

Minutes
Arkansas Virtual Academy
Regular Meeting
Board of Directors
July 21, 2015

Board Members Present

John Riggs IV, Board Chair
Jess Askew III
Chad Gallagher
Cary Hiatt
Dr. Gary McHenry

Media Present

none

Staff Present

Scott Sides
Cheli Stafford
Alison Branch
Gina Moore

Guests Present

none

Call to Order

Chair, Mr. John Riggs, called the Board meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. Mr. Riggs then asked for a roll call and declared a quorum.

Minutes from June 9, 2015 board meeting were approved by the Board Chair as submitted with no objections from members of the Board.

Board Chair's Report

Board Vacancy Update

Mr. Riggs announced that Ms. Ann Clemmer has been contacted regarding a position on the ARVA Board. Dr. Scott Sides, Head of School, will schedule a meeting soon with Ms. Clemmer to provide more information about the school.

Possible Board Retreat

All Board members were in favor of a Board retreat during the month of October. The retreat will be hosted at the ARVA office in North Little Rock or at another location to be determined.

Action Agenda Items

2015-2016 ARVA Board Officers

The Board accepted the resignation of long-time member, Dr. Angela Driskill. Dr. Driskill's departure created an opening for a new Vice-Chair of the Board. Members of the Board were asked to nominate another person or volunteer themselves to fill this role.

<p>MOTION: Dr. Gary McHenry motioned his nomination of Mr. Jess Askew as the new Vice-Chair. Mr. Chad Gallagher seconded his nomination and motion. Mr. Askew accepted the nomination. As an elected Board officer, Mr. Askew will assume the role of check signer for school expenditures. Motion carried.</p>
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Designation of Terms of Office

Board Chair, Mr. Riggs, suggested that it seemed unnecessary to set terms of office limits for ARVA Board members when the bylaws of the ARVA Board provide for renewal of membership. With no response to the contrary, the Board's agenda moved forward.

2015-2016 Student/Family Handbook

Operations Manager, Ms. Cheli Stafford, described for the Board the proposed changes to the Student/Family Handbook. After the review, the Board requested changes be made in the Academic Improvement Plans and Assessments policies.

MOTION: by Mr. Askew to adopt the 2015-2016 Student/Family Handbook with changes to the Assessments and Academic Improvement Plans policies regarding retention. Mr. Gallagher seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Personnel Policy Follow-Up (moved to Action Agenda from Head of School's Report)

Dr. Sides presented information to the Board regarding the school's updated policy on tuition reimbursement. Dr. Sides shared the guidance received from the Arkansas Department of Education, Federal Grants Management. The Board asked questions of Dr. Sides regarding this exchange.

MOTION: by Dr. McHenry to approve the Teacher/Administrator Tuition Reimbursement policy as presented. Mr. Askew seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2015-2016 Meeting Dates

Mr. Riggs suggested quarterly meeting dates to Board members. The dates were September 15, 2015, January 12, 2016, March 15, 2016 and June 14, 2016. He asked that Board members email him with any conflicts they may have with these dates.

Head of School's Report

Teacher Employment Agreement (Action Agenda Item inserted here)

Dr. Sides led discussion regarding ARVA's use of an employment agreement for its employees and answered questions the Board had regarding this document. Board members then asked to review the Grievance policy to determine who ARVA employees were to bring their concerns to if not the Board itself. It was agreed that the final paragraph in the current policy should be stricken and that a sentence should be added to name the Operations Manager as the person making a final decision regarding employee grievances.

MOTION: by Mr. Askew to approve with changes the Grievance policy in the personnel policies handbook. Mr. Gallagher seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Academic Update – School Year 2015-2016

- Dr. Sides demonstrated to the Board the school's standings for the coming academic year. The Board received a school-wide organizational chart. Board members requested some color-coding and names to go along with the positions in future updates. Dr. Sides shared the student application numbers from the enrollment center and described how

that process works. Some questions were asked and answered about high school enrollment.

- Academic Administrator, Ms. Alison Branch, discussed the school's hiring needs to meet growing enrollment. Many new hires have already been confirmed. Ms. Branch stated that the school is having difficulty in its search for special education teachers.
- Dr. Sides plans to send the Board management level updates regarding changes in the school's faculty and staff along with other highlights.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 5:15 PM.