

**Minutes  
Arkansas Virtual Academy  
Regular Meeting  
Board of Directors  
March 17, 2015**

**Board Members Present**

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

**Media Present**

none

**Staff Present**

Scott Sides  
Cheli Stafford  
Lisa Williams  
Tracy Ragen

**Guests Present**

Nathan Poston, Thomas and Thomas CPAs

**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.

Minutes from December 16, 2014 board meeting were approved by the Board Chair as submitted with no objections.

**Board Chair's Report**

*Meeting Dates*

Dates were suggested for upcoming board meetings over the next several months. Members were asked to contact Mr. Riggs if the dates were not acceptable.

*Board Member Resignation*

- Mr. Riggs announced that Mr. Kevin Smith has resigned from the ARVA Board after 10 years of service to the school and its students. The Board accepts his resignation.
- Mr. Riggs indicated to Board members and ARVA staff that 1-2 parent or community members should be added to the Board roster.

*Update – Charter Authorizing Panel*

- Mr. Riggs reported to the Board that the February 18<sup>th</sup> meeting with the Charter Authorizing Panel went well, and the school was granted a five-year renewal.
- The State Board of Education does have some questions, and ARVA staff will attend the April SBE meeting to provide information to that group.

## Action Agenda Items

### *Fiscal Year 2014 Audit Review*

- Mr. Nathan Poston with Thomas and Thomas CPAs reviewed for the Board the FY14 financial audit and opened the floor for questions or discussion.
- Mr. Riggs asked a question about tagging and tracking the location of the school's inventory for the recording of fixed assets. Mr. Poston explained that the auditors do not review the tracking spreadsheet that the school has in place.

**MOTION:** by Mr. Jess Askew to accept the FY14 Financial Audit as presented. Dr. Angela Driskill seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### *Employee Compensation Related to PARCC Testing*

- Dr. Scott Sides, Head of School, described recent events around PARCC testing and the difficulty it brought for ARVA teachers and staff during the first testing window.
- Dr. Sides recommended to the ARVA Board that they consider additional compensation to all school employees for their hard work and extraordinary efforts during this especially difficult phase of student testing.

**MOTION:** by Mr. Askew to provide a bonus to all 49 ARVA employees in appreciation for their extensive efforts during the initial PARCC testing session. Dr. Gary McHenry seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- Dr. Sides will convey this information to teachers and staff on Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup>.

## Head of School's Report

### *PARCC Testing*

- Dr. Sides provided more detail on how the online testing through PARCC had progressed including the computer set up and site issues throughout the testing session.
- He mentioned that the paper-based testing format had been considered.
- Dr. Sides gave more insight to the aforementioned difficulties that ARVA staff encountered, such as, troubleshooting multiple error codes and managing connection issues at their site while working with students and their families along with nearly 200 contracted licensed test administrators across the state.
- The school had 22 testing sites for the first phase of PARCC.
- There was some discussion around adjusting the number of days missed in the Online School during this time period due to testing. There is a plan in place specifically for 7<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> grades.

### *State Board of Education meeting, April 9, 2015*

Members of ARVA's administrative leadership team will attend the SBE meeting on April 9<sup>th</sup> to answer any questions the Board may have regarding the school or its students.

## **Head of School's Report, continued**

### *2015-2016 Enrollment and 11<sup>th</sup> Grade*

- Arkansas Virtual Academy will serve students in grades K-11 during the 15/16SY.
- Administration would like to serve matriculating 11<sup>th</sup> graders and not enroll new students to the school in that grade level.
- Dr. Sides will consult legal counsel to determine if the school can determine enrollment in this way.

### *Lisa Williams Announcement*

Dr. Sides informed the Board that Ms. Lisa Williams's last day with ARVA will be on June 1, 2015. Ms. Williams has served ARVA in various roles for over 12 years, and she will be missed. Her family will join her husband where he will soon serve in his new role as president of an Alabama college.

### *Proposed Academic Celebration Date – Tuesday, May 12*

The school will celebrate the promotion of Kindergarten and 8<sup>th</sup> graders along with academic achievements of all students on this day of celebration.