

Chairman Mortimer and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony regarding the particular importance of House Bill 566. My Name is Ronda Baines. I am the founding board leader of Treasure Valley Classical Academy, a proposed charter school in Payette County. Three years ago a group of parents, including myself, realized that school choice was needed in Payette County. During our search for a successful charter school model, we found the Hillsdale College Barney Charter School Initiative (BCSI) classical charter school model. The BCSI model is very specific in its philosophy and execution of classical curriculum. In order for a BCSI school to be successful, it requires that the principal be experienced and attuned to how the model is implemented. Just because someone has administrative credentials does not mean they would be qualified or prepared to head a BCSI school.

House Bill 566 will provide a key component for the success of our classical, core knowledge charter school by paving a pathway to certification for our chosen administrator, Mr. Stephen Lambert. As you can see from the supplemental material provided on Mr. Lambert, he has a stellar record of success with this model in Georgia and well as an amazing professional background. Mr. Lambert is a proven and effective school leader who is coming to Idaho through the generosity of two Idaho foundations. Mr. Lambert, however, is not certified in the formal sense according to Idaho code. Mr. Lambert was being pursued by another BCSI startup in Colorado, a state, which does not regulate charter school administrative certification the same way Idaho does.

Following are a few performance notes and statistics regarding student success from the Accreditation Mission Brief for Atlanta Classical Academy where Mr. Lambert is currently the principal.

On average, students across all grade levels performed at least **one grade level** above their grade in every subject area on the ITBS assessments. Beginning in the *fifth grade*, students on average performed at **three or more grade levels** above in ELA, social studies, and science.

PSAT/NMSQT Results for Fall of 2017:

70% of 11th grade students scored *College Ready* on both **English and Math**
compared to 44% of students nationally

16% of students scored among top **5%** of students nationally

24% of students scoring among top **10%** of students nationally

70% of students scoring among top **25%** of students nationally

Principal Lambert shared with us that ACA anticipates 3 or 4 students of the 11th grade class of 37 will be semi-finalists for the National Merit Scholarship; putting them in the top 1% nationally.

Also, ACA averages a 92% year-over-year retention rate, and over 1,100 students remain on the school's waitlist after the start of the 2017-2018 academic year.

From the ACA faculty and parent surveys:

- 96% of faculty agree or strongly agree that students were well-behaved in class and learned to practice the curriculum virtues
- 94% of Upper School parents agree or strongly agree that students are encouraged to have good character through the order of the classroom and the overarching school culture

Here are some of Mr. Lambert's educational and professional accomplishments.

- Principal, Atlanta Classical Academy, current year
- Assistant Principal, ACA, 2014-2017
- Director of USAF Commanders' Professional Development School
- Special Missions Pilot flying the President, VP, Cabinet members, U.S. Congressmen, and other U.S. and foreign dignitaries.
- Vice Commander 86th Airlift Wing: over 9,000 personnel and managed a 330 million dollar budget
- Graduate of the USAF Academy; MA from Naval Postgraduate School; National Defense Fellow, Tufts University.

With Mr. Lambert's leadership skills and a powerful, successful school model and culture, the underserved population in Payette County will have the tuition-free opportunity of a lifetime.

It is imperative to the success of our school to have a principal that has been specifically trained to deliver the necessary leadership to maintain the mission and vision of TVCA. For example, Mr. Lambert told TVCA prospective parents that there are no bells at Atlanta Classical Academy. Using atomic clocks in classrooms, the teachers and students efficiently change subjects or move at the exact time to the next class or recess period. Can you imagine a school without bells? This is part of the school culture that teaches the students the virtue of self-governance. Having a school leader that can uphold the school culture of character development in the BCSI model is of critical importance to our success.

I thank you for the time and talent you invest in making education in Idaho better for all students. HB 566 creates a new pathway for people, like Stephen Lambert, who are experts in their professional fields as well as education to come to Idaho and lead our children into an incredibly bright future. Thank you again and I would be honored to answer any questions.

AdvancEd
Atlanta Classical Academy, Stephen Lambert

School Quality Factors Report Highlights
12/20/2017

- Parents are well informed of the educational priorities and believe that they have the right input to make informed decisions for their learners—in fact, 97% believe they see specific ways in which Atlanta Classical Academy’s curriculum and culture are forming their learners into intelligent and virtuous citizens, (See Attachment: 2017 Parent Survey, p. 7), the school averages a 92% year-over-year retention rate, and over 1,100 students remain on the school’s waitlist after the start of the 2017-2018 academic year.
- As a result of this regular communication and engagement, our last two school-wide parent surveys show that over 92% of the school community agrees that the school is effectively accomplishing the stated mission. (See Attachment: 2017 Parent Survey p. 7-9). This result is a testimony to consistent communication, inclusive collaboration and unity of purpose under a shared mission and vision.
- Through the 2017 Employee Survey, one learns that 91% of faculty and staff felt that they had positive interactions with the administration (See Attachment: 2017 Employee Survey, p. 10).
- In a question that asked parents to evaluate the faculty’s effectiveness.
- in accomplishing the mission of the school, 95% of parents either agreed or strongly agreed that the faculty succeeded in this endeavor (See Attachment: 2017 Parent Survey, p. 8). The school’s principal closely monitors the quality of instruction in classrooms across the school. In the first semester of the 2017-2018 school year, he completed 295 classroom observations and debriefed with teachers where necessary. Moreover, to ensure the continued growth of each teacher, Atlanta Classical pays for each faculty member to travel to the campus of Hillsdale College each summer for three days of professional development in their particular discipline.
- 96% of faculty agree or strongly agree that students were well-behaved in class and learned to practice the virtues (See Attachment: 2017 Employee Survey, p. 3)
- 94% of Upper School parents agree or strongly agree that students are encouraged to have good character through the order of the classroom and the overarching school culture (See Attachment: 2017 Parent Survey, p. 41)

Survey of Georgia Milestones Results (2017)

- Highest percentage of high school students (98.1%) in the district scoring at Proficient Learner and above on the Georgia Milestones Ninth Grade Literature EOC assessment.
- Ranked #1 (at 91.5%) of the 7 schools district-wide in which 75% or more of Junior High School students scored at or above the Developing Learner Level across all subjects.
- At a 91.6%, Atlanta Classical ranked 3rd out of 50 APS schools that saw gains in the percentage of students scoring at or above the Developing Learner level across all subjects in the 3-8th grade End-of-Grade tests.
- One of only 14 schools in the district with 75% or more (91.7% for ACA) of 3-8th grade students scoring at or above the Developing Learner level across all subjects.
- Lexile reading levels on and Georgia Milestones show that the majority (70 percent or more) of ACA students across all grades were able to read at or above grade-level, from our early elementary students in first and second grade (74 percent) to our leading class of 2019.

STEPHEN P. LAMBERT

7405 Samples Field Road, Cumming, GA 30040
334.782.0969 (mobile)
404.369.3500 (work)
splambert@verizon.net (private)
slambert@atlantaclassical.org (work)

Profile

Thoroughly tested leader with a proven track record in educational leadership, senior management, and public policy development—with a participatory and team-oriented leadership style. Career experience spans a wide variety of roles in academia and research, national security policy, and teaching, including positions such as principal, assistant principal, course director, assistant professor, executive officer, strategic politico-military affairs planner, and operational leadership positions at multiple levels.

Key Skills

- Leadership & Senior Management
 - Public Policy Development
 - Civic Leader & Stakeholder Engagement
 - Curriculum Development & Management
 - Collaborative & Organizational Teaming
 - Project Management and Execution
 - Operating & Capital Budget Management
 - Qualitative Research Design & Execution
-

Experience

- **Principal**, Atlanta Classical Academy, Atlanta, GA (Jun '17 – Present)
Hand-picked by the governance board of Northside Education, Inc., to lead Atlanta Classical Academy, a Barney Charter School Initiative school with 630 students and a 67-member faculty and staff. The school is thriving with a 1,200 student wait list. Overseas a \$6.3M annual program, as well as an annual fundraising and a multi-year capital campaign. Atlanta Classical Academy is currently at K-11 expanding to K-12 next year.
- **Assistant Principal**, Atlanta Classical Academy, Atlanta, GA (Jul '14 – May '17)
Competitively selected to help stand up and lead the flagship charter school for Northside Education, Inc., an Atlanta-based 501-C3 Non-Profit Corp with the goal of establishing a world-class classical charter school in collaboration with the nationally-known Barney Charter School Initiative. Oversaw a \$6.1M annual program, including community support, a capital campaign, all IT and logistical support services, a 65-member staff, and a 590-member student body. Served as end-to-end project officer for a Summer 2016 \$1.5M high school expansion construction project.
- **Director**, USAF Commanders' Prof Dev School, Montgomery, AL (Jul '12 - Jun '14)
Led and supervised a hand-picked staff and faculty in planning and delivering a select suite of senior executive leadership training courses that prepare over 1,400 senior management

professionals annually for top leadership billets. Engaged with the most senior stakeholders to serve as key mentors and adjuncts in delivering a senior executive-level curriculum spanning a broad range of topics in business management, organizational culture, airfield operations, global flight operations, and all aspects of large organization leadership.

- **Vice Commander, 86th Airlift Wing, Ramstein Air Base, Germany (Jun '10 - Jun '12)**

Responsible for the Air Force's largest overseas airfield complex with supervision over 9,392 personnel, 2 additional satellite airports, as well as 11 geographically separated European operating locations from the United Kingdom to Turkey. Oversaw a \$330M flight and ground operations budget and \$700M in capital improvements on \$7.3B in infrastructure. Directed all airport landside and airside operations. Led and directed day-to-day stakeholder engagements with the mayors and political leadership of five neighboring municipalities.

- **Air Power Strategist, Chief of Staff Strategic Studies Group, Headquarters US Air Force, Washington D.C. (Aug '09 - May '10)**

- **National Defense Fellow, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, Boston, MA (Jul '08 - Jul '09)**

- **Commander, 729th Air Mobility Squadron, Azores, Portugal (Jul '06 - Jun '08)**

Held overall responsibility for a 132-member unit tasked with operating Lajes airfield and logistics hub. Routinely coordinated with U.S. and international partner nations to facilitate mission support, safety, and security. Oversaw \$42.8M worth of equipment and facilities, a \$11.7M special purpose vehicle fleet, and a \$2.8M annual budget. Responsible for oversight and quality assurance inspections on a \$700M commercial airlift services contract.

- **Commander, 447th Expeditionary Ops Support Squadron, Baghdad (Jan - Jun '07)**

Held overall responsibility for all airfield operations at Baghdad International Airport (BIAP) during the 2007 Presidential-directed Baghdad surge. As the Senior Airfield Authority for BIAP, designed and executed a high-density operational plan fusing commercial, contract, and military flight operations, and directed and led all maintenance, air traffic control, intelligence, weather, and airfield management functions. Integrated 120 helicopters into round-the-clock combat operations at BIAP. Orchestrated uninterrupted combat air space control for over 52,000 takeoffs and landings during the operational surge.

- **Executive Assistant, Deputy Director for Pol-Mil Affairs (Europe), Directorate of Strategic Plans and Policy, J-5, Joint Staff, Pentagon (Apr '05 - Jun '06)**

Assisted the J-5 Deputy Director in all aspects of his role as principal regional strategy and policy advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Led day-to-day staff actions and developed and staffed strategies, correspondence, and briefings for the Secretary of Defense and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

- **Strategic Pol-Mil Planner, Directorate for Strategic Plans and Policy, J-5, Joint Staff, Pentagon (Jul '04 - Mar '05)**

- **Research Fellow, Center for Strategic Intelligence Research, National Military Intelligence College, Bolling AFB, Washington D.C. (Feb '03 - Jun '04)**

- **Special Missions Pilot, 99th Airlift Squadron, Andrews AFB, MD (Apr '01- Jan '03)**

Competitively selected as a pilot in a unit directly supporting the President, Vice President, members of the Cabinet, the U.S. Congress, and other U.S. and foreign dignitaries.

- **KC-10 Instructor Pilot**, 6th Air Refueling Sq, Travis AFB, CA (Nov '98 - Mar '01)
 - **Course Director and Assistant Professor**, 34th Education Squadron, US Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, CO (Dec '96 - Oct '98)
 - **Graduate Student**, Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, CA (Apr '95 - Nov '96)
 - **KC-10 Pilot**, 709th Air Refueling Squadron, March AFB, CA (Mar '93 - Mar '95)
 - **KC-135R Pilot**, 70th Air Refueling Squadron, Grissom AFB, IN (Oct '91 - Feb '93)
 - **Student Pilot**, 97th Flying Training Squadron, Williams AFB, AZ (May '90 - Oct '91)
-

Education

- National Defense Fellow, Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy, Tufts University, Boston, MA, 2009.
 - Research Fellowship, National Military Intelligence College, Washington D.C., 2004.
 - MA in National Security Affairs, Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, CA, 1995.
 - BS in Political Science, USAF Academy, Colorado Springs, CO, 1990.
-

Recognition, Awards, and Publications

- **Major Department of Defense Decorations (1995 - 2014)**
 Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service medal, Aerial Achievement Medal, and Air Force Commendation Medal.
- **Air Mobility Command Small Air Terminal of the Year & Air Mobility Command Center of the Year (2007)**
 Selected as the best of 24 world-wide airfields that provide aerial port, cargo, passenger, logistics, and maintenance servicing for global Department of Defense flight operations.
- **Academic, Research, and Training Awards**
 Distinguished Graduate, Squadron Officer School (2000)
 US Air Force Robert E. Linhard Award for Outstanding Research (1997 & 1998)
 Allen E. Dorn Outstanding US Air Force Academy Researcher (1998)
 Philip D. Caine Instructor of the Year, US Air Force Academy (1997)
 Distinguished Graduate, Naval Postgraduate School (1996)
 Distinguished Graduate, Combat Crew Training School, KC-135R (1992)
- **Publications**
 From 1996 – 2010, awarded 9 individual research grants (totaling over \$65,000) by the Institute for National Security Studies, the US Air Force Air Staff, and the Center for Strategic Intelligence Research (Defense Intelligence Agency).
 Numerous articles published in various national security periodicals.

