervention needs. She stated 80% of students are below grade level in math. She continued by presenting interim assessment and EOC data. She stated the data is showing growth in Math 1, Math 3, and Biology.
- Mr. Quigley stated that is encouraging and asked about where the benchmarks take place. A school representative stated that the students take assessments at home, but students must be online on camera and internet is blocked.
- Ms. Acome presented the school's academic goals and action steps. Ms. Acome spoke about teacher observations. Mr. Quigley asked what that looks like in a virtual setting. Ms. Acome and staff stated it's just like a brick and mortar where you go into the classroom and view instruction. They stated you can also interact.
- Ms. Acome spoke about the extensive professional development that has taken place this year.

CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION REVIEW DISCUSSION

- Mr. Quigley stated he has some ideas for improving the process. He named some of the problems he believes are worth exploring. He stated he believes sometimes the clarification interviews seem like the board is ready for a full interview. He spoke about how the clarification interviews evolved. He stated that applications that are not complete need an opportunity to respond, but clarification interviews are not needed. He would like to consider how to make that process more efficient.
- He stated that reading the applications is a huge task for board members. He stated he believes it's a huge ask to do this work outside of the board meetings. He thought about

having a work day after applications are due and reviewed by the external evaluators. He stated this would not be an interview day. He stated this would be protected time to work together on these applications without the pressure of the applicants in the interview. He stated the board would work together to go through the applications. He stated by the time those two days are over, they would have read and internalized all the applications. He stated they would have to be efficient and diligent depending on the number of applications. He stated it would ensure everyone read applications.

- Mr. Quigley stated he believes the schools need more time to prepare to open. He stated the CSAB should consider moving the application timeline up so schools get approved sooner. He stated he would like to see fewer delays and more time to onramp the opening of the school. He stated that means maybe we have a July meeting, but no January meeting.
- Mr. Quigley reviewed the idea of Round 1/Round 2 interviews so some schools can move to approval sooner without multiple interviews. He stated he wants to shift from clarification interviews to full interviews. Mr. Friend stated some applications appear strong but in interview things come up that make you question the application. Mr. Quigley stated the problem with clarifications is that only half the board is reading and working on that interview. He stated he would like to shift from the clarification/full interview process.
- Ms. Turner proposed determining whether to have clarification interviews based on the application. Mr. Maimone stated all applicants would have a clarification interview. Mr. Quigley stated what Ms. Turner is proposing is determining whether a clarification interview is even required based on a strong application. Mr. Friend wondered if we run the risk of an application being reviewed and then things changing from the time it is written to the full interview. The board discussed whether a Round 1/Round 2 process would be any more efficient than the current process. Ms. Kroeger stated she likes an idea of eliminating a round for the stronger applications. She stated she also likes reviewing all applications together rather than committee reviews so the board is closer to being on the same page.
- Mr. Quigley stated the work day would be a lot of work, but hopefully would make the process more efficient. Ms. Kroeger and Ms. Turner stated this should help get the board aligned and possibly lead to more unanimous votes. The CSAB continued to discuss the positive aspects of coming together with all applications prior to interviews.
- Mr. Walker wondered how far forward we could move the timeline this year. He stated maybe it would be easiest to have OCS put it into a timeline for the CSAB to review. Mr. Machado stated OCS will bring that to you next month. Mr. Quigley wondered if we could bring two timelines to SBE in April. Mr. Machado stated he'd rather bring one timeline and then another.

- The CSAB discussed possible timeline amendments and when that timeline should go to State Board of Education. Mr. Quigley stated even if we moved it up one month, that would help. Mr. Maimone wondered if external evaluators would have time to review outside of the summer months.
- Ms. Turner stated August is not a good time for a work session given school openings. Mr. Quigley stated it could be in September. He stated maybe the goal for next year is just to replicate this year's timeline of bringing recommendations to SBE in January and then in the following year, we take it to the SBE in December.
- Mr. Machado stated he would speak to SBE about the timeline for approval. Mr. Walker and Mr. Quigley stated we could always have a called meeting if needed. Mr. Machado wondered when the work days would fit into the schedule and proposed July. Board members expressed concern with the end of July being back to school time.
- Mr. Eric Snider, SBE attorney, confirmed that a working session would need to be a public meeting. He continued that there could be subcommittees to look at specific issues to help facilitate the meeting without those committees triggering a public meeting.

THREE RIVERS ACADEMY

- Mr. Don McQueen addressed the board as manager of Three Rivers Academy. Mr. Steven Walker asked if Global Education Services was dissolved. Mr. McQueen stated it will be reinstated because the annual report was overlooked.
- Mr. McQueen stated the audit is late, but it is prepared. He stated the auditor had some health issues. He stated the audit was fine and ended up with a 25k surplus.
- Dr. Viola Holland was introduced as the school's new principal. She spoke about academic strengths and weaknesses. Dr. Holland spoke about NC Check-In data.
- Mr. Ford asked for clarification about BOY scores for third graders. Ms. Turner and Mr. Quigley clarified that BOY are beginning of year scores and usually are quite low.
- Dr. Holland reviewed current academic data. Mr. McQueen stated the strongest teacher at Torchlight is assisting Three Rivers Academy with academic improvement. She spoke about remediation plans based on NC Check-in data. Another teacher spoke about teacher coaching programming.

- Ms. Kerr reviewed financial concerns with the school. She stated the audit has not been received and the school is on financial noncompliance due to low enrollment. Mr. McQueen stated the audit will be sent soon.
- Mr. Maimone asked if the school is relying on federal funds because apparently no one at the school is registered for that system. Mr. McQueen believes that has been resolved but they will look into that issue. Ms. Kerr stated the school has no SAMS registration which prevents it from accessing federal funds. The CSAB stated that needs to be resolved.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION UPDATES/CSAB ADMIN

- The CSAB determined a one-day meeting in March should be sufficient. Mr. Machado reviewed State Board of Education actions from its previous meeting.
- Robert Pondiscio, author of *How the Other Half Learns: Equality, Excellence, and the Battle Over School Choice*, addressed the board and spoke about his experience and the writing of this book. He spoke about the Success Academy model that was investigated through the book.
- Mr. Walker stated he would like to have a called meeting of the policy committee prior to the next full board meeting to review the Charter Agreement.

ADJOURNMENT

- **Mr. Walker made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:39pm. Meeting adjourned via acclamation.**