

North Carolina Coalition for Charter Schools

June 14, 2019

Raleigh

I attended the NCCCS (North Carolina Coalition for Charter Schools) last Friday, June 14, 2019. The meeting was held at the law offices of Womble Bond Dickinson on Fayetteville Street in Raleigh. The meeting was called 'The Good, Bad and Ugly 2019 Legislative Review with Charter Schools in Mind'.

Speakers included Lindalyn Kakadelis, Board Chair of NC-CCS, Matthew Tilley, General Counsel to the Coalition and Attorney at Womble Bond Dickinson, Steven Walker, Vice Chairman, Charter School Advisory Board and Dave Machado, Director of the Office of Charter Schools, NC Department of Public Instruction. The Coalitions Government Relations Team also spoke. It includes Mike Hager, Hager Strategic Solutions, Harry Kaplan, McGuireWoods Consulting and Lee Teague, Teague Advocacy.

I have more material that can be shared, or copied and given to you. Highlights of the meeting included an update on Charter School bills filed in the NC General Assembly.

I had my ears tuned for sources of support – financial, of course, and verbal/written support. We are all aware that not everyone in the NC Legislature supports Charter Schools. We need to find out who is pro-Charter and stay tuned to them. And watch for those who are NOT in favor of Charters and work on them. Senate Bill S-247 was proposed – it would have imposed a moratorium on the growth of Charters. One of the

Government Relations reps, Lee Teague, worked to stop it. It worked!

Another negative (to Charters) would have required charters to provide transportation and food services to all enrolled students (without any additional funding provided). It will not be passed.

Regarding financial support this year, I talked with two attendees who know more than I about the legislative provision for help to charters. I've passed that information along to Allyson and Tom.

Matthew Tilley, General Counsel to the NC-CCS, sends at least a monthly report to Lindalyn, which updates her, and through her, all participating charters, on what's happening in the Legislature. This is very helpful. Here's a partial list:

- "Public School Unit" – offering a statutory definition for the term that would include LEA's and charter schools.
- Classroom Supplies – allocating additional money for school supplies, with charters qualifying.
- Enrollment Priority
- Financial Literacy Courses
- School Safety Grants – for school resource officers, school safety equipment, school safety training and resources for students in crisis.
- Teacher Pay
- Teacher Bonuses
- Principal Fellows/Transforming Principal Prep Program
- School Performance Grades

Other related Charter School Bills include:

- Modify Advanced Math Course Enrollment
- Omnibus Charter Amendments
- Student and Parent Notice/Charter School Restructuring
- Broaden Charter School Sibling Enrollment Priority
- Fair Funding/Repeal Hackney Amendment
- Local Option Sales Tax – (S-392) (language excludes charter schools) if it moves forward it will likely include charters
- Superintendent to Approve Charter School Issuances (it was calendared for 6/18 – yesterday)
- Portability of Teacher Leave

I'd say all in all that our money was well-spent in joining the North Carolina Coalition for Charter Schools. I hope next time YOU will go to their meeting – it was again time well spent.

Dee Park

6/19/2019