



*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.*

**July 11, 2022, Board Meeting  
Minutes**

**Regular Meeting – via Zoom**  
**Conference North Carolina Learns,**  
**Inc.**  
**Board of Directors**  
<https://zoom.us/j/95027303364>

Board Members Present		Board Members Absent	Others in Attendance Non-Voting
Brenda Robertson			Chad Long, K12
Sara Struhs	Walter Martin		Scott Sides, K12
Dr. Steven Peters	Lisa Page		Marcia Simmons, K12
Mark Fleming			Chris Withrow, ED
			John Kramer, K12
			Katie Gomersall, K12
			Christina Cameron, K12
			Matt Estrella, HUB
			Harry Kaplan

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mrs. Sara Struhs called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. Before conducting business, the Executive Director took the roll to ensure that the board's quorum existed. With a quorum present, board business could be performed.

**ACTION:** Mr. Mark Fleming, made a motion to approve the agenda and previous meeting minutes and seconded, by Dr. Steven Peters. The motion passed unanimously.

The mission was read for the full board to drive the actions and deliberations for the meeting.

## II. CONSENT AGENDA:

- Mask Requirement – Not required
- New Hires
- Chris Farrell – Board Candidate
- Employee Contract

**ACTION:** Mrs. Brenda Robertson, made a motion to approve the consent agenda and seconded, by Mr. Mark Fleming. The motion passed unanimously.

## III. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- Mr. Harry Kaplan gave a Legislative update. He explained Governor Cooper signed Senate Bill 671v4 into law. This version does not remove us from the pilot phase but extends our pilot for two more years.

"SECTION 8.35.(a) Notwithstanding G.S. 115C-218.5 or any other provision of law to the contrary, the State Board of Education shall establish a pilot program to authorize the operation of two virtual charter schools serving students in kindergarten through twelfth grade. The State Board shall establish an application process to allow student enrollment in the selected virtual charter schools beginning with the 2015-2016 school year. A virtual charter school participating in the pilot may serve any grade span of students in kindergarten through twelfth grade. The pilot program shall continue for a period of eight 10 school years and shall end with the 2022-2023 2024-2025 school year.

- Matt Estrela, HUB, presented information about our medical benefits for staff. Our options include Blue Cross and Blue Shield [BCBS], Cigna, United Health Care, and Etna. Each provider, except BCBS, has weaknesses that eliminated them from further review.

Average renewal quotes submitted to our broker for other clients saw proposals with increases of about 18%, with most clients negotiating and settling at 9%.

The quote we received was for a 14.3% increase; we countered with 5% and settled upon 7.5% for our HealthCare benefits package for the 2022/2023 school year.

The proposed plan is identical to last year with two exceptions:

1. Urgent Care out-of-pocket costs dropped from \$75 to \$50.
2. BCBS is moving from Telemed to Teledoc for their virtual doctor program.

Our Vision, and Life Insurance packages are unchanged.

Additionally, he recommends adding \$500 additional benefits for dental.

- HOS Update – Information was shared regarding our enrollment, hiring, and summer school activities.
- Mr. Chris Withrow provided updates regarding the Strategic Plan and Finance Committee meetings:

#### SPC Committee

As you may recall, we are drafting the Strategic Plan for NCVA. Members of the committee met on June 21. The committee consists of Sara Struhs, Brenda Robertson, Dr. Steven Peters, Mark Fleming, Cande Killian Woods, and me.

- The committee reviewed the SWOT [Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities, and Threats] analysis in the area of Governance and Operations created at the annual board training in February.
- The committee members crafted two Action Items, including strategies, resources, and responsibilities.
- The committee plans to conduct two additional meetings to discuss Finance and Academics.

#### Finance

The Finance committee met last Monday evening.

- The committee reviewed the medical benefits which was presented earlier.
- Mr. Chad Long updated the committee regarding the finances, particularly our enrollments, which was 3,362.
- Our Total funding was \$28.2 million, which is \$2.3 million higher than the previous year
- The total projected expenses at \$26.4 million.
- The current surplus is \$1.7 million before the 3% Top-Off Reserve of \$121k.
- Mr. Long presented one invoice for \$665,839.29.

The committee's voting members approved the invoice and recommended the board approve it at its next meeting.

IV. ACTION ITEMS:

Medical Benefits and July Invoice.

**ACTION:** Mrs. Brenda Robertson made a motion to approve the invoices and the budget, seconded, by Mr. Mark Fleming. The motion passed unanimously.

V. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Mark Fleming and properly seconded by Dr. Steven Peters. The motion passed unanimously. With the completion of all agenda items, the meeting was adjourned.

The meeting ended at 5:41 PM.

The next scheduled board meeting will be on August 01, 2022, at 5 PM.