

Minutes
Arkansas Virtual Academy
Regular Meeting
Board of Directors
August 12, 2014

Board Members Present

John Riggs IV
Jess Askew
Dr. Angela Driskill
Kevin Smith
Dr. Gary McHenry
Cary Hiatt

Media Present

none

Staff Present

Scott Sides
Cheli Stafford
Lisa Williams
Alison Branch
Tracy Ragen

Guests Present

John Kramer

Call to Order

Chair, Mr. John Riggs, called the Board meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. Mr. Riggs then asked for a roll call and declared a quorum.

<p>MOTION: by Mr. Jess Askew to approve the June 24, 2014 board minutes as written. Dr. Angela Driskill seconded the motion. Motion carried.</p>

Board Chair's Report

Annual Board Training

- Board members were reminded of the six hour annual training requirement each must complete. The deadline is December 31, 2014.
- Online training courses are offered in addition to the annual Arkansas School Boards Association (ASBA) conference held in Little Rock on December 10-12, 2014.

Action Agenda Items

Updates to 2014/2015 Student-Family Handbook and Certified Personnel Policies

- Head of School, Dr. Scott Sides, reminded the Board of changes made to the student-family handbook approved in June.
- Dr. Sides then explained two final changes that school administration believe are necessary to the 2014/2015 handbook.

- Questions from the Board pertaining to the new policies were answered.

MOTION: by Dr. Gary McHenry to accept the 2014/2015 Student-Family Handbook with proposed additions. Mr. Kevin Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- The final policy item for Board consideration was to add new teacher evaluation processes with the implementation of TESS to the Certified Personnel Policies.
- Board members were presented with the proposed policy.

MOTION: by Mr. Askew to approve the 2014/2015 Certified Personnel policies with teacher evaluation addition. Dr. Driskill seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Fiscal Year 2015 Budget

- Mr. John Kramer, Southern Region Finance Manager with K¹², Inc., delivered the 2015 proposed budget to Board members for consideration and ultimate approval.
- The budget was built around estimated enrollment numbers as ARVA's funding will also be based on estimates as a school of 'significant growth' this year with the addition of high school.
- Board members requested more information regarding the current number of enrolled students and those who had applied and would potentially enter the school this academic year. Detail was provided and a solid understanding of the reasoning for the budget estimation was obtained.
- There was further discussion around specific budget items and Board members requested some change before final agreement was made.

MOTION: by Mr. Askew to approve the 2015 Budget with the changes requested by the Board. Dr. McHenry seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Head of School's Report

2013/2014 ACTAAP & ITBS Report

- Dr. Sides shared the test results from last spring with the Board. He described the student achievement successes as well as areas where improvement will be needed.
- Arkansas Virtual Academy serves a variety of students. Dr. Sides explained the analysis across different student populations or sub-groups, such as, highly mobile, economically disadvantaged, etc.
- Dr. Sides outlined the charter goals the school has with regard to testing of students.

School Growth Update

- As of this Board's meeting, there were 1,370 fully enrolled students in the school, grades K-10. The school was staffed to 1,400+ students. There were 36 teachers employed, and the special education population was 14%.

- Family Academic Support has been approved by the Arkansas Department of Education and will help serve this larger population of students and their families. There have been 13 engagement coaches hired.

With no further business to discuss, the board meeting was adjourned at 5:33 p.m.