

Minutes
Arkansas Virtual Academy
Regular Meeting
Board of Directors
January 22, 2014

Board Members Present

John Riggs IV
Angela Driskill
Cary Hiatt
Gary McHenry
Jess Askew III

Media Present

none

Staff Present

Scott Sides
Cheli Stafford
Lisa Williams
Mitzi Bingaman
Tracy Ragen
Gina Moore

Guests Present

Nancy Hsiung
Randy Milligan
Nathan Poston

Call to Order

Chair, Mr. John Riggs, called the board meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. Mr. Riggs then asked for a roll call and declared a quorum.

<p>MOTION: by Mr. Gary McHenry to approve the November 19, 2013 board minutes as written. Dr. Angela Driskill seconded the motion. Motion carried.</p>

Board Chair's Report

Statement of Financial Interest

- Mr. Riggs advised members of the Board to complete the Statement of Financial Interest before the January 31st deadline.
- The instructions and form were sent to the Board prior to the meeting. If there are any questions about the completion of the form, please let administration know.
- This is an annual requirement for those serving on any school board.

Action Agenda Items:

Thomas & Thomas – Annual Financial Audit

- Mr. Randy Milligan shared the Independent Auditor's Report with the Board. He described the audit to be clean with no material findings.
- Several balance sheets and financial statements were reviewed for Board members which detailed the school's financial position.
- The Board was informed that the school was found to be in compliance with regard to federal funding as well. This separate audit is conducted during the on-site review to confirm that all funds are being spent in accordance with governing rules and regulations.
- The audit provided information describing the future growth of the school to 3,000 as approved by the Arkansas State Board of Education. This information was reported inaccurately and should have been the Arkansas State Legislature. The Board asked for this to be revised before final copies were bound and provided to the school.

MOTION: by Dr. Driskill to approve the 2012/2013 Annual Financial Audit with change involving authorizer of enrollment cap increase. Mr. McHenry seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Head of School's Report:

Budget Review – Nancy Hsiung, K¹² Southern Region Finance Director

- Ms. Nancy Hsiung reviewed for the Board the budget for all revenue and expenditure areas.
- There were a few questions regarding the format of the budget report and the K¹² percentages as described in the service agreement.
- Ms. Hsiung introduced to the Board the new budget template used to track ARVA's financials going forward.
- Dr. Scott Sides, Head of School, asked for a budget review with monthly expenditures.

Systemic Oversight Calendar

- Dr. Sides discussed a calendar listing of items for the Board's review over any given fiscal year.
- The purpose of the list is to be sure that all Board objectives are prepared and ready for approval within the necessary timelines.
- There was discussion among members of the Board and questions regarding some of the objectives and timelines.
- The Board asked to review the Statement of Assurances and the Minority Recruitment Plan before the signature of the Board Chair.

High School Planning Presentation

- Dr. Sides described for the Board the school administration's wish to add grades 9 and 10 during the 2014-2015 school year.

- A meeting before the Charter Authorizing Committee would take place in March with a meeting before the State Board of Education in April. All waiver requests and policy work will be completed by February 27 to make preparations for submission to these authorizing bodies.
- Discussions continued regarding the projected student enrollment, assignment to teachers, enrollment cycles, etc.
- Dr. Sides explained to the Board the engagement of the Instrumental Service Team (IST). These IST teachers would mostly instruct student elective courses. These teachers would be contracted personnel, not school employees, similar to temp agency staffing. It has been reported that there is not a great level of quality control in these contracted positions.
- The Board would be interested in a call with IST administrators in February to answer any questions before proceeding. The teachers will offer catalog, non-core courses to high school students.
- Dr. Sides shared a preliminary schedule for 9th and 10th grade students and described the role of school counselor as one involving cross-training to offer college and support counseling.
- K¹² offers a variety of courses for high school students. The NCAA is currently reviewing K¹² courses and does not approve core courses offered by the curriculum provider. However, the NCAA does approve Honors or Advanced courses offered by K¹².
- The school will plan to use Title I funds to provide family support to learning coaches. This will allow the school to help prepare and do more for families much earlier than in the past. It will provide more resource to determine where issues are and work through them.
- There will be specific plans to transition current ARVA 8th graders into the high school as 9th grade students.
- Lead teacher, Ms. Mitzi Bingaman, described the various rules, standards or laws that the school may request waiver from.

Uniform Grading Scale

- Academic Administrator, Ms. Lisa Williams, discussed proposed revisions to the Uniform Grading Scale policy. After the presentation of recommended changes and some discussion, a motion was made to move this topic to the meeting's action agenda.

MOTION: by Mr. Jess Askew to move the revised Uniform Grading Scale to an action agenda item. Ms. Cary Hiatt seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- Dr. Sides recommended that the Uniform Grading Scale policy be revised as presented during the meeting in an effort to make student grading more fair.

MOTION: by Dr. Driskill to adopt changes to the Uniform Grading Scale and to begin implementation. Mr. McHenry seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- There was a request from Mr. Askew for historical information on the Uniform Grading Scale that the school currently uses and how that came about.

Teachers Residing Outside of Arkansas

- Dr. Sides brought back to the Board's attention that the school has employed three teachers who live outside of the state, one of whom lives in Japan.
- The Board was asked for advice regarding retention of these teachers beyond the end of the current school year. The Board advised unanimously that the school should employ the very best of teachers at all times regardless of where they reside.

Future Board Meeting Dates

- February 18, 2014
- March 18, 2014

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 5:50 PM.