

## Meeting Minutes 6-2-2025

### ATTENDEES:

Brenda Robertson – Chair  
Mark Fleming – Secretary  
Steve Moody – Treasurer  
Marcia Simmons – Board Member  
Natalie Wright – Board Member  
Tasha Parnell – HS AA  
Kelly Shanahan – EL AA  
Stacey Bryant – SPED/ELL AA  
Lea – AA  
Chad – K12 Finance  
John Kramer – K12  
Kristina Rodrigues – HOS  
Sara Struhs – Executive Director

Sara reported to Brenda that we had a quorum and she could call the meeting to order.

Brenda called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to adopt the agenda and meeting minutes from the previous board meeting. Mark made the motion to adopt them, Natalie seconded. Brenda called for the vote: it was unanimous.

Steve Moody read the mission statement.

Brenda asked if there were any consent items. Sara said there were not.

Brenda asked Kristina for the HOS update.

Kristina gave an update on the enrollment. We are currently looking to enroll 4000 students. To date we have 3240 and so are looking to enroll an additional 800. We have a number of students who are completing the enrollment requirements having been selected in the lottery – we will have an update on or about June 11.

With testing now over, we are all prepping for the MS dance and the Prom. The theme this year is Northern Lights. We will have graduation the next morning.

The back-to-school professional development all staff meeting will be August 4 and 5 at the Crabtree Marriot in Raleigh.

Kristina attached a list of goals for the AIG program as a reminder for the board that they will be voting on the AIG program tonight and wanted to refresh their memories about the program and how important it is for our school.

Kristina then moved on to talk about the hiring progress. We are slated to have a total of 307 teachers and staff for the coming year. Currently we are looking to hire 48 new staff but given the late timing this may prove difficult. Still she is confident we will have the necessary positions filled to ensure we can start the first of the year. (see attachment)

Summer school will be throughout June and we have several hundred students who will be attending. The grades will be loaded into the state system by the end of June.

The Kindergarten graduation was held and Kristina said she would share the photos from the event with the board. As always, they were adorable and so proud of themselves. It was a wonderful family time for everyone.

And last of all Kristina said the e-sports team, as the Bears for Hope, competed in a fundraising even for St Jude. Tasha said they had raised \$500.00. Brenda commented it was a good thing for them to do regardless of how much money they made because it teaches them to give back to the community. And they did a great job representing our school.

Brenda then asked Chad for the financial update.

Chad said all the bonuses have been paid out: NC Learns employees getting theirs in the 5/20 paycheck and Stride employees getting theirs in their 5/30 paycheck.

We are projected to have a \$3.7 million surplus this year which was how we were able to afford the \$5,000.00 bonuses for all staff members as well as obligate forward funding for a CTE department and for the Credit Recovery Department.

There will be one last invoice for the month of June which will be given to us in July. Chad asked that \$5.1m be transferred from the LEA fund to the operating budget to cover costs for June and July. The transfer amount includes a \$1m cushion for emergency spending.

Steve asked when the audit would start and Chad told him they are starting now, but will kick into full gear in August. Right now they are doing the preliminary work.

With no other questions for Chad, Brenda asked Sara for the Executive Director's report.

Sara started by recognizing Brenda who served two terms on the board and did a wonderful job. Brenda thanked her. Sara then introduced the new executive team: Walter Martin as Chair, Chris Farrell as V. Chair, Natalie Wright as Secretary, and Steve Moody as Treasurer.

Sara said that she and Kristina are currently working on updates to the Tuition Reimbursement policy and the Administrative Withdrawal policy. We will have something for the board to approve at the July meeting.

Sara reminded everyone that the July meeting will be on the 7<sup>th</sup> which is the Monday after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday. This will be an important meeting and she asked that they all try to make it to that meeting.

Sara said that she and Walter had met with Cory Droughon to discuss options for creating a foundation for the school. He works with charter schools exclusively. He sent Sara a proposal and she said she would forward it to them for consideration. She also mentioned that she is meeting with David Hostetler on Wednesday and hopes to have more of a timeline for proceeding if that is what the board chooses to do.

Brenda asked Sara if she had heard anything from the legislature regarding increasing the teacher pay. Sara said she had spoken with the lobbyists and they believe that there will not be a budget until October or November. They told her there are so many unknowns about federal funding across the board that they will put this off as long as possible to see what the federal government will be doing regarding state funding. Marcia and Mark both agreed that the budget will be delayed. Mark did mention that SC had passed an increase in pay for their teachers to \$48,500.00 as a starting salary and reminded the board that NC was talking about a starting salary of \$50,000.00. Marcia said she had been told it would be October at the earliest and quite possibly sometime in November. Steve commented that the state could possibly do a mini-budget to address specific needs or issues. Mark reminded everyone that we will be fine given our surplus.

Steve asked Sara about the bonus structure and when they would have something to vote on. Sara said she had spoken to Chris earlier in the day and reminded him we need to have something by July. It was agreed that the bonus structure proposal needs to be ready for a vote by July.

Brenda then asked if we would need to vote on the Board Meeting Calendar. Sara said yes. She did explain there are three dates listed as TBD because we will be waiting on additional information before scheduling the meeting. Marcia said the school grades should be available the beginning of September if everything goes well. If that is true, Sara said we should be able to have the meeting the beginning of October.

Brenda then moved on to Action Items:

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

Brenda asked for a motion to approve the AIG proposal. Natalie made the motion; Marcia seconded it. Brenda called for the vote: it was unanimous

Brenda asked for a motion to approve the Board Meeting Calendar. Steve made the motion; Marcia seconded it. Brenda called for the vote: it was unanimous

Brenda asked for a motion to transfer the \$5.1m from the LEA fund to the operating fund. Steve made the motion; Mark seconded it. Brenda called for the vote: it was unanimous.

Brenda then said that before adjourning, she wanted to thank everyone for the wonderful time spent on the board over the past 10 years. She thanked the board for the dinner and plant (which was still alive despite being on vacation for 10 days!) and again thanked everyone for everything and wishing all the very best for NCVA in the future.

Brenda asked for a motion to adjourn. Mark made the motion to adjourn in honor of our chair, Brenda, and all that she has done for NCVA.

Brenda called the meeting adjourned.

Stacey then thanked Brenda for all that she had done for NCVA as well.