

NEUSE CHARTER SCHOOL BRIEF HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE



EDUCATION BACKDROP IN SMITHFIELD-SELMA (TURN OF THE 21ST CENTURY):

Fresh ideas about education fall of deaf ears among the established educational leaders in Johnston County. An International Baccalaureate meeting in 2002 at Smithfield Primary is met with intense resistance by Smithfield Primary Principal and key teachers. Numerous meetings with Education leaders occur between 2002-2005. During a meeting with Chamber leaders concerned about the direction of education in the Smithfield-Selma area, the JCBOE Board Chairman comments 'that if parents did not like the school system in Johnston County, then maybe it is time for them to move out of this area.'

- Spring 2003: Neuse Charter School of Johnston County – Original Charter Application Submitted to State Board of Education (SBE) and Declined by SBE
- February 16, 2006: Breakfast Meeting at Cracker Barrel to discuss alternate options to improve education in Johnston County: Gene Bruton, Chris Johnson, David Johnson, Todd Johnson, and Dave Neville
Decision: Revive and modify the original NCS Charter application
- February 2006: New NCS Board Formed (Original Board Members): Ozzie Fields, Lee Jackson, Chris Johnson, David Johnson, Todd Johnson, Clayton Narron, Dave Neville, Zaida Partin, & Marie Watson (Todd Johnson = Chairman from 2003 – Fall 2006)
- February 28, 2006: NCS of Johnston County submits New Charter School Application to SBE
- May 2006 Interview with Jack Moyer and SBE Committee with Board Contingent: Ozzie Fields, Chris Johnson, David Johnson, Todd Johnson, Clayton Narron, Dave Neville, & Marie Watson
- Summer 2006 Notified of Preliminary Approval by SBE
- Todd Johnson named as Professional Consultant (Steps Down as Board Chair)
- Dave Neville Elected 2nd Board Chairman
- David Goodine replaces Ozzie Fields on the Board
- Fall 2006-Spring 2007 Planning Process begins: Required Workshops sponsored by NCDPI, Site Search, Classroom Space, Progress reports due NCDPI, Curriculum Development, Furniture, Personnel, Marketing, Student Recruitment, Business Planning (Insurance, Audit, Infrastructure), etc.
- Initial pursuit is toward an International Baccalaureate Curriculum, but an influential leader in the Johnston County School System intervenes and blocks the initiative. The SBE will not give NCS the Charter if NCS's intentions are to implement IB Curriculum - "IB not consistent with original charter application approved by SBE." NCS returns back to Paideia Model and a general global focus (World View through UNC-CH)
- Late Spring 2007 Dean Olah Becomes First NCS Director – initially tapped for the Assistant Director role, but Dr. Patricia Harris is unable to commit to Director position due to State policy regarding retirement

July 1, 2007:	Charter Granted by SBE to NCS of Johnston County, Inc. NCS borrows \$125,000 from Self Help Lee Jackson and Dave Neville guarantee \$100,000 line of credit for NCS
August 2007	NCS Buys Old Harrison Campus (4 acres) from Town of Selma for \$100 #1 Appeal to property is the Gymnasium NCS Officially opens as a K-5 at the Old Harrison Campus in Selma, NC Original Enrollment: Approximately 140 Dress Code for all students: (Khaki/Navy colored pants with solid shirts) Founder's Club Established for First Year Contributions
October 23, 2007	Official NCS Dedication and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
February 15, 2008:	Dr. June Atkinson (Superintendent of NC Schools) visits NCS 4 th Grade Class
June 2008:	Dean Olah Resigns as Director and seeks employment elsewhere Dr. Patricia Harris named Director Top 4 Challenges: Personnel including staff recruitment, student retention/recruitment, financial management, & facilities
August 2008	NCS Opens as a K-6 Dress Code Remains Unchanged Modular Classrooms added
October 6, 2008	Shooting adjacent to Harrison (NCS) Campus occurs after school Heightens Commitment to #1 priority – Student Safety
January 2009	LoriAnn Stretch Elected 3 rd Board Chair
February 19, 2009	First Board Retreat
June 2009	NCS Requests SBE to expand Charter to Include 8 th Grade – strategy allows NCS to grow beyond 10% suggested by DPI, which creates more revenues NCS leases more Modular Classrooms
August 2009	NCS named "School of Distinction" by NCDPI
January 2010	Chris Johnson Elected 4 th NCS Board Chairman
August 2010	NCS Named "Honor School of Excellence" by NCDPI
October 11, 2010	NCS and First Assembly Church Agree to Purchase Price for 26 Acre Campus (Booker Dairy Rd)
January 2011	Self Help Agrees to loan money to NCS - Site Development & Construction begins
August 2011	NCS Named "Honor School of Excellence" by NCDPI
August 18, 2011	NCS opens doors on 26 Acre Campus (K-10)

Fall 2011	Director's Health scare creates need for succession planning
January 2012	Jimmy Lloyd Elected 5 th NCS Board Chairman
April 2012	NCS Receives Accreditation from SACS CASI North Carolina State office
August 2012	NCS Begins Second Year at New Campus (K-11) Performance Composite Score 90.1 – ranks 5 th highest among Johnston County Schools
June 2013	NCS expands Board by 3 new members NCS adds Middle School Principal (1 Principal for each for Elementary, Middle, & High School) Board approves High School Initiative to Improve the Curriculum model
July 2013	Self Help and USDA commit to \$6.17 million loan for HS/MS Classroom Space Grace Assembly Church of God accepts NCSF's offer to purchase front parcel (8 acres)