

Minutes
Arkansas Virtual Academy
Regular Meeting Board of Directors
November 19, 2013

Board Members Present

John Riggs IV
Angela Driskill
Chad Gallagher
Cary Hiatt
Gary McHenry
Jess Askew III
Kevin Smith

Media Present

none

Staff Present

Scott Sides
Cheli Stafford
Lisa Williams

Guests Present

Nancy Hsiung

Call to Order

Chair, Mr. John Riggs, called the board meeting to order at 4:07 p.m. Mr. Riggs then asked for a roll call and declared a quorum.

<p>MOTION: by Mr. Jess Askew III to approve the minutes from the 07/16/13 and 09/13/13 meetings as written. Dr. Angela Driskill seconded the motion. Motion carried.</p>

Board Chair's Report

Required Annual Training

- Mr. Riggs reminded all members of the Board about the upcoming deadline for completing the six annual training hours mandated for all school board members.
- There are multiple ways that Board members can acquire these hours during the calendar year including online courses.
- The deadline each year is December 31st. These hours will be reported by January 15th.

Action Agenda Items:

Arkansas Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (ACSIP)

- Mr. Scott Sides, Head of School, described for the Board the school's ACSIP plans. There are three plans: district, elementary and middle school. The plans total about 140 pages. The Board

was provided copies in advance of the meeting. A purpose of the ACSIP is to align federal fund allocations with the plans. Teachers have a large role in the plan design.

- Mr. Sides outlined for the Board expenditures that were described in the plans. He stated that the Board approves the budget and then it is later defined in more depth in the ACSIP plans. The district's two Title I salaried positions were discussed. There is a Title I math coordinator and a Director of Parental Involvement that ties together the statewide learning community.
- A large expense of the ACSIP plan and Title I funds this year are the TI-84 graphing calculators. These units are provided to students in grades 6-8 for use with assigned math courses.
- Mr. Sides discussed in detail the cost of shipping and reclaiming calculators and other Title I inventory along with the programs purchased with these funds to boost student achievement and parental involvement.

<p>MOTION: by Mr. Askew to approve the ACSIP plans as written. Dr. Driskill seconded the motion. Motion carried.</p>

Head of School's Report:

Budget Review – Nancy Hsiung, K¹² Southern Region Finance Director

- Ms. Nancy Hsiung described the K¹² budget model to the Board. She explained how it is used to track actual expenditures from APSCN as well as forecast future expenses.
- Board members were guided through each fund as discussions were held. They asked questions and provided feedback on changes they would like to see in the layout of the spreadsheet and how budget and year-to-date expenditures are reported.

Growth Overview – How Has the School Changed?

- Arkansas Virtual Academy has had a 180% enrollment expansion since last school year. The special education population hovers around 13%, not including 504 students. At least 66% of our students live in poverty according to reported income and members per household. We will conduct the required audit to verify this self-reported information. These students have a unique group of challenges to address.
- Our student ethnicity demographics are 85% white and 15% other (includes many ethnicities). Our student population is comprised of 77% new students enrolled and 23% returning students. The school has five returning virtual classroom teachers and 24 new virtual teachers.
- New teachers receive up to 60 hours of virtual national teacher training through K¹², Inc. In addition to this the school's new teachers will spend two full workdays with the Academic Administrator, Mrs. Lisa Williams. Each new teacher is paired with a lead teacher, who provides daily training. Lastly, they are mentored by a returning ARVA teacher.
- A small number of new teachers are working on Arkansas certification or reciprocity. There was some discussion of how teachers will teach next year in a new middle school model by subject area. Some challenges for the school during this time of expansion are definitely the number of new students and teachers along with the processes necessary to facilitate testing on a much larger scale.

- There was a question about what type of assessments were used to determine where each student's academic challenges may be. There are assessments built into the Online School, Scantron (pre and post-tests) and through Study Island usage.

2013 Accountability Outcomes

- Mr. Sides shared the published 2013 standardized test results for both schools. The students tested in spring of 2013 and scored well in literacy across the board. There were fewer gains in math with regard to both schools. The school's academic leadership will work to determine how to increase math proficiency as we move toward the new testing season.
- The Board requested to have a report of the raw data prior to the public information being reported for future testing cycles.

Instructional Changes

- Teachers are assessed every three weeks. Data meetings are held each week. Teachers are given data to help drive instruction. Observations of Class Connect sessions are held and feedback is given on a weekly basis.
- A short discussion took place regarding making changes to a student's grade level or curriculum based on educational needs of each child.

Uniform Grading Scale

- The first quarter grades under the new Uniform Grading Scale were lower than imagined. Teachers will continue to work with families moving into the second quarter to improve these initial grades.
- The lower than imagined grades bring into account a few questions. What type of training do we provide for our learning coaches who are delivering daily instruction? Could more training be provided? How and when will this be accomplished? Our administration will be looking into solving this challenge in the coming months.

Setting Future Meeting Dates

- January 22, 2014
- February 18, 2014
- May 20, 2014 – tentative graduation date

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM.

MOTION: by Mr. Askew to adjourn. Dr. Driskill seconded the motion. Motion carried.
