

**Minutes of the
North Carolina State Board of Education
Education Building
301 N. Wilmington Street
Raleigh, NC 27601-2825
April 24, 2014**

The North Carolina State Board of Education met by conference call and the following members participated:

William Cobey, Chairman	Reginald Kenan
A.L. "Buddy" Collins, Vice Chairman	Olivia Oxendine
Dan Forest, Lieutenant Governor	John Tate
Janet Cowell, State Treasurer	Rebecca Taylor

Also participating:

June St. Clair Atkinson, State Superintendent

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION

State Board of Education Chairman Bill Cobey called the special April 24, 2014, conference call meeting of the State Board of Education to order. He explained that the Board was meeting as a committee of the whole consider a process for charter school applicants' interview reconsideration. Chairman Cobey also noted that the meeting was being audio streamed. He welcomed online listeners and onsite guests.

At this time, Chairman Cobey directed SBE Assistant Executive Director Betsy West to conduct a roll call to determine a quorum. (See attached list.) The roll call established that eight Board members were participating in the special meeting. State Superintendent Atkinson was present in the State Board Room in the Education Building in Raleigh; all other Board members participated via conference call.

Chairman Cobey drew attention to the meeting agenda, which is available on eBoard, and asked for a motion to approve the State Board of Education meeting agenda for April 24, 2014.

Upon motion made by Mr. John Tate, and seconded by Dr. Olivia Oxendine, the Board voted unanimously to approve the State Board of Education conference call special meeting agenda for April 24, 2014, as presented.

In compliance with the requirements of Chapter 138A-15(e) of the State Government Ethics Act, Chairman Cobey reminded Board members of their duty to avoid conflicts of interest and appearances of conflicts of interest under Chapter 138A. He asked if members of the Board knew of any conflict of interest or any appearance of conflict with respect to any matters coming before them during this meeting. There were no conflicts of interest communicated at this time. Chairman Cobey then requested that if, during the course of the meeting, members became aware of an actual or apparent conflict of interest that they bring the matter to the attention of the Chair. It would then be their duty to abstain from participating in discussion and from voting on the matter.

ACTION AND DISCUSSION AGENDA

**LEADERSHIP AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT
(Ms. Rebecca Taylor, Chair; Mr. Wayne McDevitt, Vice Chair)**

ACTION ON FIRST READING

LFI 1 – Proposal for Process for Requesting Reconsideration for a Charter School Interview with the North Carolina Charter School Advisory Board

Policy Implications: N/A

Presenter(s): Mr. Zane Stilwell (Policy Analyst, State Board of Education Office) and Dr. Joel Medley (Director, Office of Charter Schools)

Description:

This item presents to the State Board of Education a proposal to establish a process for the Charter School Advisory Board to accept requests for reconsideration for charter school applications that were not initially granted the opportunity for an interview following review of the applications. This process would be applicable only for this current round of applications that are scheduled to open in August 2015. Those applicants wishing to appeal the denial of an interview would need to provide a document clarifying the questions and concerns outlined in the previous review process with the Charter School Advisory Board from both the application rubric and discussion of Advisory Board evaluation teams. The process and timeline for completion of this process are included in Attachment 1.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the process described in Attachment 1 regarding a process and a timeline for charter applicants for the 2015-16 school year opening only to request reconsideration for an interview by the Charter School Advisory Board.

Discussion/Comments:

- Prior to recognizing the presenter for this item, LFI Committee Chair Rebecca Taylor explained that the Board materials were available on eBoard and Board members also received Attachment 1 via email. In addition to serving on the State Board of Education, Ms. Taylor shared that she also serves as a member of the Charter School Advisory Board (CSAB), which was newly formed in 2013. She spoke briefly about the process used by the CSAB in considering the applicants. Of the 63 applicants, 42 were not granted an interview by the CSAB. Based on what was presented in the application by the review committee, Ms. Taylor shared that she still feels very confident in the CSAB's recommendation not to invite those 42 applicants for an interview. Ms. Taylor explained that some of the applicants have communicated that if they could have answered questions during the review process, than they would have been invited for an interview. Ms. Taylor shared that, while the current process is thorough, out of fairness to all of the applicants, the CSAB proposes an appeal process so that applicants can clarify information and shall only address concerns outlined in the initial review of the application. The CSAB would then decide whether to invite the applicant for an interview.
- Chair Taylor recognized Mr. Stilwell to present the proposal
- Mr. Stilwell explained that the proposal would allow participants during the current charter application cycle to petition the CSAB for the purposes of clarifying and addressing concerns outlined in the initial review of the application. He explained that the petition would be confined to no more than four pages. New or supplemental information beyond that which is clarifying will not be

reviewed. Mr. Stilwell reviewed the timeline for this process. He also explained that the same evaluation teams of CSAB members that reviewed an application previously shall review the accompanying petition and make a recommendation to the full CSAB as to whether an applicant should be granted an interview.

- In response to Board member Tate’s question, Chair Taylor clarified that this opportunity to appeal will be afforded to all 42 applicants previously denied an interview.
- Dr. Medley shared that, if the State Board approves this proposal, the 42 applicants will be notified by Friday, April 25, of this new appeals process.
- In response to Board member Oxendine’s question about the amount of time this process would take, a brief discussion occurred. Chair Taylor shared that she does not anticipate that all 42 applicants will submit an appeal.
- Dr. Oxendine noted that, should this process be approved, the State Board is setting precedence. According to Chair Taylor, that is not necessarily the case. She explained that the proposal states that this is for schools opening in 2014-15 only. She stated that the CSAB may want to continue the process in the future, but it is currently only being proposed for this round of applicants.
- Vice Chairman Collins asked about plans for the CSAB to work through policy and procedures. Dr. Medley explained that currently, the applications and interviews are consuming the CSAB’s time. But there will be opportunities for them to address policies and procedures in the future. Mr. Collins stated that he is concerned that this will not be the last time the State Board will address this issue and it would be prudent for the CSAB to have policies and procedures in place.
- Board member Oxendine stated that failing to provide essential information is one of the main reasons applicants do not win grants, awards, etc.
- There was no further discussion.

Upon motion by Ms. Rebecca Taylor, and seconded by Mr. John Tate, the State Board of Education voted unanimously to approve the process described in Attachment 1 regarding a process and a timeline for charter applicants for the 2015-16 school year opening only to request reconsideration for an interview by the Charter School Advisory Board. (See Attachment LFI 1)

ADJOURNMENT

Indicating no other business, Chairman Cobey requested a motion to adjourn.

Upon motion made by Mr. John Tate and seconded by Ms. Rebecca Taylor, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the special conference call meeting of the State Board of Education on April 24, 2014.