



**A Publication for Members of the
N.C. Association of School Administrators**

April 5, 2018

The State Board of Education (SBE) held their monthly meeting on April 4th – April 5th in Raleigh. The pages that follow summarize the Board's actions for this month. For complete SBE information, visit their website: <http://stateboard.ncpublicschools.gov/>

SELECTION OF OPERATOR FOR INNOVATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT TOPS AGENDA FOR STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION'S MONTHLY MEETING

The State Board of Education (SBE) today approved [Achievement for All Children \(AAC\)](#) (AAC) – a non-profit organization based in Forest City – to be the Innovative School Operator for Southside Ashpole Elementary in Robeson County beginning in the 2018-19 academic year. Dr. Eric Hall, Superintendent for the Innovative School District (ISD), recommended AAC to be the operator at a special called meeting of the state board held via conference call on March 19. Dr. Hall reiterated that recommendation during yesterday's State Board discussions.

"I am grateful to have AAC on board to partner with the ISD. It's been an arduous process to get to this point; that was intentional," Hall said. "We had to make very sure that we had the right fit for the school, students and community. That is critical to our success. Besides AAC's strengths in the areas of instruction, and capabilities to address the specific needs of the school, their team has demonstrated throughout this process that they are highly committed to engaging with the local community, building effective relationships with a broad network of stakeholders and being effective and responsive partners with the ISD as we work toward a common goal."

The next step is for the SBE to contract with AAC to clarify the terms of engagement with the ISD. State Board Chairman Bill Cobey expressed his support for the AAC as the operator and the selection process that was used: "This is new and challenging work for everyone and I commend Dr. Hall and his team, as well AAC's leadership and staff for working so thoughtfully and diligently to get us to this point. I am encouraged to see the ISD get to this important next stage where what was only an idea just a short while ago is now developing into a genuinely innovative approach to improving conditions in low-performing schools. Most encouraging of all are the tremendous and, frankly, surprising inroads of support that have been built in Rowland and the inspiration and hope that the ISD brings to that community."

Moving forward, AAC will partner with the ISD to select and hire a school leader/principal; provide a proven curriculum and instructional model; deliver coaching and talent development to school leadership and staff; align resources to support all school transformation efforts; and engage a broad network of community stakeholders. The ISD will employ the teachers and support staff at the school; monitor, assess and provide oversight of the operator to ensure compliance and progress towards school improvement; and continue to partner with the local community to ensure a high level of customer satisfaction with the students, parents and local community.

The State Board's approval of AAC did not occur without dissent and lengthy discussion. Some Board members expressed concern about AAC's limited experience in turning around low-performing schools, as the company does not have an extensive track record and only launched as an organization last year, a detail that led some Board members to oppose the company's approval. Some also questioned the relationship between AAC and TeamCFA, a charter network of 13 schools in North Carolina that AAC will contract with for assistance in improving student performance at Southside Ashpole. Despite the concerns raised, the vote to approve AAC's selection passed 7-4.

To view Dr. Hall's presentation materials, click [here](#). To view media coverage of the Board's discussion on this issue, click [here](#).

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION LEADERSHIP, STAFFING CHANGES APPROVED

On Thursday, the SBE voted on two changes regarding the board's leadership and key staffing. Vice Chairman A.L. "Buddy" Collins had recently announced his resignation from the board after serving five years. Board members elected Mr. Eric Davis as the new Vice Chairman. Mr. Davis has been a Board member since January 2015.

Ms. Betsy West, the Board's Director of Operations and Policy, attended her last board meeting on Thursday, as she will retire on May 1, 2018. Board members voted in unanimous approval of Board member Amy White's recommendation for Dr. Deanna Townsend Smith to assume Ms. West's role in supporting the Board. Dr. Townsend Smith currently serves as Assistant Director of Charter Schools with the Department of Public Instruction.

Lastly, Ms. West read a resolution honoring outgoing State Board of Education Vice Chairman A.L. "Buddy" Collins, which was met with applause and emotion.

ACTION ITEMS

BUSINESS OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Action On First Reading

BSOP 1 – School Nutrition Equipment Assistance Grants

Recommendations: It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the Equipment Assistance Grant Award Recipients as presented in the attached document.

APPROVED

BSOP 2 – JLEOC Report: School Bus Driver Compensation And Employment Report

Recommendations: It is recommended that the State Board of Education accept the report.

APPROVED

EDUCATOR STANDARDS AND PRACTICES

Action

ES&P 1 – SBE Policy LICN-001 – Amendments To Align With Statute

Recommendations: It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve these policy changes as presented.

APPROVED

Action On First Reading

ES&P 2 – Recommendations From The Advisory Board On Requests For Exception From Teacher Licensure Requirements

Recommendations: It is recommended that the recommendations of the Appeals Panel related to each request be approved.

APPROVED

ES&P 3 – Draft Education Preparation Program Application

Recommendations: It is recommended that the SBE approve this application as presented.

APPROVED

EDUCATION INNOVATION AND CHARTER SCHOOLS

Action

EICS 1 – Innovative School District Update On Selection And Negotiation Process With Potential Innovative School Operators (ISO) For Southside Ashpole Elementary School

Recommendations: It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the recommended Innovative School Operator at the April 2018 SBE Meeting.

APPROVED

Action On First Reading

EICS 2 – ISD Request For Waiver And Exemptions From State Laws And State Board Of Education Policies For Innovative School At Southside Ashpole Elementary School

Recommendations: It is recommended that the State Board of Education grant permission to operate Southside Ashpole as authorized under Article 14A of Chapter 115C.

APPROVED

STUDENT LEARNING AND ACHIEVEMENT COMMITTEE

Action

SLA 1 – Alternative Charter School Request For An Alternative Accountability Model

Recommendations: It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the alternative accountability options as presented.

APPROVED

Action On First Reading

SLA 2 - 2018 Invitation To Submit Textbooks For Evaluation And Adoption In North Carolina: K-8 Mathematics

Recommendations: The SBE is requested to approve the 2018 invitation to submit textbooks for evaluation and adoption in North Carolina at its April 2018 meeting for the content area presented.

APPROVED

SLA 3 – State Advisory Council On Indian Education Nominee For Membership To Fill Vacancy

Recommendations: The NC Commission of Indian Affairs Board recommends that the State Board of Education approve the nominee.

APPROVED

To view the agendas for the State Board of Education’s meetings, including links to all handouts and PowerPoint presentations presented to the Board, and which may include discussion and informational items not discussed above, please click [here](#).

To view the monthly State Board of Education newsletter archive, including this month’s newsletter, please click [here](#).

Members of the NCASA staff represent NCASA at all meetings of the State Board of Education. If you have questions about the issues discussed in this State Board Review, please contact Executive Director Katherine Joyce at kjoyce@ncasa.net or Jacqueline Wyatt, Government Affairs & Communications Specialist, at jwyatt@ncasa.net.