

Movement Charter Panel Interview				
Interview Recording	https://clarke-k12-ga-us.zoom.us/rec/share/8apwO9NNVfrnGsr2CFL8GLc6JlUN7kLWDi-HlBax4AqV0TaPT4knPLls9lpZaM.FH5slJlLC0IXSCoX?startTime=1684435967000			
Passcode	ZOWPU%W9			
Opening	Today, May 18, the Clarke County School District is conducting a panel interview with Movement Charter School. Per Clarke County Board policy, all charter school petitioners will go through a panel interview as part of the review process. The interview aims to address concerns among the CCSD board and leadership and to measure the capacity of the charter petitioner. Today, the CCSD panel includes the Superintendent, the Superintendent's cabinet members, and other key staff members. The school district's legal council is also on the call, Mr. Pruett, and the Board Manager, Ms. Palmer. The interview is set to last one hour. Panel members will each ask 16 pre-assigned questions generated prior to the meeting. The charter petitioner will then have time to answer these questions with concise, efficient responses. Panel members will have a chance to ask follow-up questions.			
Participants	The interview lasted exactly one hour. Our CCSD panel was joined by representatives from both the Movement Foundation and the Movement Charter School. The main speaking representatives were Kerri-Ann T. Thomas, CEO of Movement Schools; Tim Hurley, Executive Director of Movement Foundation; Tameka Royal, Superintendent of Schools for Movement Georgia; Nick Stonestreet, Chairman of the Board of Movement Schools Atlanta; and John Coleman, Chair of the Movement Finance Committee.			
Question Assigned To	Topic	Question	Response	Submitted by BOE Member
Hooker	Data	What data was used by the Movement Foundation to choose Athens, GA as a location for a potential charter school?	Movement Schools saw a lack of high-quality education options in Athens, GA. They stated that they would not move to an area where they would not be at least a top 5 option in the area. They also referenced the presence of UGA being a factor in their decision. They did not reference any specific data that was used to make their decision.	Denson
Scott	Data	What model is Movement Foundation using to achieve their stated intention to establish 100 charter schools in 10 years in a high-quality manner?	Movement believes their schools in Charlotte have been very successful, and they are working to identify new areas where they can expand. Movement is now approved to join the South Carolina Public Charter District with a site in North Charleston. That is a state-approved charter school. They referenced the opening of Movement Charter School Atlanta, but I am unable to find their approval in either APS or Fulton County Board records. Movement is very well funded, which is a point that their representatives made repeatedly during the interview. The CEO of Movement Mortgage "has given away most of his wealth" to the Movement Foundation, which funds the charter schools. They intend to build Title I charter schools. They reference being flexible in their model to meet the unique needs of each community, but essentially, their model is based on academic rigor and high funding. Their ability to scale effectively is based mostly on their financial model and being able to respond to enrollment shortfalls. They reference studying schools across the country to look for best practices. Their findings were consistent with developing staff quickly and effectively, student achievement, and having a positive relationship with and impact on the community.	Denson
Barlament	Data	Student performance data for the Movement Charter School in Charlotte shows growth over one year. The data also show higher achievement by African American students than comparison points of Charlotte schools and the state of North Carolina. All other metrics showed lower performance than the comparison points, particularly for college and career readiness. Therefore, most of your data lack validity and reliability. How would Movement Charter School in Athens ensure to CCSD that it can show significant and consistent improvements in student achievement for all students in all metrics over the long term?	They acknowledge their data is new. They point out that they exceeded growth in Math, and their goal is to have their students 75% proficient in math and reading in all schools, regardless of state standards. They reference being 10 points above the state average in North Carolina, which is not true for college and career proficiency levels. Ms. Royal, who is the Superintendent of Georgia Movement Schools, references her current work in New Jersey where 90%+ of her students are at or above grade level. She also again references staff development and professional learning for staff as a "lean-in" point.	Anderson
Moore	Data	Would Movement Charter School be able to provide additional data to support your educational model?	They would supply any additional data we needed. They are excited to get "clean" data for 2023, and will send us those results as soon possible.	Yager
Whitaker	Finance	How will Movement Charter School in Athens be funded? Will CCSD share its funding with Movement? Will the school divert local, state and federal funding away from established CCSD schools?	For startup funding, the Movement Foundation would commit to all costs, helping the new school in its critical first 5 years while not operating at scale. The Movement Foundation would purchase and renovate a facility, then outlay up to \$1.5 million to outfit the school. They would then lease the property back to the school at a reduced rate. The Foundation would provide additional funding of \$500,000 for the first 2 years to be staffed and outfitted to meet the needs of special education, EIP, Gifted students until full state FTE funding. They referenced that Ms. Royal and Ms. Thomas would be free resources to the Athens school. Their goal would be to get to a break-even position until funding kicked in from local and state.	Davis
Whitaker	Finance	Will the Movement School be able to adhere to the State of Georgia legal requirements for reporting the budget both publicly and to the Georgia DOE?	The short answer is yes. Movement Schools operates finances as a back-office arrangement with Prestige, who also provides their CFO to oversee finances. They are prepared to follow all Georgia requirements. Mr. Coleman, who is the chair of their Finance Committee, worked in Georgia before, specifically DeKalb County.	No

Boness	Building	Can you clarify how Movement would build and outfit a school in Athens? We understand from your application that the Movement Foundation would purchase the building, then Movement Mortgage would lease the building to the school at a reduced rate. If local, state and federal funds are then being used for operational costs, would the lease payment be coming from that operational budget?	There is no profit-making mechanism for Movement Mortgage. The profits from Movement Mortgage are funneled to the Foundation, which builds charter schools. The Foundation wants schools to get to a point where they can support themselves, pay their full mortgage lease payment, and fund operations with local and state dollars. They reference that they would love to have a donated building from the district, which would reduce their upfront costs.	Yager
Blankenship	HR	From our research, we noticed that most of your teachers were beginning teachers. How does Movement Charter School intend to uphold the same high-quality teacher standards as CCSD and Georgia?	Ms. Royal, who is the principal of North Star Charter School, part of the Uncommon School network in Newark, NJ, states that over 60% of her teachers are new, and they are achieving high academic results. They perform intensive and hands-on professional development and coaching with their teacher. She believes having new teachers is a benefit to her students. Her school also has high teacher turnover but students are achieving above and beyond their expectations. The Movement school would have Friday half-days to do intensive professional learning with staff, which is differentiated depending on actual needs. Teachers would receive daily coaching sessions, as well as regular observation and feedback cycles. They reference the Relay Graduate School of Education, where teachers would be sent for additional professional development. Another respondent references that in Charlotte, the school staff reflects the diversity of their student body, which they perceive as a benefit to their students.	Denson
Boness	Partnership	What do you envision the partnership looking like between CCSD and Movement Charter School?	The Movement Athens school would seek an authentic partnership with CCSD. They would want to learn from CCSD and vice versa. They want open doors of communication to collaborate and serve children. They are strongly committed to good governance, both academically and financially. They are people with integrity who listen to the communities' needs.	Yager
Nobles	Finance	In our research, we noticed that the Movement Charter School in Charlotte spent less on books than other Charlotte area and North Carolina schools. We also noticed the school was on a list for not funding any arts education. What is your justification for these funding choices? Would Movement Charter School in Athens follow similar spending models?	They were not sure where we were pulling this information, even though it is on the North Carolina DPI website. They have diverse classroom libraries that also include digital books on their Chromebooks. For arts education, they call them Specials. They often contract with external parties to teach these Specials, and they could be arts-based or not. For example, they partner with a dance company, but they also partner with entrepreneurs to teach financial literacy during Specials. They believe in the value of their Specials being taught by industry experts instead of teachers.	Yager
Hooker	Oversight	Can you define the oversight of the Movement Charter School in Athens? We noticed in your application that Movement seeks full budget autonomy. If Movement Charter became part of CCSD, what liability and oversight does the Clarke County Board have on your school finances?	They are committed to oversight by their Board, not the Clarke County Board of Education. For this answer, it was clear that they do not want any oversight by the Clarke County BOE. They state that their Board includes people who understand finances from a business perspective. They are in the business of charter schools, which is why they want to expand. They have an outsourced CFO, who is a check on their Board. They are committed to the Movement School not being a burden or embarrassment to the Clarke County BOE. They want local approval and to work with transparency to the Clarke County BOE, but not oversight by the BOE.	Yager
Scott	Partnership	What are the advantages of having Movement Charter School as a part of CCSD?	They reference that financial literacy is embedded in their curriculum and that families and staff members have access to financial literacy resources. They are committed to the wellness of their students through trauma-informed practices. They want to be part of the community through involvement and community partnerships. They want to partner with other CCSD schools to best serve students. Currently in Charlotte, they partner with Two Guys and a Kitchen to serve their school lunches. They will bring in field experts to teach courses and serve students. They also offer expertise around homeownership for their families and staff and try to impact equity in home ownership.	Davis/Anderson
Barlament	Partnership	How would Movement Charter School avoid becoming essentially a voucher program to draw families away from CCSD schools?	They believe that if locally approved, CCSD and Movement would mutually benefit each other instead of competing for students and resources.	Davis
Whitaker	Transportation	In your application, you mention the purchase of 2 buses for your students and partnering with CCSD Transportation to help transport students to and from your school. How do you envision that partnership working both financially and operationally? Who would cover the cost of the additional funds and liability for bussing?	Movement would purchase two buses to lease to own from the Foundation. They would use these buses for their highest-need areas. Then they would run a lottery to determine additional pickup/dropoff needs. They would pay expenses for these buses from their operations budget. Additional expenses to bus students would not be pushed to CCSD. They would build those additional expenses into their budget. They would include a budget for drivers, maintenance, and gas.	Anderson

Blankenship	HR	We noticed in your application that you intend to pay teachers at a higher level than CCSD. What is the purpose and intention behind that practice?	They reference their school year and school hours being longer, which would account for Movement teachers receiving high er pay.	No
Moore	Partnership	If our Board approves your petition, what are the guarantees that Movement School Athens won't fold and shutter its doors, leaving CCSD in a difficult position with our community?	The Movement Foundation is on the hook for the startup costs. They believe Athens is an area of growth where the student body growth will be sustainable; therefore, they feel comfortable front-loading expenses to pay for the 5-year ramp-up period. They reference pouring in money if the school gets in trouble. In a previous school in Charlotte, they did not do well with enrollment in a heavily LatinX community and had to bail out the school financially. They are committed to financial viability and want to build a relationship of trust. They have lots of money and want to deploy their assets to the students to run schools well. But they continue to reference the "backstop" of funds they can access if needed. They finally ask us what happens if this partnership goes well and the school is a success. How much momentum and mutual benefit could we generate?	Denson