

DRAFT Minutes
Arkansas Virtual Academy
Board of Directors Meeting
May 25, 2010

Board Members Present

Jerry C. Jones, Chair
Lepaine Sharp-McHenry,
Vice Chair
John Riggs, Sec/Treas.
Susan Allerheiligen
Angela Driskill

Staff Present

Karen Ghidotti, HOS
Scott Sides
Lisa Williams
Susan Underwood
Monique Houston

Media Present

None

Board Members Not Present

Kevin Smith

Others Present

Gary Ritter

Call to Order

Board Chair, Jerry Jones, called the Special ARVA Board meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. Mr. Jones asked for a roll call then declared a quorum.

Action Item

New Board Member

After a brief discussion, the Search Committee made a motion.

MOTION: by Lepaine Sharp-McHenry and seconded by John Riggs to recommend Gary Ritter as a new member of the ARVA Board. Motion carried 5-0.

MOTION: by Lepaine Sharp-McHenry and seconded by John Riggs to adjourn from the Special ARVA Board meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

The Special ARVA Board meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Call to Order

Board Chair, Jerry Jones, called the Regular ARVA Board meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

MOTION: by John Riggs and seconded by Susan Allerheiligen to approve the March 16, 2010, ARVA Board meeting minutes as written. Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Jones requested that the Head of School Report be presented.

School/Director's Report

Karen Ghidotti, Head of School, shared with the Board the outcome of appearing before the State Audit Committee to review audit findings. The Committee recognized the one finding and requested that the school not appear before the committee again.

New Bank Account

Ms. Ghidotti discussed with the Board members that the school had taken action to assure that the ARVA funds were insured. ARVA opened an additional account at another financial institute. The new account is without an interest rate and provides a notification at the beginning of the month if the account has exceeded the \$250,000 level.

Enrollment/Lottery Report

Ms. Ghidotti provided the Board with information about the ARVA student enrollment for the 2010-2011 school year. Grades K-7th: 92.9% of students indicated plans to return; 6% will not return (not including the 8th grade students); 1.8% did not respond to attempted contacts via phone calls, emails, letters or personal visits.

K12 is reaching out with a survey to the families to determine the reason why they chose not to return. The projected timeline to provide the results is the end of May.

Budget Update

The Board was presented a copy of the APSCN board report for the 2009-2010 School Budget and Expenditures to date. Ms. Ghidotti discussed the revenues, funds, and expenditures.

John Riggs asked if ARVA has a carry over for Title 1 funds. Ms. Ghidotti responded that a school is required to spend down to 15% of the amount received in Title 1 funds. No more than 15% of the Title 1, Part A and 25% of the Title IV- A may be carried over into the next fiscal year.

Mr. Riggs asked when the ISP checks will be issued for reimbursement. Ms. Ghidotti responded that the checks will be processed and sent to the qualifying families in June after the close of the school year.

Jerry Jones asked if there were any concerns on the budget. Ms. Ghidotti responded that as it has been shared with the Board, ARVA received confirmation for the America Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds which includes the three areas of funding in Title 1, IDEA, and Stabilization under the new stimulus package. There is no doubt that ARVA was awarded the funds but the concern is the timeline of receiving the funding. The Special Education funding has not been received but we were told to anticipate it soon.

Virtual Math Coaches- Update

Ms. Ghidotti shared with the Board that the five Virtual Math Coaches are employed using the ARRA funds, four supported with the Stabilization funds and one with the Title I Recovery funds.

Lisa Williams, Academic Administrator, shared specific data about the Virtual Math Coaches (VMC). There has been 100% participation from families not including those who were exempted such as families with multiple children enrolled in ARVA and special education students. As the families began to see the need for math support, they requested that all students who took the achievement series become actively involved. Many students have made great percentile gains from the pre to the post achievement assessments. The VMC have reported positive attitudes among the students while observing the strengthening of math skills and excelling in grade level work to bring them to a more equivalent level.

John Riggs asked to remind the Board how the students receive the math lessons.

Ms. Williams explained that students take a quiz then depending on the score he/she receives an invitation is sent from the grade level VMC to join a session. There has been a great connection and relationship built with the students and coaches.

John Riggs asked if one can look at data and see how many students received the help from the VMC.

Ms. Ghidotti answered that we have that data and can get it out to the Board.

Ms. Williams stated that the lessons learned have been that the VMC program must be well planned and organized while the advanced students must be given more flexibility to offer better options for families. The key information is the participation and attendance, achievement series scores in the Scantron pre and post tests, comparing last year to this year gains and the benchmark scores.

Ms. Ghidotti stated that we need to address the dip in test scores and see movement in gains. One of the goals was the retention of 7th and 8th graders. This is the first year in ARVA history that we have not experienced withdraws in the 7th and 8th grades.

Ms. Ghidotti shared that the expense for the five Virtual Math Coaches is approximately \$184,000 including salary, benefits, travel, etc. ARRA is a non-reoccurring source of funds.

The Board continued to discuss the need to support ARVA students in the area of mathematics and seek funding sources to support the necessary personnel to work in this area.

Action Items

Proposed Policy

Ms. Ghidotti submitted to the Board the Whistle Blower Policy to better meet the new 990 requirements. After a brief discussion, the Board made a motion.

MOTION: by John Riggs and seconded by Angela Driskill to move adopt the Whistle Blower Policy. Motion carried 5-0.

Signature on Accounts

Ms. Ghidotti proposed effective June 1, 2010, to add Scott Sides, the new Head of School, on the bank accounts at Bancorp South and the two Arvest accounts. Since it is required that all school issued checks contain two signatures, one school administrator and the Board Chair or Treasurer, it was proposed that Karen Ghidotti's name be left on the bank accounts to provide a second signature in Mr. Sides' absence.

MOTION: by Lepaine Sharp-McHenry and seconded by John Riggs to add Scott Sides to the three accounts effective June 1, 2010 and leave Karen Ghidotti's name on all three accounts to sign in Scott's absents. Motion carried 5-0.

Board Chair's Report

Legislative Updates

Jerry Jones, Chair, shared with the Board a summary of the meeting with Ron Packard, the Governor and his staff members to discuss a K12 program in Chicago. This program is targeting the prevention of students dropping out of school by working with community colleges to offer courses for high school students. These students receive a high school diploma rather than a GED. The Governor expressed his belief in providing different styles of schooling for students and was very interested in pursuing the details of this program.

Mr. Jones commended Karen Ghidotti, John Riggs, and ARVA students for their presentations during the Public Policy Conference on Virtual Learning held at the Clinton Presidential Center on May 20. One of the main speakers was former Governor Bob Wise.

The ARVA Board presented a gift of their appreciation to Karen Ghidotti who shepherded the Board through a journey of love to work with the school, students and teachers.

Ms. Ghidotti proposed that the Board move to Executive Session.

MOTION: by John Riggs and seconded by Lepaine Sharp-McHenry for the Board to move into Executive Session. Motion carried 5-0.

The Board moved into Executive Session at 5:10 p.m.

The Board concluded Executive Session at 5:44 p.m.

MOTION: by John Riggs and seconded by Susan Allerheiligen to adjourn. Motion carried 5-0.

ARVA Board meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.