



AGENDA

Regular Meeting – via Conference Call
North Carolina Learns, Inc. |
Board of Directors
March 6, 2023 at 5 PM
<https://zoom.us/j/95384530729>

Instructions for Presentations to the Board by Parents and Citizens

The North Carolina Virtual Academy (School) welcomes your participation at the School Board meetings. The purpose for the public meeting of the Board of Directors (Board) is to conduct the affairs of the School in a transparent manner. We are pleased that you are in attendance and hope that you will visit these meetings often. Your participation assures us of continuing community interest in our school. To assist you in the ease of speaking/participating in our meetings, the following guidelines are provided.

1. Agendas are available to all audience members upon request.
2. “Requests to Speak” forms are available to all audience members who wish to speak on any agenda items or under the general category of “Communications” or for conference call attendees by so signifying at the beginning of “Communications.”
3. The “Communications” portion is set-aside for members of the audience to address items on the published agenda. Audience members may offer objective criticisms of school operations and programs, but the Board will not hear complaints about school personnel or other persons during a public session. The process for complaints involving school personnel or other persons are provided through other channels. The Board will not generally respond to remarks made in this manner during the meeting, but may issue a written response after the meeting. These presentations are limited to three (3) minutes. Extensions of time will be at the sole discretion of the Board Chair.
4. When addressing the Board, speakers are requested to state their name and address from the podium and adhere to the time limits set forth.
5. Individuals may request that a topic related to school business be placed on future agenda by submitting a written request at least two (2) weeks or ten (10) working days before the schedule board meeting. Once such an item is properly placed on the agenda and publicly noticed, the Board can respond, interact, and act upon the item.



NCVA is a community of students, families and educators dedicated to expanding educational choice through innovative and technology-rich instructional practices, and accountable for developing each student’s full potential for academic and post-secondary success.

According to our adopted policies, board members are reminded to avoid actual or apparent conflicts of interest in performing our duty as a board. Does any member of the NC Learns, Inc. board know of any actual or apparent conflict of interest related to any matter on this meeting agenda? If so, please state them for the record. If during the course of the meeting you become aware of an actual or apparent conflict of interest, please bring the matter to the attention of the chair. It will then be your duty to abstain from participating in a discussion on the matter and from voting on the matter.

<p><u>Present Board Members:</u> Dr. Steven Peters Brenda Robertson Mark Fleming Chris Farrell Sara Struhs</p>	<p><u>Present Non-Board Members:</u> Katie Gomersall Tasha Parnell Kristina Rodrigues John Kramer Harry Kaplan Amanda Faulkenbury Laura Zuber</p>
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I. CALL TO ORDER

- a. Roll Call for Quorum
- b. Adoption of Agenda and Approval of previous meeting minutes.

Mark Fleming made a motion to accept the agenda and meeting minutes – seconded by Brenda Robertson. The vote passed unanimous.

- c. Reading of the Mission

II. COMMUNICATIONS: this period of public comment is set aside for audience members to address items on the published agenda. The Board will not hear complaints about school personnel or other persons during a public session. The Board will not generally respond to remarks made in this manner during the meeting

but may issue a written response after the meeting. These presentations are limited to three (3) minutes. Extensions of time will be at the sole discretion of the Board Chair.

III. CONSENT ITEMS: all items listed here are considered by the Board to be routine matters and will be approved by the Board in one motion. Unless specifically requested by a board member for further discussion, there will be no discussion of these items prior to the Board vote. The Executive Director recommends approval of all consent items.

- Mask Requirement – Not required
- New Staff Hire Approval

Mark Fleming made a motion to accept the consent agenda – Chris Farrell seconded it. The vote was unanimous.

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. **K12 Lobbyist-** Harry Kaplan gave a thorough legislative update. Bill 149 Remote Charter Academics bill was introduced in Committee and House Rules will take it up tomorrow. From there it will go to the Senate. They will continue to watch the progress of this bill and keep us updated.

2. **HOS Update/Report-** student enrollment – so far 2100 said they are planning to reenroll at NCVA. There were 67 students choosing not to return next year and 669 are still completing their paperwork. NCVA was in the top 3 Stride schools for returning students. The lottery will open 4/13/23.

Academic highlights included

- a. 11.2% increase in the number of students reaching a passing rate on the ACT.
- b. MindPlay – a Stride product to increase reading in students in K-3 has been very successful. Our school is top ranked for student participation which is important for raising the reading levels of students early on.
- c. There will be a teacher career fair and we will be participating (thank you Tasha)
- d. Sixty-six percent of teachers took the teacher pulse check and 82% of them had a favorable rating for working at Stride/NCVA.
- e. The school calendar has been updated and approved for the coming year.

3. **Finance Update** Finance report was presented by Treasurer Steven Peters. He gave updates that the committee is working on to ensure the banking policies and procedures are in place. He gave a quick overview of the Stride monthly bill and recommended that it be passed.

V. ACTION ITEMS:

- a. Vote on Finance recommendations:

Steven Peters made a motion that the bill for Stride be paid. It was seconded by Brenda Robertson and the motion was passed unanimously.

- b. Sara Struhs raised concerns around base pay for teachers. The board had conversation around this subject and after much consideration.

Chris Farrell made a motion that the starting range for teacher pay entering our school is to be \$42,000.00 - \$48,000.00 as determined by the HOS and with approval from the Board. It was seconded by Mark Fleming. The Board voted unanimous.

VI. CHAIRPERSON COMMENTS:

- a. Sara Struhs reminded all Board members of the financial meeting May 6th.
- b. Sara Struhs explained the organizations that we currently belong to and noted that we are still able to participate in summits and conferences even if we are not members. Brenda talked about the NC Charter School Organization and will be representing our Board at their conference in Cherokee this summer. All members who want to attend should reach out to Sara Struhs for registration information.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Sara Struhs asked for a motion to adjourn. Mark Fleming made a motion to adjourn. Chris Farrell seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:18 P.M.