

**Minutes
Arkansas Virtual Academy
Regular Meeting
Board of Directors
June 24, 2014**

Board Members Present

John Riggs IV
Cary Hiatt
Chad Gallagher
Dr. Gary McHenry

Media Present

None

Staff Present

Scott Sides
Cheli Stafford
Lisa Williams
Alison Branch

Guests Present

John Kramer

Call to Order

Chair, Mr. John Riggs, called the Board meeting to order at 4:06 p.m. Mr. Riggs then asked for a roll call and declared a quorum.

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| <p>MOTION: by Mr. Chad Gallagher to approve the May 21, 2014 board minutes as written. Ms. Cary Hiatt seconded the motion. Motion carried.</p> |
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Board Chair's Report

Board Training Reminder

- Information was gathered from the Arkansas School Boards Association website and distributed to Board members. Each board member is required to obtain six hours of training annually.
- Board members have been made aware of training hours needed and the deadline associated with the obligation.
- The deadline is December 31, 2014.

2014-2015 School Growth

- Board chair, Mr. Riggs, announced to the Board and others in attendance that ARVA's enrollment cap for the 2014/2015 school year would be 2,000.
- The school has been granted an enrollment cap of 3,000 total students by the state's legislature.

Action Agenda Items

2014-2015 Teacher Salary

- Head of School, Dr. Scott Sides, addressed the Board regarding a teacher salary increase for the coming school year.
- Dr. Sides discussed the situation of salaries by traditional, virtual, and education degree.
- A 3% increase was proposed across the teaching staff citing an increase for cost of living and for appreciation of the hard work by all during the previous school year and moving forward.

MOTION: by Dr. Gary McHenry to approve the 2014/2015 teacher salaries as proposed. Mr. Gallagher seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2014-2015 Personnel Policies

- Dr. Sides presented the personnel policy changes for the Board's review.
- There were only a few changes to previous policy. One change was to reduce the amount of teacher scholarships from \$2,000 to \$1,000 per application.
- Another change was to remove the phone reimbursement as the school prepares to deploy Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) school-wide from the admin office to teachers across the state. There were questions and comments from the Board regarding this new method of communication. The resounding consensus was that it would be a step in the right direction for the teaching and admin staff as they provide service and support to families.
- The final change was to reduce the internet reimbursement for a part-time employee to \$25 which is half the amount a full-time employee would receive.

MOTION: by Mr. Gallagher to approve the 2014/2015 personnel policies as presented, noting some typos. Dr. McHenry seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Family Academic Support – Title I

- Dr. Sides described the plan to implement Family Academic Support (FAS) in the coming school year upon approval from the Arkansas Department of Education and the ARVA Board.
- In the previous school year, ARVA learned that it was dealing with a highly mobile student body. There was a huge increase in students who qualify for free/reduced meals.
- Family Academic Support has been implemented in Georgia at another virtual school. The retention of students across three years was shared with the Board.
- Dr. Sides described for the Board there will be a method to identify and action to prescribe the assistance and support needed to get students back on track, i.e. tiers of support, number of part-time individuals working with students and families, etc.
- The Board directed some questions to the Head of School. Board chair, Mr. Riggs, stated that the family academic support team would be a great step to helping students.
- The budget of FAS includes a salary increase for the employee who would oversee all functions of this new endeavor. Due to additional duties to her current job role and the

number of new direct reports, an increase in salary is proposed. The new salary would be \$50,000.

- This plan is still awaiting approval from the ADE, and it could change or be adjusted in some way.

MOTION: by Mr. Gallagher to approve ARVA's moving forward with plans to implement Family Academic Support. Ms. Hiatt seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Enrollment of Credit Deficient

- Dr. Sides describes for the Board the number of credits each enrolling student will be required to have or earn. Each student should earn six credits each year of high school beginning with 9th grade.
- The number of credits a student earns will determine the appropriate grade/cohort that he/she is enrolled in upon approval with ARVA.

MOTION: by Dr. McHenry to approve the school's recommendation regarding deficient credit and enrollment in appropriate grade/cohort. Mr. Gallagher seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Head of School's Report

Fiscal Year 2015 Preliminary Budget – John Kramer

- Dr. Sides introduced Mr. John Kramer to the Board. Mr. Kramer serves as Senior Manager, Southern Region Finance with K¹².
- Mr. Kramer introduced the FY 2015 preliminary budget to the Board and discussed the upcoming steps to be taken before finalizing the budget.
- Dr. Sides reminded everyone that the Board would review and approve the final budget in August.

PARCC Update

- PARCC is currently involved in a lawsuit.
- The ADE has given PARCC the deadline of July 9, 2014 to resolve or the ADE looks for another source for state testing.

2014-2015 Student-Family Handbook Overview

- The Board will review the handbook during the next few weeks and give any input or suggestions at the next meeting on August 12.

With no further business to discuss, the board meeting was adjourned at 5:11 p.m.