



Minutes
Arkansas Virtual Academy
Board of Directors Meeting
November 13, 2007
via Conference Call

Board Members Present

Jerry C. Jones
John Brown
Mike Henley
John Riggs
Lepaine Sharp-McHenry
Kevin Smith

Staff Present

Karen Ghidotti
Dr. Gary Smith
Susan Underwood

Media Present

None

Board Members Absent

Lisenne Rockefeller

Call to Order

Board Chair, Jerry Jones, declared a quorum and called the board meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

MOTION: by John Riggs, seconded by Lepaine McHenry to approve August 28, 2007 Board minutes as written. Motion carried 6-0.

Chair's Report

Jerry Jones asked Karen Ghidotti to discuss the size and make up of the board. Ms. Ghidotti reported that Sanford Tollette has submitted his resignation due to other responsibilities. Senator John Brown has made it known that he plans to resign at the end of this calendar year. The board should contain a minimum of 5 board members and a maximum of 11. Plans are to aggressively seek 1 or 2 new board members within the next two months. There has been an interest and suggestion to consider Kevin Anderson who will be leaving the House of Representatives due to his term expiring in December or January. Ms. Ghidotti asked Kevin and John to share their thoughts concerning Kevin Anderson. Both responded by saying that he has a strong business background, level headed, not extreme in views and thinks through issues.

MOTION: by Kevin Smith, seconded by Mike Henley, to approve Jerry Jones and Karen Ghidotti to approach Kevin Anderson on behalf of the Board about sitting on the board of directors. Motion carried 6-0.

John Brown suggests that the board re-examine the length of terms for board members, stay aware of when terms will end and if a member can be reappointed.



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Also look at adding more than one person as well as considering a variety of people such as race, gender, geographic location around the state since the board should reflect the makeup of students and areas of service. Mike Henley requested that Karen Ghidotti put together student information and a map indicating their locations across the state to send via e-mail and share at the next meeting. Kevin Smith added that it would also be good to consider adding a parent to the board.

Karen Ghidotti will have the bylaws and terms for the next board meeting.

Action Agenda

Enrollment/Withdrawal Update:

Mrs. Karen Ghidotti provided the statistical data of student withdrawals since July 2007. Withdrawals are up .5% from last year. ARVA administration will be evaluating the teachers with student withdraws and help them to implement strategies demonstrated by teachers who have been with the school for years and have lower withdrawals. Seven of the 38 were withdrawals before the student started school. Withdrawals are due to various situations including students finally being excepted into preferred schools such as private schools; the teaching adult is no longer available due to having to return to work; lack of time commitment and organizational inability. Students will be replaced as they withdraw.

Marketing Efforts:

ARVA teachers hosted a “Meet and Greet” in several locations throughout the state in efforts to advertise and answer questions. During the next board meeting, Ms. Ghidotti will update the board on the projected enrollment timeline and marketing plan for the 2008-09 school year.

Budget Report:

Ms. Ghidotti informed the board that ARVA has been receiving the expected monthly state funding based on an average enrollment of 500 students. Ms. Ghidotti shared with the board that the board chair, Jerry Jones, had asked for a high level budget report that provided a clearer picture of the overall budget, expenditures and remaining funds based on the funding categories. The board looked over the new format and review expenditures.

Lepaine McHenry asked when the fiscal year ends. June 30, 2008

John Riggs asked who manages funds to which Ms. Ghidotti responded that the money is with Bancorp. Mr. Riggs suggested that it needs to be managed for cash flow. Select four or five vendors to interview and determine what each could do for the school. Mike Henley volunteered to take a look at the average cash flow on hand and bring a plan to the board. John Riggs suggested putting cash in something liquid. Ms. Ghidotti informed the board that there are pending invoices which will impact the balance.

Lepaine McHenry asked when the funds for administration charges, elementary schools, text book will it be utilized? Ms. Ghidotti shared that some of the initial billing for textbooks, materials, OLS from K12 were being held pending a credit. However, once those are received there would be a change in the balance for those line items. There are some line items that the board will not see expenditures until the end of the school year.

Title 1 Funds

Karen Ghidotti explained that Title 1 funds are based on the number of students eligible for free or reduced lunch. ARVA administrators will continue working with the State department and submit a proposal for funding. Start up funds could be around \$60,000.00 for Special Education.

ARVA is required to submit to the Arkansas Department of Education a school and district level ACSIP (Arkansas Comprehensive School Improvement Plan). Ms. Ghidotti will provide a copy of the ACSIP at the next board meeting.

Action Items

Board Policy

Karen Ghidotti says that we received a form to fill out concerning protecting prayer in public school we would like to put this off until our next meeting.

New Part-Time Position

Ms. Ghidotti shared with the board that during the past three months the ARVA special education population has increased to the point that the part-time special education teacher can no longer meet the needs of the students. Ms. Ghidotti recommended to the board the hiring of a new part-time teacher to take the current general education load of the part-time special education teacher. This would allow the part-time special education teacher to become a full-time special education teacher.

Jerry Jones asked where in the budget could money be located to fund the part-time teacher position. Ms. Ghidotti recommended that the \$34,000.00 budgeted for student testing in the general operation funds be moved to cover the salary of the part-time teacher. The Walton grant has funds available to cover the projected cost for state testing.

MOTION: by John Riggs, seconded by Lepaine McHenry to approve hiring a new part time general education teacher. Ms. Ghidotti will hire the teacher and inform the board. Motion carried 6-0.

Old Business

None

Chair adjourned the meeting at 1:42 p.m.