

Special Meeting of the ARVA Board

April 20, 2011

Agenda

I. Roll Call

Ark Monroe, Karen Ghidotti, Susan Allerheiligen, Tom Bolvin, Robbie Wills, Jerry Jones, Angela Driskill, Derrick Smith, Bill Vickery, John Riggs, Kevin Smith, Lepaine Sharp-McHenry, Scott Sides

II. Update on Legislative Session

We had planned to run a bill. The decision was made to work to remove the special language. We were successful. By removing the special language, we will be allowed to go before the State Board to petition for additional seats. Jerry Jones recognized the good work that was done and accomplishment that was achieved during the session. Jerry reiterated that we are now in a position to go before the State Board to petition the Board similar to other schools.

III. Moving Forward

Discussion took place around the position of the State Board respective to the approval of additional seats in charter schools. Recent legislation passed that broadens the nature and purpose of charter schools was noted. Senator Riggs indicated that the record suggests that governing bodies respond positively to demonstrated academic achievement and innovation. Discussion revolved around what attributes allow a school to grow. If schools are perceived to be selecting their students or if academic achievement is missing, then schools have not been allowed to grow. Another issue may be a lack of innovation in charter schools that are not allowed to grow. Some schools have not been allowed to grow due to compliancy issues (i.e., APSCN compliance, financials, etc.)

The group was tasked with exploring the leadership who governs the state from the Board level. It will be important that we help the members understand the school well. We should embrace contact as much as possible. The belief is that three weeks is proper notice to be placed on the agenda.

A good incremental number for high school would be 200-250. Dr. Driskill noted that the waiting list would not be served by looking only toward high school. Louisiana Virtual Academy was just granted a charter to serve 1100 students serving

grades K-10. Lepaine Sharp-McHenry suggested that the committee who had previously reviewed expansion should reexamine expansion. Jerry Jones agreed with Ms. Sharp-McHenry's suggestion. The record shows that k12 is well able to serve high school and has demonstrated this across the nation.

Jerry Jones indicated that it is clear that we should grow and serve the students who are on the waiting list, k-8. The Board has indicated previously that we would like to add high school. Lepaine Sharp-McHenry indicated that we should examine our pool of applicants in an effort to serve the families who have been or will be wait-listed.

Susan Allerheiligen, Angela Driskill, John Riggs, and Kevin Smith will serve on the High School Committee. John Riggs suggested that this short period of time might not be enough to prepare high school. The question of whether we would be most wise to work to serve our wait-listed k-8 students first was raised.

John Riggs will lead the effort to work in the direction of providing information to the State Board in preparation for our presentation and suggested that we need an hour-long meeting to determine whether or not we will go before the Board in June.

Scott Sides was tasked with arranging the follow-up meeting.