

Meeting Minutes  
January 6, 2025

Attendees:

Brenda Robertson – Chair  
Walter Martin – Vice Chair  
Steven Peters – Treasurer  
Mark Fleming – Secretary  
Chris Farrell – Board Member  
Natalie Wright – Board Member  
Steve Moody – Board Member  
Kristina Rodrigues – Interim Head of School  
Tasha Parnell – HS Administrator  
Kelly Shanahan – ES Administrator  
Lea King – Administrator  
Stacey Bryant - Administrator  
Chad Long – K12 Finance  
Scott Side – K12  
John Kramer – K12  
Marcia Simmons – Board candidate

Brenda opened the meeting at

Sara asked if she could please introduce the new interim HOS, Kristina Rodrigues

Steve Moody read the Mission Statement

Brenda introduced Marcia Simmons and asked her to tell the board a little about herself.

Marcia explained she has spent her life in education; has multiple degrees; over the years she has worked in schools and worked for DPI. She was the former HOS at NCVA and returned to DPI to be the Chief Operating Officer for the NCVPS.

Brenda asked the board members if they had any questions for Marcia- There were none, however many of the board members were happy to have her as a board candidate.

Brenda thanked Marcia for joining us and explained we will vote at the end of the meeting.

Brenda asked for the HOS update

Kristina explained this was the first day back to school and her first day as the interim HOS. She gave the current enrollment at 3528: 1479 in elementary school; 959 in Middle School; and 1090 in High School.

Kristina asked the board to consider the reimbursement for Karli Nation. She gave details of her studies as she is a MS teacher and has been working for Kristina. Sara explained the reimbursement must be applied for the year before attending and is made after the course is

completed. Chris suggested that at the February meeting we update this policy to encourage more staff to participate in this benefit.

Kristina ended by telling the board the “Author Day” is happening 2/17 and we will have Angelique Monet author of “the Bravest Worrier” talking about her book to all grades. She will tailor her sessions depending on which grades she is speaking with covering the content of her book and for older students, what goes into writing and illustrating a book. She will also have sessions for parents and LC’s.

Kristina then switched to the presentation by the principals regarding the check-in’s for testing to see who students are currently performing. Each principal presented for her school. In the end, it was discussed that often the check-ins are not an accurate indicator for the success students will have on the EOC or EOG testing. Chris suggested this is something to have Cande address at the February meeting. All the staff agreed.

Brenda then asked Chad to give his update.

Chad presented the monthly bill and gave a full explanation of it. Due to the growth funding being paid out to the charter schools, there is a large increase for NCVA and appears we will have a \$3.+ million surplus at the end of the year – mostly the result of this payout and partially because of the reduction in student needs with a lower student enrollment.

Chad said they will be starting the budget process soon. We will be able to maintain the staff, however, we will reduce our annual surplus because of that. Also, we should not need to add any staff in the coming year from what is budgeted.

Chad mentioned to the board the challenges with the credit card limits and asked they raise the limits by \$5000.00 on two of the cards. After much discussion, the board chose to raise the HOS and the Finance credit cards to \$20,000.00 and the Executive Director card to \$15,000.00.

Finally, Chad explained we are working with Aaron Beaulieu a consultant who has been working with charter schools to recoup money from districts who have not been using the correct formular since the changes to payments were made. We did an initial project with him for the Durham county and recouped approximately \$15,000.00. Based on that we have asked him to look into some of the larger school districts to ensure we are getting our full allocations. The contract is written so that Aaron is paid a percentage of the amount he recoups as payment. The board agreed we should do this.

Brenda asked Chris to present the administrative withdrawals. Chris explained the Governance Committee met earlier in the day and perused the cases. After much consideration it was a unanimous decision by the committee to recommend upholding the administrative withdrawals as presented.

Brenda asked Sara to present the Executive Director’s update.

Sara started by telling the board that we received our interview date for the charter renewal – February 5<sup>th</sup>. She explained it is important for all board members to be present if possible and it will be done virtually so they will not need to travel to Durham. Sara explained she was hoping for

something after the February workshop as Cande and she were planning a mock interview. Chris suggested moving the February meeting to 2/15 – to start off our workshop weekend – and use the evening of 2/3 for the preparation. The board was in agreement this would be the best option for all board members to be prepared. There was a consensus to make this change.

Sara agreed to work with Cande and be prepared for the 2/3 meeting as well as for the workshop later in the month.

Brenda then asked for the following motions for board approval:

Brenda asked for a motion to approve the Stride monthly bill. Walter made the motion; Steve M seconded the motion. Brenda called for the vote: it was unanimous.

Brenda asked for a motion to approve the administrative withdrawals as presented. Steve Moody made the motion; Natalie seconded the motion. Brenda called for the vote: it was unanimous.

Brenda asked for a motion to approve Marcia Simmons as a new board member. Walter made the motion; Steve M seconded the motion. Brenda called for the vote: it was unanimous.

Brenda asked for a motion to approve the increase in the credit card limits to \$20,000 for the HOS and the Finance and to \$15,000 for the Executive Director. Chris made the motion; Walt seconded the motion. Brenda called for the vote: it was unanimous.

Brenda asked for a motion to approve the contract with Aaron Beaulieu to recoup funds from LEAs as directed. Steve M. the motion; Chris seconded the motion. Brenda called for the vote: it was unanimous.

With our business concluded, Brenda asked for a motion to adjourn. Mark made the motion; Steve M seconded the motion. Brenda called for the vote: it was unanimous.

The meeting ended at 6:15pm