



ARKANSAS VIRTUAL ACADEMYSM

MINUTES Regular Meeting Board of Directors March 15, 2016

Board Members

John Riggs
Jess Askew
Gary McHenry
Paige Gorman

Guests

Margaret Jorgensen
Scott Holland
Denise Wetzel
John Kramer

Not Present

Ann Clemmer
Chad Gallagher
Cary Hiatt

Staff

Scott Sides
Camber Thompson
Holli Gumm
Mitzi Bingaman

Call to Order

Chair, Mr. John Riggs, called the Board meeting to order at 4:01 P.M. Mr. Riggs declared a quorum.

The minutes from the January 2016 Board meeting were approved.

MOTION: A motion was made to accept the January Board meeting minutes as presented. The motion received a second and carried unanimously.

Board Chair's Report

John Riggs, Board Chair, reminded Board Members that six hours of training are required of each Board Member every year. There are several options to receive training. APSRC and ASBA offer training. Mr. Riggs also mentioned that ARVA is always looking for new board members. If anyone has a potential Board Member, please give names to Scott or John.

Discussion: Dr. Scott Sides, Head of School states that K12 is working on coordinating a meeting of Boards. Dr. Sides is unsure if this will count toward the board training requirement. Dr. Sides asked if the Board would like to set up a training day in October, similar to what was done last year. Mr. John Riggs, Board Chair, will poll board members and report back to Dr. Sides.

Action Agenda Items

Dates for 2016-2017 School Year

Dr. Scott Sides, Head of School presented the 2016-2017 school calendar to show the 185 days as required for accreditation. A notable difference is Thanksgiving will now be 5 days instead of 3. ARVA will maintain the same holidays as last school year.

Discussion: Mr. Riggs, Board Chair would like to have the Senior class graduation date determined as soon as possible.



MOTION: A motion was made to accept the 2016-2017 School Year Calendar. The motion received a second and carried unanimously.

Leadership Structure

Dr. Sides indicated that it is a requirement for schools to have a leadership structure for the school improvement process. Additionally, all schools are required to participate and use Indistar. Dr. Sides then presented the School Improvement Leadership Teams for each school.

Discussion: Mr. Riggs and Mr. Askew asked Dr. Sides if ARVA administration approve of the structure.

MOTION: A motion was made to accept the leadership structure as presented. The motion received a second and carried unanimously.

Head of School's Report

Budget Review

Mr. John Kramer, K12 Regional Finance Director, presented the Year to Date financial review. He noted several items in his presentation. First, the teacher instruction item has been trending close to forecast and budget while the student instruction line item is somewhat understated because computer rental charges are included in the K12 Other Charges line item. There is a difference from the original budget for line items under the school administration & governance section. These fees correlate to K12 management fees, balanced budget credits, and net educational services and Mr. Kramer will continue to monitor these line items. Lastly, the insurance line item has increased from previous years. The increase is driven by insurance fees and increased enrollment.

Discussion: Mr. Jess Askew asked about the ADM cycle from last year and how it has is correlating to funding. Dr. Scott Sides stated that ARVA still receives high growth funding. Mr. John Riggs asked if we buy liability through K12 or someone locally and how the vendor is selected. Mr. John Kramer noted that insurance is provided through Arthur Gallagher and was selected by K12. Mr. Kramer will provide an analysis on all insurance categories to Dr. Sides to distribute at the next Board meeting.

ACT Aspire Testing Preparations

Mr. Scott Holland and Ms. Denise Wetzel briefly overviewed the steps that are being taken this year to ensure that the technology environment will be successful. They noted that ARVA has an exhaustive approach to ensure success. The PowerPoint shows areas of concern and how we will address those this year. The following is being done by the K12 team: test site validations to ensure bandwidth and stability to include a trial at each location, four fail over points for connectivity, on-site technical support for each testing site, and loading and configuring machines prior to testing to identify any loading or content problems prior to testing.

Ms. Denise Wetzel discussed the testing support cost. The cost includes all equipment, site prep, and technological support and she stated that it is a very competitive pricing schedule. Last year ARVA spent \$100,000 on computer rentals, which makes this year's cost an additional \$177,000.

Discussion: Ms. Paige Gorman asked who the individuals are that will be filling the capacity of network engineers. Ms. Denise Wetzel stated they are partners with K12 that have worked with them for the past five years. She noted that they helped Ohio in a similar capacity with testing.



George Washington University Study

Ms. Jorgensen has been contacted by George Washington University about a research topic that has yet to garner a lot of research (outcomes for learners in online and hybrid environments). K12 and GWU have had a relationship for at least 3 years and K12 helped them start their online school. The research survey is non-invasive for grades 7-12 and would require about thirty minutes to complete forty-five questions. Student information would be pulled from K12 and would only show their Student ID number. This provides a chance to discuss the importance of research with the student base. The data about the students would come from the K12 system so the families would not have to provide. This will be a one-time study. Ms. Jorgensen will work with Dr. Sides to work through the details.

Discussion: Mr. John Riggs noted that it is a wonderful way to teach kids ways that we use research in business. Mr. Jess Askew asked if the results would be published. Ms. Jorgensen indicated that they would be published and they ARVA would have first review rights.

Academic Review – PARCC

Ms. Jorgensen commended the work that the ARVA team has done with the student population regarding the PARCC testing results from last school year. Ms. Jorgensen reviewed the results of student scores and income sufficiency. In K-8 there was a correlation, but not for 9-11. She indicated that there may be differences in how the curriculum is presented that closes the income sufficiency gap. She also highlighted that ARVA's student population that qualified for subsidized meals has increased over the last school year. Additionally, she noted that the longer a student remains continuously enrolled, the higher probability that they will meet or exceed proficiency. ARVA's student proficiency has increased over the last three years.

Discussion: Mr. Jess Askew asked what ARVA's current retention rate looks like? Dr. Scott Sides will research and provide that information to the Board. Mr. John Riggs is interested if the mobility rate is higher in free or reduced lunch vs. not.

Student Re-Registration and Teacher Intent to Return

The re-registration process has started and is set to close on April 1, 2016. To date ARVA has 1,357 students that have indicated they are returning, 115 students have indicating they are not returning, and 398 students have not decided. ARVA will begin the process of contacting the remaining 398 students to determine their intentions for next school year.

Dr. Sides sent out a survey of ARVA staff regarding their intention of returning next school year. The survey resulted in 43 of 49 responding that they intend to return. The remaining six staff members will need to be followed up with to determine their intentions.

Meeting Dates for the Coming Year

The following dates were discussed and Dr. Sides will send out calendar invites:

June 14th already scheduled

July 19th

September 13th

January 24th

March 14th

2016 High School Vision Statement

Dr. Sides noted that a vision statement is part of a school wide statement needed in order to make the high school a Title I school. Students, teachers, and parents provided input to develop the following statement:



Arkansas Virtual Academy's Schoolwide Title I initiative will maximize student learning and achievement by successfully engaging students in learning and supporting parents, learning coaches, and families toward our shared goal of lifelong student success.

Dr. Sides noted that the statement will need to be brought up for public comment.

Discussion: Suggest that the mission statement funnel from management to the board and that school leadership should work with students, parents, and teachers.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:47 P.M.