



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.

June 8, 2015 Regular Board Meeting Approved Minutes

Board Members Present		Board Members Absent	Others in Attendance
Chris Withrow	Steve Moody	Sara Struhs	Joel Medley – Head of School
Dr. Richard Wallace	Sarah Waltman		Marcia Simmons – High School AA
Catherine Zambrano	Brad Howard		Julie Hawkins – K12 HR
Brenda Robertson	Diana Freeman		

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chris Withrow at 501pm, and a roll call was taken to determine if a quorum of the board was present. Upon determining a quorum, the mission statement for NC Virtual Academy (NCVA) was read.

The meeting agenda was reviewed and then accepted by the board.

ACTION: Diana Freeman moved to approve the agenda as presented/ revised, and that motion was seconded by Steve Moody. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting minutes from Karen Ghidotti were presented and reviewed by the board.

ACTION: Steve Moody moved to approve the minutes as presented, and that motion was seconded by Diana Freeman. The motion passed unanimously.

II. COMMUNICATIONS:

No request was submitted for a public comment and nobody online requested the opportunity to address the board about an item on the agenda.

With no public comment, the chair asked Marcia Simmons, who joined the call at 503pm, to introduce herself and explain her role. Marcia explained that she would serve as the middle/high school academic administrator. She has experience in the virtual educational world both as a teacher and principal. She is excited about this opportunity.

At 505pm, Rick Wallace and Catherine Zambrano joined the conference call.

III. CONSENT AGENDA:

The consent includes items related to teacher hiring and was presented by the Head of School for board approval. Consent items are routine matters that are approved by the Board in one motion. Since no board member requested removal of any components from the consent agenda, no discussion occurred prior to voting. The following teachers were recommended for hiring:

- *Elementary* – Miller, Pritchard, Shanahan
- *Middle* – Bragg, Dasher, Rowles
- *Counselor* -- Barton

ACTION: Ms. Freeman moved to approve the teacher hire recommendations from the consent agenda as presented by the Head of School. That motion was seconded by Brenda Robertson. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

The chair mentioned that the board has lots of business to take care of during these summer months, so the board will have a few more of these specially called meetings. When the school gets up and running, there will be more effort to remain focused on the regular meeting schedule.

1. The board needed to consider information regarding the selection of Benefit Brokers that would provide benefits for teaching employees at the charter school. Julie Hawkins, a human resources employee of K12, presented two groups for consideration. She vetted these vendors – Banyan Consulting Group and Pierce Group – and reviewed the information presented. After reviewing the provided information, a recommendation was made to proceed with Banyan Consulting Group due to the richness and robust nature of their products. Several questions were posed regarding the inclusion of dependents, explanation of specific offerings, and details of wellness offerings.

As far as next steps, Ms. Hawkins would reach out to the broker that was selected by the board. She would share demographic information of the staff that had been approved by the board so that the company could devise specific pricing and offerings for a benefits package.

ACTION: Mr. Moody moved to adopt the recommendation and proceed with Banyan Consulting Group to serve as the Benefits Broker for NCVA. That motion was seconded by DIANA. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Mr. Moody provided information regarding the standing of the Executive Director search. The position has been listed on both the K12 and NCVA site for a period of time. Sara Struhs and some other members helped write the job description for this position, which is directly employed by the board. The Executive Director would be tasked with serving as a liaison between the board of directors and the

educational provided. The recommendation is that the positions remained posted until June 15, and then have the postings removed from both sites.

Mr. Moody, Ms. Struhs, and Sarah Waltman will serve as the search committee, and Mr. Moody will serve as the chair. One the position has closed, the resumes will be forwarded to the search committee who will determine which ones to interview and how to do so. . The goal would be to have someone in place and hired for July. Mr. Moody indicated that it may be too aggressive to have all of the interview process completed by the normal July meeting. A question was asked about numbers that have been submitted, and Joel Medley stated that he is aware of approximately 10-12. If any board members have questions they would like asked of the potential candidates, Mr. Moody requested them to be emailed to him for distribution to the full committee.

3. A school updated was provided by Joel Medley:
 - On June 16-17, the Office of Charter Schools will provide training to new schools. The two academic administrators from NCVA will be in attendance; however, a board member is also needed to be there each day. It could be the same board member for both days or you could split that out. Ms. Freeman offered to attend on the 16th, so Dr. Medley will ensure that she is registered for the meeting. Another board member is still needed for the 17th.
 - School Enrollment – the school has complete packets of information for 1176 committed students. There are nearly 1600 other applications that are in process, so it appears that the school will easily hit the 1500 students for its first year of operation. At this time, NCVA is approximately 40% free and reduced lunch, 12% exceptional students, and 85% intend to enroll for more than one year.
 - Questions arose about robust nature of the wait list and what would occur once the 1500 maximum was reached. The focus of the question was the replacement of students that either did not show or withdrew during those first count days. Another question was also asked regarding the timing of DPI counts for students.
 - Remaining Staff Vacancies – the staff is nearly complete but a few more positions will be brought forward at the next board meeting. The following are vacant positions at this time: 4th grade, middle school English, middle school social studies, middle school math, and 2 exceptional children’s positions. If the Special Programs director was not filled by the start of school, a contingency plan did exist and would be implemented so the school remained totally compliant.

V. ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: Mr. Moody moved to adjourn the meeting, and that motion was seconded by Ms. Robertson. The motion passed unanimously.

With the business of the meeting complete and a proper vote to close the meeting, the board meeting adjourned at 539pm. The next, regularly-scheduled meeting is tentatively set for the first Monday of July – July 6, 2015.