

Minutes
Arkansas Virtual Academy
Board of Directors Meeting
August 9, 2011

Board Members Present

Jerry Jones
John Riggs
Angela Driskill
Kevin Smith
Robbie Wills

Staff Present

Scott Sides
Lisa Williams
Cheli Stafford
Alyssa Gordon

Media Present

None

Board Members Not Present

Lepaine Sharp-McHenry

Call to Order

Board Chair, Mr. Jerry Jones, called the board meeting to order at 4:07 p.m. Mr. Jones then asked for a roll call and declared a quorum.

MOTION: by Mr. John Riggs to approve June 21 minutes. Dr. Angela Driskill seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Action Items:

Board Officer Elections:

- Chair, Vice-Chair and Treasurer are elected on an annual basis.

MOTION: by Dr Driskill that current officers remain in place through the 2011-2012 school year, unless the individuals object. Mr. Riggs seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- Board officers are as follow:
 - Board Chair – Mr. Jerry Jones
 - Vice-Chair – Ms. Lepaine Sharp-McHenry
 - Treasurer – Mr. John Riggs

Board Chair's Report

Board Member Search:

- Mr. Jones stated that no new progress has been made in the recruitment of new board members.
- Discussion was held regarding possible new members and the search to secure those identified.
- Due to a recent vacancy, the Board would like to add an ARVA parent to its membership. No recommendations were given at this time.
- The ARVA Board agreed to pursue a past representative from the State Board of Education in order to better inform that group of our school's direction and service to students.

Head of School's Report

Budget Review: ARRA IDEA and ARRA Educational Jobs Funding

- In reviewing the preliminary budget with the board, Mr. Scott Sides explained the actions taken to deplete ARRA IDEA funds since none of these can be expended for salary after September 30, 2011. The action would be to make an APSCN adjustment increasing our cash in Title VI-B while decreasing cash in the ARRA IDEA grant fund. This would be accomplished by the transferring of expenditures from Title VI-B to ARRA IDEA.
- Mr. Sides explained to the board that the ARRA IDEA funds are expiring, and the school would like to pay a special education teacher's salary with ARRA Educational Jobs funds through December 2012.
- Additionally, any teacher bonuses would be paid from ARRA Educational Jobs funds in the same timeline.
- Beyond December 2012, each of these expenditures would be made through general revenue.

MOTION: by Mr. Riggs to approve fund expenditures as described by Mr. Sides. Dr. Driskill seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Teacher Growth Model:

- Ms. Lisa Williams discussed the six month process of creating the teacher growth model with administration and teachers as its authors. She reviewed the model's rubrics and evaluation methods and demonstrated the Success Factors website, where ARVA teachers will track their goals.
- Mr. Riggs commented that this was an impressive amount of work and detail, but he wanted to make sure that there were clear objectives at each point of evaluation. He stated that better definition would give the observer some guidelines to evaluate by.
- Mr. Kevin Smith explained that there might be some difficulty in holding a student's attention and determining the engagement level between student and teacher in our unique setting, which was a point of evaluation. He stated that it would be great if all students could use video, such as webcams and expressed that this might make it easier to evaluate the student/teacher engagement level.
- Ms. Williams stated that all teachers have read "Teaching with Poverty in Mind", since 56% of our students are eligible for free/reduced meals, to help engage with families.
- Mr. Jones asked if the growth model included an assessment or academic achievement piece tied to it. Ms. Williams explained that teachers use Scantron assessment results to determine where their students should be placed academically.
- Mr. Sides requested the Board to adopt the teacher growth model with change to create clear objectives through the evaluation processes.

MOTION: by Dr. Driskill to adopt growth model for 2011/2012 teacher assessment. Mr. Riggs seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Budget Review: 2010-2011 Budget vs. Actual & Preliminary 2011-2012 Budget Overview

- Mr. Sides reviewed the budget versus actual expenditures for the 2010-2011 school. All lines were evaluated.
- The preliminary budget for the 2011-2012 school year was addressed with the Board. More on this will follow at the September board meeting.
- There was no necessary discussion on either item.

Parental Involvement Policy and Progress

- Alyssa Gordon, ARVA's Director of Parental Involvement, addressed the Board and shared some of the things that she has been working on for ARVA families and community, including planning and attending successful student outings, assessing families to determine needs and writing parental involvement policy along with the newly formed parent advisory group.
- She explained to the Board ways that ARVA parents can be involved in their school, the state and federal requirements of parent involvement, and the Mentor Program which is designed to help new families school at home successfully.
- Ms. Gordon stated that the new parental involvement policies would be ready for board approval in a few weeks.

Preliminary Achievement Update from ACTAAP 2011

- Mr. Sides gave details in all benchmark areas and described what AYP alert status means to ARVA.
- Dr. Driskill asked if the percent of groups showing AYP is available. Mr. Sides answered that he can provide that information to her.

MOTION: by Mr. Riggs to adjourn at 5:55 PM. Dr. Driskill seconded the motion. Motion carried.