

Minutes
Arkansas Virtual Academy
Regular Meeting
Board of Directors
December 16, 2014

Board Members Present

John Riggs IV
Jess Askew
Dr. Angela Driskill
Dr. Gary McHenry

Media Present

none

Staff Present

Scott Sides
Cheli Stafford
Lisa Williams
Alison Branch
Tracy Ragen

Guests Present

none

Call to Order

Chair, Mr. John Riggs, called the Board meeting to order at 4:09 p.m. Mr. Riggs then asked for a roll call and declared a quorum.

Minutes from October 21, 2014 board meeting were approved by the Board Chair with no objections.

Board Chair's Report

General Reminders

Consent Agenda Items

Contract for Related Service Providers

- Informed the Board of a new addendum to the therapy services agreement that is currently part of the contracting with ARVA's related service providers.

Additional Special Education Funding

- Additional Pre-K funding has been provided through federal and state educational agencies. These funds can only be spent on Kindergarten (age 5) students who are receiving therapy services. At the time of the meeting there were only three qualifying students.

Action Agenda Items

Charter Renewal Application

- Head of School, Dr. Scott Sides, reported several highlights from the upcoming charter renewal application.

- The Board advised Dr. Sides to seek a waiver from fine arts; instrumental and vocal music.
- The Board considered the possibility of an enrollment cap reduction of 1,000 seats. This would create a total enrollment cap of 2,000 students.

MOTION: by Mr. Jess Askew to ask for a charter amendment that would reduce the enrollment cap to 2,000 students. Dr. Gary McHenry seconded the motion. Motion carried.

MOTION: by Mr. Jess Askew to accept charter renewal application with Board recommended changes. Dr. Angela Driskill seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Special Language of Act 1309

- Mr. Riggs explained that this special language needs to be removed from the enrollment decision making. He stated that the new charter should reflect x number of students without restrictions.
- With this in mind, a resolution was drafted and reviewed with all Board members. The resolution details the ARVA Board's wishes for the school to move forward as any Arkansas public school where all students are eligible for enrollment regardless of prior year educational choices.
- The resolution also referred to concerns about how funding is currently established for ARVA and asks the Arkansas Department of Education to remove the special language regarding virtual education in its upcoming 2015/16 budget preparation.

MOTION: by Mr. Riggs to accept the proposed resolution. Dr. Gary McHenry seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Head of School's Report

Hearing Schedule for Renewal

- Dr. Sides reported that members of the school administration team will be present for the Charter Authorizing Panel review on Wednesday, February 18. The vote will be to renew or not renew.
- At the March meeting of the State Board of Education, members can vote to hear or not hear the renewal application.
- There could possibly be a hearing with the State Board of Education in April if the Board wishes to ask questions of ARVA administration.

Meeting Schedule for Coming Months

- The ARVA Board will convene for a regular board meeting on February 17th at 4:00 PM.