



NCVA is a community of students, families and educators dedicated to expanding educational choice through innovative and technology-rich instructional practices, and accountable for developing each student’s full potential for academic and post-secondary success.

September 11, 2017, Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Regular Meeting – via Conference Call
North Carolina Learns, Inc.
Board of Directors
August 07, 2017 (5pm)
1-888-824-5783 passcode: 73138271#

Board Members Present		Board Members Absent	Others in Attendance Non-Voting
Dr. Steve Moody	Richard Thomas	Cathy Zambrano	Dr. Joel Medley, Head of School
Brenda Robertson	Sara Struhs		John Kramer, K12
Tracy Johnson			Karen Ghidotti, K12
			Chris Withrow, Executive Director
			Gina Little, Kristin Contreras, Jill Curtis, K12

I. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Steve Moody called the meeting to order at 5:12 pm. Before conducting business, the Head of School took a roll call to ensure that a quorum of the board existed.

Before moving through the meeting’s agenda items, the mission was read for the full board to drive the actions and deliberations for the remainder of the meeting.

ACTION: Mrs. Sara Struhs made a motion to adopt the agenda and approve the previous board, finance and academic meeting minutes, the motion was seconded by Mrs. Brenda Robertson. The agenda was adopted.

II. COMMUNICATIONS:

No requests for a public comment were received.

III. CONSENT ITEMS:

Personnel Recommendations

ACTION: Mrs. Sara Struhs made a motion to approve the consent agenda items, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Tracy Johnson. The motion passed unanimously thus approving the consent items.

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- a. Mrs. Kristin Contreras conducted an overview of the Family Academic Support Team [FAST] including the belief statement and that the program provides a holistic approach to restore student engagement. The measurable goals include:
 - LC and Student login; 95% success within 5 days of school
 - Online Orientation Course; 90% of all students within 5 days of school
 - Onboarding Classrooms; at risk students as well as students flagged from last year will be placed in a FAST classroom to receive additional support by their 3rd day
 - Classrooms; 90% of new students will be placed with their primary teacher by the 3rd day of school to ensure early student supportThe team will encourage growth within the community by hosting town hall events, newsletters, and parent workshops.

- b. Mrs. Gina Little and Mrs. Jill Curtis provided an overview of the EC and ALP program. Special programs encompass special education, Section 504, English Language Learners, Title 1 and Multi-Tiered System of Support. Special program, also known as EC comprises 14% of the overall NCVA student body. NCVA always educates in the least restrictive environment. There are programs that offer the extended content standards, the Occupational Course of Study to programs where 1 or more of a student's classes are co-taught by a general education and special education teacher. All 14 disabling conditions are represented at NCVA ranging from speech and language needs all the way to the visually impaired.

The Advanced Learner Program [ALP] demonstrate mastery of current assigned skills and show the ability to learn advanced concepts. Students must re-qualify for ALP every year. The presentation included the qualifications for admittance for each grade level.

c. HOS Update

- The updated started with some brief information on the BOG as the testing window had just closed. The school tested more than 95% of the students. With the conversation focusing on 3rd grade reading proficiency and since the school is using STAR360 for its diagnostic and benchmarking tools, it only makes sense for it to also be used as a “local option” for students during the 3rd grade summer reading camp as they had not demonstrated proficiency either through the BOG, EOG, or RTA. With the State Board of Education approving STAR360 for use by listing specific scale score and lexiles, the school will complete the necessary paperwork to inform DPI of our utilization of that option.
- Results from the first Pulse Check survey were discussed – including the fact of NCVA receiving the highest scores in satisfaction and preparation in its three of operation. In fact, NCVA was a “Top Five School” of all the other K12 partner schools – a first in NCVA’s history!
- Initial data was shared with the board on DIBELs and Math U See. These results show that our students are going to need significant remediation to help them grow and advance academically. Additional results will be tallied and shared with the Academic Committee at a future date.
- Upcoming dates of importance, including the reminder of prom and graduation at the end of the year, were mentioned. December will be NCVA’s first induction of National Junior and National Honor Society here in Durham.

d. Mrs. Sara Struhs shared with the board the activities of the three committee meetings held to address low performance. Items included, reduction of class size, adding programs such as Math U See and Wilson Reading, deep dive into the FAST program, and the direction of professional development to address additional needs.

e. Mr. Richard Thomas shared that our budget is tracking normally, there was a minimal overage with a line item due to increased hardware needs and the committee is recommending the approval of a cost of living increase and payment of the August invoice.

V. ACTION ITEMS:

a. Invoices

ACTION: Mr. Richard Thomas moved the board approve the invoice, the motion was seconded by Mrs. Sara Struhs. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Cost of Living Increase

ACTION: Mr. Richard Thomas moved the board approve the invoice, the motion was seconded by Mrs. Brenda Robertson. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Approval of four additional staff members

ACTION: Mr. Richard Thomas moved the board approve the invoice, the motion was seconded by Mrs. Sara Struhs. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. CHAIRPERSON COMMENTS

The charter school leadership institute, sponsored by the Office of Charter Schools, will conduct its annual conference, October 12 – 13, 2017 at Voyager Academy in Durham, NC. Board members are encouraged to attend if available. More information may be obtained here: <https://goo.gl/oMuYws>

Please inform the Executive Director if you would like to attend so that he can complete your registration.

The Chairman directed the Executive Director [ED] to send the board information regarding training offered by the Office of Charter School.

The Chairman further directed the ED to send a copy of the org chart for the school to the board members.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Tracy Johnson and properly seconded by Mrs. Brenda Robertson. The motion passed unanimously. With the completion of all agenda items and no new business items, the meeting was adjourned.

The meeting ended at 6:21 PM

The next scheduled board meeting will be October 02, 2017, 5 PM