

Meeting Minutes 1-28-2026  
Academic Committee Meeting

Attendees:

Natalie Wright – Chair of the Academic Committee  
Walter Martin – Chair of the Board  
Marcia Simmons – Board Member  
Tasha Parnell – Director of Accountability and Curriculum (DoAC)  
Kristina Rodrigues – HOS  
Sara Struhs – Executive Director

**Natalie** called a quorum and called the meeting to order.

Natalie began by recognizing the CSRB had approved NCVA for a 5 year charter. She then reminded everyone that while this is great news, she emphasized that the renewal carries clear expectations, including achieving a minimum school grade of C and maintaining that grade for three consecutive years. The concerns raised by the CSRB were that NCVA has been a low performing school with the exception of one year that they achieved a C grade; and they were concerned about the surplus funds.

Sara and Kristina reiterated that in our interview we did share our plans to strategically spend surplus funds toward CTE, Credit Recovery and a schoolwide Intensive remediation program.

### **Meeting Schedule Discussion**

Leadership discussed the meeting schedule going forward. It was agreed that:

- Meetings will occur monthly, typically for 30–60 minutes
- Meetings will be held at noon, the first Tuesday of each month
- Summer months (June and July) will generally be skipped unless needed

### **Charter Renewal Reflections**

The committee discussed the need to better articulate NCVA’s identity as a virtual charter serving a unique and often under-served student population.

It was agreed that:

- NCVA should embrace and clearly communicate its role as an alternative pathway, not a traditional brick-and-mortar model.
- Continued communication with the CSRB to better understand our student population and our plans for the future.

- Personal student success stories should be collected and maintained in a repository to demonstrate positive virtual learning impact and academic growth over time.

### **Academic Performance & Data Review**

**Kristina** and **Tasha** presented an overview of current academic data:

- EOC results show challenges, particularly in Biology
- BOY to MOY i-Ready data (K–8) shows growth, but overall proficiency levels remain low in several grades
- Literacy deficits were identified as a cross-cutting issue impacting multiple subject areas

The committee noted concerns about:

- Low baseline achievement in elementary grades
- Student turnover and its impact on long-term academic growth
- Alignment between curriculum, rigor, and state assessments

While some growth was observed, leadership emphasized that starting baselines remain low, requiring further remediation and instructional alignment.

### **Leadership & Staffing Updates**

**Kristina** announced that **Tasha** has been promoted to ***Director of Accountability and Curriculum***.

Her role will focus on:

- K–12 alignment of curriculum and instruction
- Oversee testing and retesting
- Data-driven remediation planning
- Graduation accountability

Members expressed support for the appointment.

### **Retesting & Remediation**

**Tasha** outlined plans for implementing retesting for the first time, noting:

- The testing window will expand from two to three weeks
- Retesting must be carefully aligned with graduation timelines
- Parent opt-in, staffing, and testing site logistics are being planned

Updates included:

- Launch of a high school remediation program with bi-weekly data analysis

- Use of data specialists in Math and ELA to support Biology instruction through literacy strategies
- Small pilot groups to assess the impact of ELA remediation on Biology outcomes

The goal is to replicate effective remediation models across other grade levels.

### **Curriculum & Stride Alignment**

There was discussion regarding the work Stride has been doing to improve alignment of curriculum with state standards. Progress is being made.

There was discussion regarding the EL design for teaching. Natalie suggested the board carefully consider the classroom set up in K-2. Kristina also reminded everyone that Public Impact will be evaluating and training teachers and teacher leaders which will directly affect the EL educational structure.

### **Public Impact**

**Kristina** provided an update on the partnership with Public Impact:

- The initiative is a two-year education leadership development program
- Current phase focuses on discovery and identification of school leaders
- Teachers will not be heavily involved until later phases, likely beginning in August
- The program is intended to provide external coaching and leadership structure

Sara reminded committee members that Public Impact will be speaking to them at the annual workshop.

Having completed the business at hand, Natalie adjourned the meeting at 1:00.