

Minutes
Arkansas Virtual Academy
Board of Directors Meeting
June 13, 2012

Board Members Present

Jerry Jones
Lepaine Sharp-McHenry
Angela Driskill
Kevin Smith
Cary Hiatt

Staff Present

Scott Sides
Lisa Williams
Cheli Stafford

Media Present

None

Guests Present

none

Board Members Not Present

John Riggs

Call to Order

Chair, Mr. Jerry Jones, called the board meeting to order at 4:13 p.m. Mr. Jones then asked for a roll call and declared a quorum.

MOTION: by Dr. Angela Driskill to approve the March 1, 2012 board meeting minutes as written. Mr. Kevin Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Board Chair's Report:

Board Member Candidates

- Board Member Candidate: Ms. Carolyn (Cary) Hiatt was introduced and her biographical information was shared with those present.
- Board Member Candidate: Mr. Steve Bryles' biographical information was shared with those present.
- After these introductions were made, Mr. Jones motioned for approval of these candidates to become ARVA Board members.

MOTION: by Mr. Jerry Jones to approve Board Candidates Ms. Hiatt and Mr. Bryles. Mr. Kevin Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- Upon approval of Board membership, Ms. Hiatt took the Board member oath in accordance with education law.

Action Agenda Items:

Proposed Policy Changes and Student/Parent Handbook

- Head of School, Mr. Scott Sides, and Academic Administrator, Ms. Lisa Williams, presented the proposed updates, additions and changes to be made to the school's Personnel Policies as well as the 2012/2013 Student/Parent Handbook.
- Discussions took place as these updates were detailed. Notes were made as to any further changes the Board required.

MOTION: by Ms. Lepaine Sharp-McHenry to accept the Personnel Policies and 2012/2013 Student/Parent Handbook with changes as presented. Dr. Driskill seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Budget – Special Education Costs – Sequestration

- Mr. Sides addressed budgeted revenue and expenditures with the Board. One matter for discussion was a change in the 2011/2012 budgeted expenditures for the management fee line. This change would be made to reflect a balanced budget.
- Ms. McHenry expressed the desire to see a more intermediate look at the budget vs. actual numbers when presented to the Board for review.
- In response to current national debt, there is a possibility for the “sequestration” or reduction of federal funds being sent to schools, beginning after January 2013. This would distress ARVA’s ability to provide for services through federal funding sources, such as, Title I, Title II-A, and Title VI-B. General revenue would have to be pick-up where these funds might fall short.

Teacher Bonus and Salary

- Teacher salaries were discussed for the upcoming school year as well as the teacher bonus previously approved and set aside by the Board. Mr. Sides stated that these bonuses would be paid during the July payroll cycle and any salary changes would become effective at that time as well.

MOTION: by Ms. McHenry to approve the budget and teacher salary adjustments as described. Ms. Hiatt seconded the motion. Motion carried.

LEA change

- The Board was asked to approve an LEA change to be filed with the Arkansas Department of Education that would shift the grades for each school within the district. The elementary school would move from K – 6 to K – 5. The current junior high LEA would be re-titled as a middle school and would serve grades 6 – 8 instead of only 7 – 8, beginning in the 2012-2013 school year.

MOTION: by Ms. McHenry to accept the proposed LEA changes. Ms. Hiatt seconded the motion. Motion carried.

New Board Chair

- Outgoing Board Chair, Mr. Jerry Jones, nominated Ms. McHenry as new Board Chair. Mr. Jones stated that Ms. McHenry has spent many years of dedicated service to ARVA as a Board member and this would be natural step for her, if she accepted.
- Ms. McHenry stated that she would be happy to serve the school as the Board Chair.

MOTION: by Mr. Jones to approve Ms. McHenry’s position as new Board Chair. Ms. Hiatt seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- Other officers will be elected at the July 2012 meeting of the Board.

Head of School's Report:

Low In-Year Withdrawals

- Mr. Sides reported that ARVA had 93% of students are returning for the 2012/2013 school year.

Student Achievement Update

- Preliminary results had recently been provided to schools and preliminary results appeared to be positive in most grades 3 – 8 literacy and math.

Proposed Change of Office Space

- The Board was provided with a letter of intent describing a proposed move of the district administrative office from Westlake Corporate Park in west Little Rock to a new site in North Little Rock.
- The new site would be large enough to accommodate current and future district or school needs, with only a slight increase in cost.
- The Board agreed that the administrative team should continue to determine if this would be a feasible move for the district office.

Required Documents and Lottery Results

- The administrative team has identified students who are lacking sufficient documents, required law when enrolling in an Arkansas public school. The district is taking an active role in rectifying these errors and does plan to follow state education laws with regard to those students who do not provide the necessary items within the communicated deadline.
- The lottery was held in April. After siblings were brought into the school, ARVA was only able to enroll approximately 22 new students. These students were in Kindergarten. The remaining members of the waitlist will be offered seat offers as vacancies occur throughout the school year.

MOTION: by Mr. Jones to adjourn at 6:00 PM. Ms. McHenry seconded the motion. Motion carried.