

Minutes of the North Carolina Charter School Advisory Board

State Board Room 755, Department of Public Instruction

March 11, 2024

9 AM

| Attendance – CSRБ Members | |
|---|---|
| Alex Granados (nonvoting) Dr. Rita Haire Dr. John Eldridge Alex Quigley Hilda Parlér Dr. Shelly Shope (Virtual) | Eric Sanchez Bruce Friend Dave Machado Todd Godbey Dr. Bartley Danielsen- Absent Stephen Gay (Virtual After Lunch) |
| Attendance – Other | |
| <i>Office of Charter Schools</i> Ashley Baquero, Director Joseph Letterio, Consultant- Absent Melanie Rackley, Consultant Jenna Cook, Consultant- Virtual Dr. Brandi Gill, Consultant Dr. Natasha Norins, Consultant Nicky Niewinski, Consultant Megan Carter, Consultant Julie Whetzel, Consultant Dr. Barbara O’Neal, NC ACCESS- Absent | <i>Attorney</i> Steven Walker <i>SBE Attorney</i> Allison Schafer- Absent <i>Teacher/Principal of Year</i> William Storrs- Absent Maria Mills- Absent TJ Worrell- Absent Ryan Henderson- Absent |

Recording of March CSRБ Meeting: [NC Charter Schools Review Board Meeting - March 11, 2023 \(youtube.com\)](#)

Call To Order

Pledge of Allegiance: Mr. Bruce Friend

Mission and Ethics Statement:

- Mission and Ethics Statement, Mr. Bruce Friend

Approval of the Agenda and Minutes

Mr. Bruce Friend added a closed session to the agenda between 9:15-9:40.

Motion: Ms. Hilda Parlér moved to approve agenda for March Meeting as amended.

Second: Mr. Todd Godbey

Vote: Unanimous

☒ **Passed**

☐ Failed

Motion: Dr. Rita Haire moved to approve February 2024 minutes

Second: Mr. Stephen Gay

Vote: Unanimous

☒ Passed

☐ Failed

Approval of Calendar Revision

Motion: Dr. John Eldridge moved to approve calendar revisions

Second: Ms. Hilda Parlér

Discussion:

- Ms. Baquero explained the changes in the calendar due to renovations in the State Board Room and the AIM Conference.
- Mr. Machado asked if OCS had to be involved in AIM and Ms. Baquero replied “yes”.

Vote: Unanimous

☒ Passed

☐ Failed

March Charter Schools Review Board Meeting

Renewals 2024 Vote: Mrs. Jenna Cook, OCS Consultant

- Ms. Jenna Cook explained the voting procedure and rules pertaining to the voting procedure.
 - She explained there will be one school being voted on today and summarized statutory language on some of their possible decisions. She also mentioned there will be more votes in April.

Ridgeview Charter School – 36F

- Ms. Cook reviewed data including academic comparability to Gaston County, compliance information, and financial standing.
- Mr. Friend – Reviewed non-renewal recommendation from the Office of Charter Schools and concerns from the February CSRБ meeting related to Ridgeview board members lack of attendance.
 - CSRБ was told by the board member in attendance that the other 4 board members were on route. Mr. Friend shared that he did reach out to the other board members after the meeting and heard back from one of them who shared he had no intention of being at the CSRБ meeting that day. He has not heard back from the other three.
 - Mr. Friend shared that Ridgeview provided board minutes from 2023 which CSRБ did not have access to at the February CSRБ meeting. Those minutes raised concerns for Mr. Friend. Seemed to be a lot of duplication from month to month. There was only one month where they did a thorough financial review of balances in the financial statement but other than that there was no financial report in the minutes for 2023.

- Additionally, for a school that is so far behind the local LEA academically, an F school, there was no indication in the minutes of any discussions related to academics or strategies to improve academics. There was one month where a Saturday program was discussed.
- Real concern about the level of board oversight and board involvement. The board chair has responded to questions since the February meeting.
- Dr. Haire agreed with Mr. Friend and cited the school's performance data and lack of board oversight. Dr. Haire referenced the board member's comment from the November CSRБ meeting that there was a 50% turnover in the school's population of approximately 200 students. Dr. Haire stated that because there was such a high student turnover she didn't think there was as much of an impact as it seems moving students back to the LEA. The school is not serving students due to failing grades and lack of consistency and firmly invested families.
- Mr. Friend added that he recalls some of the concerns OCS staff had related to lack of board participation in renewal visits.
- Dr. Haire stated she thought it was mentioned that the chair asked to present today to address CSRБ.
- Mr. Friend stated they asked to be before the board today, but they didn't allow it because they had opportunities to come before CSRБ previously.
- Ms. Baquero mentioned they have had two opportunities to come before CSRБ. Once for the initial renewal presentation and again in February due to the non-renewal status which is more than is normally allowed.
- Mr. Friend stated that whatever the decision is today, the Ridgeview board has an opportunity to appeal if they do not agree with the decision made today.

Motion: Mr. Bruce Friend moved that the Charter Schools Review Board not renew the charter for Ridgeview Charter School based on the following grounds pursuant to 115C-218.95: failure to meet the requirements for student performance contained in the charter as evidenced by the school has performed at an F on the NC School Report Card since opening in 2019 and has not met growth for any year. The school has been identified as low-performing and continually low-performing since opening. Additional other good cause identified: the school's governing board has demonstrated a lack of appropriate governance oversight including but not limited to the majority of the boards failure to attend and participate in renewal activities such as renewal site visit of which only 2 board members attended, renewal presentation to CSRБ where no board members attended, and a follow-up presentation to the Review Board in February where one board member attended. Failure of the board to ensure appropriate oversight of the school's financial status and academic performance. A review of the board's minutes does not show evidence of the board addressing the school's historically low academic performance or thoroughly tracking the school's financial status.

Second: Ms. Hilda Parlér

Discussion:

- Ms. Parlér believes they gave them no choice.
- Dr. Haire – citing a question from Dr. Eldridge at the November CSRБ meeting where the school requested a 5-year renewal- shared that the school representative stated they had consultants coming on board which we didn't hear from last month to address challenges. School had needs that couldn't be addressed in 3 years, that's why they needed 5 years.
- Mr. Sanchez noted that since they were open in 2019, they've been an F and not met growth ever.

- Dr. Eldridge noted that they've been 35-36 points behind the LEA and cited that the highest passing subgroup is 18%.
- Mr. Machado said that he tries to show grace for school's that opened around the COVID time, but when looking at this data he is unable to argue with the numbers. Are the students really better off at the school for their LEA. Stated the leader they have is a strong leader but the lack of engagement from board members is concerning.
- Dr. Haire agreed and mentioned no representation except for one board member to show passion for change and improvement. We're not seeing that from board members.
- Mr. Friend confirmed that the board members from Ridgeview were given the opportunity to attend CSRБ remotely in February but no one came on.

Vote: Unanimous

- ☒ **Passed** ☐ **Failed**

9:17 am - Motion: Dr. John Eldridge moved to go into closed session pursuant to NC General Statute section 143-318.1183 to consult with our attorney in order to preserve the attorney client privilege between the attorney and the public body.

Second: Ms. Hilda Parlér

Vote: Unanimous

- ☒ **Passed** ☐ **Failed**

Motion: Mr. Todd Godbey moved to exit the closed session at 9:52 am.

Second: Dr. John Eldridge

Vote: Unanimous

- ☒ **Passed** ☐ **Failed**

Motion: Ms. Hilda Parlér moved to return to open session at 10:01 am.

Second: Dr. John Eldridge

Vote: Unanimous

- ☒ **Passed** ☐ **Failed**

Charter Renewal Policy CHTR 007: Ms. Ashley Baquero, Director, Office of Charter Schools

- Ms. Baquero explained the proposed changes to the renewal term guidelines.
 - First section – and the overall policy – has not been updated since 2016. She outlined the change as an addition to the support language and said that all documents will be available publicly like before on eboard.
 - Ms. Baquero noted the changes outline what OCS does during the renewal process instead of having it in a timeline.

- Ms. Baquero then discussed the section on renewal reports. She noted that the report/portfolio will include as many DPI offices as needed to weed out as many red flags as possible. She presented a list of the proposed changes to the sources of information to bring it in line with the sections of DPI they are currently working with. Overall, this will help schools understand what is gathered during the renewal process.
 - The next section touched on the quarterly compliance meetings and outlined what happens/who is in attendance. Ms. Baquero presented a recent change in language to point 2 of the DPI Portfolio after the State Board of Education suggested changes.
- Ms. Baquero then transitioned to the guidelines for decisions. She added that this was language SBE provided in last week's meeting.
 - The first section in the guidelines are some definitions to sections like 'compliance' and 'comparable'; as well as some additions to looking at subgroup data during renewal presentations.
 - She discussed increased flexibility the CSRБ has in using information from schools that sit near county lines or within the jurisdiction of a city. She stated OCS is going to do work training schools about this new policy should it be approved.
- Mr. Machado asked how they will address a school in a 1-year correction period for compliance issues citing a DPI rule. Ms. Baquero noted that it will be brought up, but it should still be noted in any presentations before the board.
- Ms. Baquero then went into the guidelines for renewal recommendations.
 - 10-year renewal, Ms. Baquero noted that there were not any changes as this is driven by legislation.
 - 7-year renewal, Ms. Baquero noted two changes. The first was in regard to financial non-compliance and the growth sections of the guideline. Noted that the CSRБ could use data brought before the board from the school in their decision.
 - 5-year renewal, they changed the financial non-compliance language to say they haven't been on Financial Non-Compliance for the past 2 years. Ms. Baquero also noted changes in the growth/comparability language to help differentiate schools in the 5- and 7-year category.
 - 3-year renewal, she noted that progress needs to be made through a strategic improvement plan if they are having issues with any of the other compliance issues noted previously.
 - She added that this outlined the ability of the school to come and present before the board to try and move their school from non-renewal to 3-year renewal.
 - For the non-renewal section, Ms. Baquero noted that most of this policy is similar to the previous one as it is driven by legislation.
- Ms. Baquero concluded her presentation by mentioning some additional factors that may affect renewal recommendation such as site visits; ADM data; and or attrition rates for students/staff. She also added that the CSRБ can revoke a charter even if it has not completed its term.

Discussion From the CSRБ

- Mr. Friend thanked Ashley and noted there may be additions/retractions based on some things Dr. Danielsen brought before the board previously. He stressed this section remains flexible and these are in fact guidelines.
 - Dr. Eldridge asked if there's language – or if there needs to be language – to make that clear.

- Mr. Godbey stated the changes overall have yielded positive changes, but CSRБ also considers other factors in their renewal decisions. He stressed it is important to keep their ability to maintain oversight. Mr. Machado and Ms. Parlér agreed.
- Ms. Parlér and Mr. Friend noted they would need to discuss some language within it to make sure it remains flexible.
 - Mr. Walker noted previous conversations to create language to address these concerns.

Motion: Dr. John Eldridge moved to amend the presented language of CHTR-007 in the first paragraph of section B to read, “To receive a recommendation for renewal, the school must meet the requirements outlined in 115C-218.6. The General Renewal Guidelines below are used by the Charter Schools Review Board and the Office of Charter Schools to determine renewal recommendations and decisions. The Charter Schools Review Board may make an alternate renewal decision not included in the General Renewal Guidelines for purposes of these guidelines.

Second: Dr. Rita Haire

Vote: Unanimous

- ☒ **Passed** ☐ **Failed**

Discussion:

- Mr. Machado, Dr. Haire, and Ms. Parlér thanked the CSRБ leaders / OCS for their work.
- Dr. Haire said that it has strengthened CSRБ and will bring consistency to their decisions.
- Dr. Eldridge noted that as someone who has sat on the traditional public school side and now the charter school side, for those who make comments that charter schools aren’t held to the same standard that regular public schools are held to it would be interesting to see a report on how these guidelines play out for all schools in NC if we had all schools follow them.

Motion: Ms. Hilda Parlér moved to adopt this policy with amended changes.

Second: Dr. John Eldridge

- Legal noted that these were recommendations to the SBE to adopt.

Vote: Unanimous

- ☒ **Passed** ☐ **Failed**

RTO Cohort 2024 Update: Dr. Natasha Norins, OCS Consultant

- Dr. Norins began her presentation on the RTO report by mentioning some changes from the old report to the new report.
 - She noted that total schools in RTO have gone from 12 to 5.
 - She added additional information pertaining to RTO3.
- Dr. Norins discussed schools that are in delay and noted they are delaying until the Fall of 2025. She then touched on the highlights of each school in RTO.
 - Agape Achievement Academy
 - She noted when the school was approved and their approved ADM. She noted the number of applications as of March and their break-even number. She also added some notes on a facility.
 - ALA Monroe

- She noted when the school was approved and their approved ADM. She noted the number of applications as of March and their break-even number. She also added some notes on a facility.
- GO BIG (Great Opportunities and Boundless Innovation for Girls Academy)
 - She noted when the school was approved and their approved ADM. She noted the number of applications as of March and their break-even number. She also added some notes on a facility.
 - She added GO BIG is working to get into a new facility as well as the requirements OCS is asking them to complete by April 1.
- Nalanda Academy
 - She noted when the school was approved and their approved ADM. She noted the number of applications as of March and their break-even number. She also added some notes on a facility.
 - She added some changes to their proposed ADM based off conversations with the school last week.
- Riverside Leadership Academy
 - She noted when the school was approved and their approved ADM. She noted the number of applications as of March and their break-even number. She also added some notes on a facility.
 - She noted that as of today – March 11th – they have received over 500 applications which would be over 100% of their approved ADM. Additionally, they do have some land they just obtained and are currently building modular pads.
- Dr. Eldridge asked if there was a 0 missing in Go Big’s application and Dr. Norins said no.
- Ms. Baquero, Mr. Godbey and Dr. Haire went into detail about the deadline of April 1 for a facility. Mr. Friend noted a previous school that said the numbers were coming but they never did.

Charter Amendments: Ms. Nicky Niewinski, OCS Consultant

Honor Preparatory Academy: 2nd Delay Request

- Ms. Niewinski noted the amendment was for a 2nd delay which must be approved by the CSRБ. She cited the reasons for the delay and noted that they have over \$700,000 in startup funds.

Questions from the CSRБ

- Mr. Machado asked what the startup funds were being used for, and the Board chair came up and explained their plans – with ear marks – for those funds.
- Mr. Machado asked if their biggest issue was facility and the Board Member noted that he has a list of several facilities they are investigating. He then outlined where exactly they were looking.
- Dr. Haire asked when the enrollment number changed, and the Board Chair noted that it changed last year in the first delay. He cited that the budget has changed which allowed for that 102 number to be the ‘break-even’ point.
- Dr. Eldridge asked how they got the \$700,000+
 - The Board Member went into detail on the grants and noted that they have conversed with the bodies providing those grants to delay due to challenges across the country.

- Dr. Eldridge asked what the constraints were in case they can't find a facility. The Board Member noted they have a good relationship with the grantees and they are confident that they can extend the grants for another term.
- Ms. Parlér asked how much they have received; The Board Chair noted that it was nearer to \$735,000 but they have run some marketing/recruitment activities which is what got them to that number.
- Dr. Haire and the Board chair agreed that it was great to get those funds. The Board chair thanked the community for their support.
 - Dr. Haire asked if the board members have stayed consistent and the Board Chair said that yes minus two who had extenuating circumstances.
- Dr. Haire asked if there was any movement to demonstrate need for the school in the area citing concerns from other schools.
 - The Board chair noted they are having trouble getting families to commit when they don't have an address. He also added what changes to their marketing strategy they would do if they were given a 2nd delay.
- Mr. Friend asked if there have been any challenges with Honor Prep and Dr. Norins noted that there is still consistency and effort from Paul to participate in the RTO process. She added that they also have a very good working relationship with Paul.
 - Mr. Friend asked about the rest of the board and Dr. Norins mentioned that in January they had a discussion surrounding the Board President stepping down from the board.

Motion: Mr. Dave Machado moved to approve Honor Preparatory Academy's request for a 2nd delay.

Second: Dr. Rita Haire

Vote: Unanimous

- ☒ Passed ☐ Failed

Dogwood Classical Charter School: 3rd Delay Request

- Ms. Niewinski went over the history of Dogwood's application and updates on their location noting temporary and permanent location searches. She also noted enrollment charts and any changes to those, as well as any additional documents needed.

Discussion from the CSRБ

- Dr. Haire and Ms. Parlér noted the large change in enrollment from the original application.
- Dr. Haire also noted that she has some concerns about the construction costs citing when they did their initial analysis. She said she was sure they have addressed that but hasn't seen anything.
 - Dogwood representative noted that is why they are trying to pursue an already-standing building to save money on budget. She noted there is a 3rd building they are looking at as well that doesn't require a lot of rehab.
- Dr. Haire asked if they are still supported by the Barney Scholarship
 - School representative said yes they have been supportive and cited ways they have been helping the school.
 - Dr. Haire asked what their deadline was, and school representative noted that it was August of 2024. She stated they would be a curriculum only school if they got approved

for the delay. Went into more detail on the levels that the ‘Barney’ group has. She also said that after 2 years they can go back and re-request member status.

- Ms. Parlér asked what the progress of the lease is; School representative stated they are meeting in the beginning of April and waiting on approval from the Church’s board. Ms. Parlér asked about the college and school representative noted they have a meeting the last week of March to hopefully get something in writing.
- Dr. Haire asked if Mr. Lineburger is still with them and school representative said no due to a personal reason.
- Dr. Haire asked if Years 1 and 2 were K-6. School representative explained that it was a typo citing the fact 6th graders have to move up.
- Mr. Machado asked OCS if they would go right into renewal if they got approved.
 - Ashley mentioned that if a school goes into delay they still begin (upon opening) with their 5-year charter. Mr. Machado asked if they had that vetted and Ms. Baquero said yes.
- Mr. Machado asked how many of the same board members from the beginning are still with them.
 - School representative went over the board members and their duration serving on the board. She added that the board members that had to leave are still super involved in the school.
- Dr. Eldridge added that he echoes the sentiment of OCS and others that they need to really hash out the community interest since things get more complicated as a school stays in RTO longer.
- Mr. Machado added that knowing this school representative, the mission would stay the same.
- Dr. Norins added that despite their struggles, their board members have been very proactive in checking in / working with RTO.

Motion: Dr. John Eldridge moved to approve Dogwood Classical Charter Schools’s 3rd delay request.

Second: Dr. Rita Haire

Discussion:

- Dr. Eldridge said to re-reach out to the community to make sure they are still interested.
- Ms. Parlér said she has some concerns about the enrollment.
- Mr. Machado asked if this is ‘it’ in terms of how many delays they can get.
 - Mr. Friend said he doesn’t know how to answer this question as it really goes on a case-by-case basis. Dr. Eldridge noted that he agrees with the board that there are struggles but also asked how much time can they give.
 - Mr. Machado reiterated the point that a charter’s mission changes the longer a school can be in RTO.

Vote: Unanimous (Alex Quigley stepped out)

- ☒ Passed ☐ Failed

Introduction to CLP School Presentations- Nicky Niewinski, OCS Consultant

- Ms. Niewinski went over the statute pertaining to CLP and LP schools. She went over the schools that were on this list and their status, and went over the goals of OCS to reduce the # of CLP by 10% each year. She concluded by noting the rules that were given to each school.

1. KIPP Charlotte

- Dr. Shepard – Principal of the School – introduced herself and all the other members of the school’s leadership.
- The K-4 principal began his presentation and mentioned the school’s mission and the area they serve.
 - Dr. Shepard came up and mentioned the number of students served across their 2 locations as well as the demographics/sub-group data of those students.
- Another school leader mentioned their strategic plan to usher in stronger academic success.
 - She noted that COVID didn’t create the problems but exacerbated them. She also noted the 6 goals they have:
 - Liberation/Anti-Racism
 - Academics
 - Talent
 - Alumni
 - Growth and Sustainability
 - Family & Community Engagement
 - She added that they believe they have grown in all areas and went into a breakdown of improvements/changes in each section.
 - She also added that these schools have partnered with experts across various divisions and other operational support across their agency.
- In terms of performance, a school leader noted they have closed the gap between KIPP’s black student gap in growth has shrunk over the years it has been open. Another school leader added they have met growth 2 years prior and are going to be shifting their focus to 5/8 science.
- The Board Chair of NC introduced himself and stated they are pushing this school hard to improve outcomes.

Questions from the CSRБ

- Dr. Eldridge asked about the amount of hiring and how they got the money to do that. A school leader said that some funds come from ESSER funding. They are identifying ways to phase out ESSER and make those additions permanent.
 - Dr. Eldridge asked if any funds could be re-arranged and the NC Board Chair noted that they are working to have it where parents want to send their kids to KIPP. He said that they are working to improve economies of scale and enrollment over the next few years.
- Ms. Parlér asked about the ‘circles’ point mentioned. Dr. Shepard mentioned that there is a big focus on social-emotional learning in the ‘circles’.
 - She added that she has seen where an impact has been made.
 - Mr. Brooks – a school leader – added that the community has also been strengthened by the ‘circles’ program.
- Mr. Gay asked about the math program and Mr. Brooks said ZEARN.
- Mr. Quigley asked how enrollment has been over the years.
 - A school leader noted that enrollment has increased each year.
 - Dr. Eldridge asked what the enrollment capacity is and the board noted that it is about 1,000.
- Dr. Haire asked if they could compare their school body to CMS and a board member cited the statistics on the first slide breaking down the demographics.
- Mr. Gay asked a series of questions regarding curricula and the national program.

- The NC Board President noted the curriculum / program used and also noted that at the HS in Gaston they work hard to help their students get into and get through college. He said that it is substantially higher than the national average but still has some other areas they can improve on.
- Mr. Brooks added they have a team of counselors that work with families to help transition students back into other schools.
- Mr. Machado asked if all but 1 school in NC is an F school.
 - The NC Board President said that they are in a turnaround and that he is not happy about that data. He said they are working tirelessly to turn that data around.
- Dr. Eldridge recommended NC Check-Ins and gave reasons why.
- Mr. Gay asked for an elevator speech of why he should put his kids in KIPP (hypothetically).
 - Dr. Shepard gave a speech. She stressed the school's desire to put in the work and cited the lack of turnover/attrition this year as a sign that they are starting to be successful.
- Mr. Sanchez asked if they do their leadership training through 'RELAY' and asked who has been through the program.
 - A school leader went through who has/is going through the program.
- Mr. Sanchez – citing his history with KIPP – asked how expectations now are compared to those in the past.
 - A school leader said they are looking at what serves them and what is not needed anymore. She cited a few examples of what they have done and said that it doesn't appear as rigid as in the past but that's not what makes the news.
 - Mr. Brooks said that all the campuses are really looking at being liberatory and helping students become the fullest version of themselves.

2. Girls Leadership Academy of Wilmington

- Mr. Godbey recused from any discussion.
- Ms. Tayloe introduced the members online and herself as well as their credentials.
 - She then began her presentation by sharing performance data of their school as well as trends in the EOG and EOC exams.
 - She discussed goals noting a large increase in proficiency and also added that students are completing the NC Check-Ins.
 - Regarding challenges, they addressed improvements in student behavior, teacher turnover, academic learning environments, and building teacher capacity.
 - She stressed they see challenges as opportunities and went into detail on 'opportunities and successes.
 - She noted additional successes and said that in the most recent class (their first graduating class) 98% went to college and 72% are first-generation college bound. Regarding the Class of 2024, she went over a survey of the students and noted that ~94% have been accepted into college.

Questions from the CSRБ

- Mr. Quigley noted this is a big turnaround and commended all the work they have done. He said it's good to see the academic trajectory finally going in the right direction.
- Ms. Parlér noted that she likes the name of the school.
- Ms. Tayloe said the work is slow and there's still tons of work to do.

- Dr. Haire reiterated previous points about academic success. Asked how many of the % going to college is going to community college vs. a traditional 4-year university.
 - Ms. Tayloe mentioned the data on community college vs. 4-year college/university attainment.
- Mr. Sanchez stated he has worked with the leaders of GLOW and that he feels they are heading in the right direction. Ms. Tayloe thanked Mr. Sanchez and continued talking about the need to change culture. She cited those changes as why they are successful today.

3. Pioneer Springs Community School

- Ms. Magi, school leader, introduced herself and members of the board/leaders present today.
 - She began her presentation by mentioning why kids want to come to their school, citing hands-on education. She also added there is a strong connection between the school and the natural world.
 - Reviewed data on enrollment and the recent/current lottery data for this upcoming school year.
 - Shared performance grade data and stated the dip in growth was due to COVID and the fact they started their HS during the COVID school year. She cited other benchmark data they are celebrating such as 'Read to Achieve'.
- Ms. Magi mentioned the number of students achieving college and career readiness and proficiency; and broke the comments down into subgroups.
 - There are discrepancies due to how small their population is. Additionally, she noted, that any trends or issues can be brought up directly due to their strong relationship with the students.
 - Another school leader touched on the current performance statistics. She noted they are focusing on EC children as 30% of their student body has an IEP. She added the data shows gaps in the support that is needed by students.
- Stated the board identified a goal of 95% growth over a year (each student grows 95%)
 - They said to do this, they brought people over to HS.
 - Another school leader mentioned they have worked with community partners to bring additional growth to the students. She added that leaders re-visit certain curriculums as well as other ways leaders are making progress in this area to bring growth to students.
- Ms. Magi noted they are also revamping involvement with the parents and are getting a good amount of data to show improvement overall.
 - Presented some charts to show growth overall in the math and reading data.
 - They used the EVAAS and iReady diagnostic tests to evaluate growth/performance. She said they use that data to target areas for growth.
- Shared they are introducing programs for the groups that they initially didn't target as intensely.
 - Ms. Magi also added ways they are checking in on students such as the 'NC Check-In's' and others.

Questions from the CSRБ

- Mr. Machado asked if they are in the Huntersville area, and they said yes.
- Mr. Friend said that it was good to meet the board and noted the similarities between their board and his school.
- Ms. Parlér asked about the ethnicities / demographics of the board, and they said there are 2 African Americans, 3 men and 5 women.
- Dr. Eldridge noted the website did not have minutes for 2024.

- Dr. Haire asked if absenteeism was a concern for them and they noted they were concerned but they had ways they were addressing this.
 - Dr. Haire also asked if they gave devices during COVID citing them as a low-device school.
- Mr. Gay asked if Ms. Abigail – as a founder – believes the mission has been followed and she mentioned they were evaluating how to maintain their mission.

LUNCH

4. Success Institute Charter

- Ms. Nicky Niewinski introduced Success Institute Charter
- Ms. Williams, Executive Director, introduced herself and gave a history of the school dating back to 2000 and the grades / students they served.
 - She also mentioned the programs and support programs they have implemented for the students.
- Mr. Martin, Principal, went into an overview of the EOG data for the past three years. He noted some specific numbers in the data and noted the comparability data to the district and other nearby charter schools.
- He said that despite the challenges of COVID, they have seen growth since 2021, citing their performance growth scores.
 - He noted a curriculum change in reading (Failure Free Reading) and how this ushered in an increase in performance in all subgroups that was substantially larger than the increase statewide.
 - He also added that growth in math and other areas was substantially higher.
- Regarding attendance, he cited the figures and reasons for those absences. He also added data on discipline/behavior incidences citing increased attendance/effort to reduce incidents in school.
- He concluded his section by talking about the Data Circles.
- Ms. Carter, Board Chair and parent, noted the board is excited about the next few years. Stressed the importance of teaching not just inside the classroom.
- Mr. Martin mentioned they are going to apply for STEM Grants, increase marketing, and get more parents involved in the school. He gave an example of a community engagement night which granted parents the opportunity to view resources available in the community.

Questions from the CSRБ

- Mr. Gay asked how they survive with 91 students?
 - Ms. Williams said that buy-in is the biggest thing. She stated they also look to keep spending light while also focusing on community partnerships. Mr. Martin added that they received a grant from the county for tech.
- Mr. Friend said they needed to button up their minutes on their website.
- Mr. Sanchez noted that since 2014 they've had almost continuous growth/up-swings with very few dips. Overall said that he thinks things are going in the right direction.
 - Mr. Martin noted there was a history of students being transient and some also brought students back after leaving.
 - Mr. Sanchez asked how they go from good to great.
 - Mr. Martin said that engagement and bringing parents into the fold.

- Ms. Williams also added that the students are tracking the data as well.
- Ms. Parlér asked how the data is presented to the students and school leader said it's a lot of charts that are put in the classrooms and documented by the students in pen-and-paper.

5. The Experiential School of Greensboro

- Mr. Jarmon introduced himself and the board members present online with him. He introduced the goals that he was tasked with addressing and transitioned into academic data.
 - In his presentation on the data, he mentioned there was growth in reading and math and that overall, students of all demographics were able to achieve some growth.
 - He noted that growth declined in 22-23 due to high teacher turnover.
- Mr. Jarmon continued by noting the trends for his school were going upward.
 - He noted the added assessments.
 - He stated they are using those check-ins to align their students with the instruction and transitioned into their current academic goals.
- Mr. Jarmon concluded by mentioning some challenges for this school year including a 'chaotic previous administration' resulting in financial shortfall and decreased enrollment/satisfaction and how this yields great opportunities. He also mentioned that some of those improvements are a result of increased engagement in the community.
 - Mr. Jarmon additionally added some things to celebrate including the # of teachers licensed as well as the overall growth compared to the district across various subgroups.

Questions from CSRB

- Dr. Eldridge noted that Mr. Jarmon is in fact able to turn around that school.
- Dr. Haire agreed and said that the board is strong, and things are going in the right direction.

6. The Institute for the Development of Young Leaders

- Ms. Monroe introduced the Board Chair, Dr. Edwards, and all other members present.
- Dr. Edwards began his presentation to discuss the mission by going through the history of the school. He said that initially the focus to address the needs of students was centered on Maslow's Hierarchy of needs.
 - He stressed that his vision was to change the school to prison pipeline to a school-corporate America pipeline and they would target students who were disenfranchised.
- Ms. Monroe continued her presentation by noting their goals in proficiency and growth and presenting on the EVAAS scores from the last 3 years.
 - She noted that ELA data is almost perfectly meeting/exceeding growth and in math it was almost the same.
 - She noted that trends show academic gaps closing for students who stay at IDYL throughout the years and presented subgroup/subject data to back that up.
- Ms. Monroe shared challenges and successes they've seen. Some challenges include teacher retention and inconsistent attendance, but successes included an 86.6% teacher satisfaction and an in-house mental health support network.
 - Ms. Moore went more into detail on each of the successes noting that it is very data-driven.

Questions from the CSRБ

- Dr. Haire asked about the school improvement plans that were listed on the website and Ms. Monroe added that they meet every month.
- Dr. Eldridge noted their growth scores were going in the right direction and Mr. Sanchez noted their growth score was incredible.
- Mr. Friend noted the lack of board minutes since February of 2022.
- Ms. Moore mentioned a Saturday program and a teacher from the school shared that a little over 100 students join every Saturday to do 3 hours of instruction in math/ELA.
 - Dr. Eldridge asked what pays for that and Ms. Monroe said Title 1 dollars. Mr. Sanchez said that there's also Math money to use before they lose it.

7. VERITAS Community School

- Ms. Bowan introduced the members of the board present, and Mr. McCray began his presentation by touching on the mission of the school.
 - He noted the demographic data of the student body as well as statistics like daily attendance and # of EDS.
 - He then continued by mentioning some goals they have for their students, including scores for students on the EOY benchmarks for math and reading. He added they have been recognized for growth but have also seen some dips in proficiency in certain topics.
- Ms. Scott continued the presentation and noted the focus of the team is to look at where students are coming in and how they can push them further. She also noted that teachers are using Khan Academy and other local organizations to increase support for kids.
 - She mentioned they have increased in math and reading growth as well due to changes in curriculum and that they are continuing to look and address student needs.

Questions from the CSRБ

- Mr. Quigley noted that this board is hyper-involved in trainings that he put on.
- Mr. Friend asked how the 'Parent University' program worked and Ms. Scott noted they are mostly in-person and they are going to look at expanding virtual options since a lot of the parents are unable to attend in-person.
 - Ms. Bowen said that she has seen a strong increase in involvement in the 'PTA'.
- Dr. Haire – citing the incident report card – asked about the suspension rate and if Mr. McCray was concerned about them.
 - Mr. McCray noted they are concerned but have seen a substantial decline over the years in that regard. He said they have hope that staying the course – and using the restorative practices they have – will improve the overall environment.

8. Davidson Charter Academy

- Ms. James introduced her school and the board and began her presentation by touching on the growth in enrollment throughout the years.
 - She continued by mentioning some academic data and trends in school performance and proficiency.

- Shared subgroup data and comparability data.
- Ms. James shared goals of the school and their strategic plan to ensure that growth and success continue.
- Regarding challenges, Ms. James noted that there are concerns with academic performance, parental support, student enrollment and teacher recruitment/retention. She went into more detail on each section and cited experiences from within the school.
- She concluded her presentation by noting things they are celebrating at their school. She said that everyone holds each other accountable and they are thrilled they can add programs like art and sports to help boost overall satisfaction of students.
 - She also noted that they are the first charter to have a chapter of the FFA and they have great partnerships with local government agencies and other community businesses.

Questions from the CSRБ

- Dr. Haire asked about the amount of students they pull from Lexington City and comparability from other parts of the county.
 - Ms. James gave statistics.

Director's Updates: Ms. Ashley Baquero, Director, Office of Charter Schools

- None at this time, but Ms. Parlér gave Ashley a gift for her presentation to her school's board regarding the remote academy legislation.
- Mr. Friend/Dr. Eldridge and Ms. Baquero went over the agenda for next month's meeting.

Motion to Adjourn: Ms. Hilda Parlér

Second: Mr. Bruce Friend

Unanimous