

Minutes
Arkansas Virtual Academy
Regular Meeting
Board of Directors
September 15, 2015

Board Members

Chad Gallagher
John Riggs IV
Dr. Gary McHenry
Jess Askew

Guests

Paige Gorman
Ann Clemmer

Staff

Scott Sides
Alison Branch
Cheli Stafford
Gina Moore
Hollie Gumm
Mitzi Bingaman
Tracy Ragen

Call to Order

Chair, Mr. John Riggs, called the Board meeting to order at 4:10 p.m. Mr. Riggs then asked for a roll call and declared a quorum.

The minutes from the July 21, 2015 Board meeting were approved.

<p>MOTION: by Dr. Gary McHenry to accept the July Board meeting minutes as written. Mr. Chad Gallagher seconded the motion. Motion carried.</p>
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Board Chair's Report

John Riggs, Board Chair, deferred to move forward to the action agenda.

Action Agenda Items

Candidates for ARVA Board of Directors

Mr. Riggs has submitted two candidates for board approval. The Board members have been given resumes of candidates. Both candidates have met with ARVA's Head of School, Dr. Scott Sides. Mr. Riggs asked the Board for any nominations.

MOTION: by Dr. McHenry to nominate Ms. Ann Clemmer and Ms. Paige Gorman to the ARVA Board of Directors. Mr. Gallagher seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Proposed Stipends

The Board was asked to approve new stipends for teachers who will assume additional duties in relation to serving ELL students and for the coordination of Dyslexia discovery efforts. The ELL coordinator will receive a \$1,000 stipend. The teacher assuming the task of coordinating Dyslexia efforts will receive a \$3,000 stipend.

In addition to these new stipends, it was requested that the stipend previously given to the middle and high school principals be moved to annual salary.

Per Arkansas law, the Board was provided a report of any salary increase of 5% or greater for its approval. This report is a comparison of FY14 to FY15 salaries.

MOTION: by Mr. Gallagher to approve all stipends, salary adjustments and 5% variance response. Dr. McHenry seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Title I Grant Proposal

Dr. Sides shared with the Board information about the new platform, Indistar, to be used in tracking and identifying the use of federal Title funds. Further, he described how the school is able to utilize these funds which is to meet 40% or greater F/R income guidelines. Arkansas Virtual Academy Elementary (grades K-5) and Jr. High (grades 6-8) are classified as Title I school-wide. Arkansas Virtual Academy High School (grades 9-11) is considered Title I targeted assistance.

Dr. Sides described the proposed grant plans for the district and each school to be submitted to the Arkansas Department of Education following the Board's approval. There were questions from Board members regarding the proposed plans. Dr. Sides was able to provide satisfactory response to these inquiries. He shared improved withdraw numbers across the school for which he believes are the result of the plans already in place and funded through Title I.

MOTION: by Mr. Jess Askew to adopt the Title I grant proposals. Ms. Ann Clemmer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Title II Grant Proposal

Dr. Sides explained to the Board the purpose for Title IIA grant funding. He provided detail as to how the funds were budgeted to be spent.

MOTION: by Mr. Askew to adopt the Title IIA grant proposal. Ms. Clemmer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

State Categorical Aid

Dr. Sides provided information to the Board which described how the school would plan to spend state categorical aid for professional development.

MOTION: by Dr. McHenry to adopt the proposal for state categorical professional development fund spending. Ms. Paige Gorman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Statement of Assurance (Title funds)

MOTION: by Mr. Askew to approve and authorize the superintendent, Dr. Scott Sides, to sign the assurances statement. Ms. Paige Gorman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Policy - Families Requesting Dual Enrollment

Dr. Sides described the policy and school's concerns. Board members requested more information. Ms. Cheli Stafford, Operations Manager, described for Board members how dual enrollment has affected the school and how other schools are reporting average daily membership for students that ARVA is actually serving. Board members called for an upfront understanding as to what students are doing and stated that all interested families/students should complete a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between involved schools. There was no Board approval for this policy, and administration was asked to bring the policy back after collecting more information.

Audit Engagement – Thomas and Thomas

The Board agreed to contract with Thomas and Thomas for the annual financial audit (FY15).

MOTION: by Dr. McHenry to approve the hiring of Thomas and Thomas to conduct the school's financial audit to begin on November 2, 2015. Ms. Clemmer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Head of School's Report

Waiver for ACT Aspire Paper-Based Testing

Dr. Sides explained to the Board why the school should make this request for waiver as ACT conducts testing on its new platform.

Teacher Hiring

Dr. Sides shared a report of new hires at the school since July 1, 2015.

Review of Recent Activities and Accomplishments

Parent Involvement Coordinator, Ms. Gina Moore, described the Pulse Check results and how her team has responded to it. Pulse Check is a survey that is sent to families on a regular basis to identify needs and determine where the school's dedicated teams can help. She shared several slides showing positive outcomes.

Proposal Submitted for Board Development Hours

The ARVA Board Retreat will be on October 9 from 12:00PM – 6:30PM. Presenters will discuss value proposition of contract with K¹², gap analysis and governance review, virtual learning and best practices and where the school fits into that. Proposal has been submitted to ASBA for Board member training credit.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:11PM.