



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.

May 02, 2016, Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present		Board Members Absent	Others in Attendance
Steve Moody	Sara Struhs	Sarah Waltman	Chris Withrow, Executive Director
Brenda Robertson	Cathy Zambrano		Joel Medley, Head of School
Dr. Diana Freeman			John Kramer, K12
			Karen Ghidotti

I. CALL TO ORDER

Steve Moody called the meeting to order at 5:04 pm. Before conducting business, a roll call was taken by the Executive Director to ensure that a quorum of the board existed.

ACTION: Cathy Zambrano made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented, and it was seconded by Diana Freeman. The motion passed unanimously and the agenda was adopted.

ACTION: Brenda Robertson moved to approve the minutes, and that motion was seconded by Cathy Zambrano. The motion passed unanimously.

Before moving through the meeting's agenda items, the board's mission was read to help drive the actions and deliberations.

II. COMMUNICATIONS:

No requests for a public comment were received.

III. CONSENT ITEM:

No items were presented.

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- a. Head of School Update – several topics were covered during this monthly presentation. The board was apprised of upcoming events that they could attend if they wished. Also, the social events during the month of April were described including the largest outing of the year at the Asheboro Zoo. The plans for Teacher Appreciation Week were presented as a reminder and to thank the board for their support of the teachers.
- b. Enrollment Update – The Head of School focused on the lottery that was conducted the week before. Nearly 1900 applications were submitted for the 300 vacant seats and every grade level had a lottery. The 9th grade lottery was only to determine a wait list because of the numbers of 8th graders that are returning to the school. For purposes of comparison, last year was discussed where the application numbers barely eclipsed 1800 (for 1500 seats) and five grade levels did not need to have a lottery. About 50 families observed the lottery online and 4 families attended face to face. All families were notified of their position – whether accepted or wait listed – and have 10 days to create their Parent Portal account to hold on to their position.
- c. Employment Agreement Revisions – The Head of School offered the board a timeline of teacher recommendations coming in June. Prior to those recommendations, the board needed to approve the Employment Agreement. The changes include: (1) modifying the date for next school year, (2) including language with the newly-adopted PTO for teachers, (3) identifying testing as an integral part of the job, and (4) placing the school on the State’s fiscal year.
- d. Human Resources Change Memo – The Head of School shared the purpose of this document, which is to save time. If a teacher received a stipend or moves from part time to full time employment, then this form would be utilized to document the change – rather than having to do a complete rewrite of the Employee Agreement.
- e. Human Resources Medical Work Release – The Head of School shared the purpose of this document, which is a simple form for HR. As teachers may return from a medical leave, this information would go into their file so the school would know what, if any, return to work restrictions exist.

- f. Sara Struhs informed the board of the items Academic Committee discussed during the May meeting. She highlighted that our school will be conducting the state required EOC/EOG tests May 31 through June 10. The staff completed interim benchmark testing ahead of the standardized tests. Some of the data is encouraging however, it was also noted there is room for improvement.
- g. Cathy Zambrano provided an update regarding the credit cards for NC Learns, Inc., our final allotment from NCDPI has been received, and the committee will conduct a work session, Saturday 05/07/2016 to prepare the 2016/2017 budget. Further, the committee is recommending approval of the February, March, and Misc. Invoices.
- h. Legislative Update - Jason Deans and Harry Kaplan

Mr. Deans noted the HB2 legislation was consuming much of the discussion with the members of the General Assembly.

Mr. Kaplan commented our team was keeping an eye on some bills that could affect public schools. One of the bills being reviewed would address low-performing school districts in NC, including possibly moving school districts which perform academically in the bottom 5% under private management contracts.

Another bill may address fair funding for charter schools. On average charter, schools receive approximately 73% of the funding that traditional schools receive. A bill is being considered which may help elevate funds for charters to provide equity.

There is a discussion among the members of the General Assembly to expand Opportunity Scholarships.

Finally, Mr. Kaplan informed the board there was some discussion of modifying the testing requirements for the two virtual pilot schools. The modifications would allow multiple grades to be tested at the remote test sites and allow the schools to contract assistance with administering the tests. Further, to move the dropout rate cap from 25% to 35%.

V. ACTION ITEMS:

- Employment Agreement Revisions, Human Resources Change Memo, and Human Resources Medical Work Release.

ACTION: Diana Freeman moved to approve the Human Resource Documents; the motion was seconded by Brenda Robertson. The motion passed unanimously.

- Finance Committee – Approval of February, March and Misc. Invoices

ACTION: Cathy Zambrano moved to approve the invoices; the motion was seconded by Sara Struhs. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. CHAIRPERSON COMMENTS

Dr. Moody expressed the appreciation of the board for the contributions the NCVA staff has made in educating our students this year. The board is thankful for our employees.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting Diana Freeman and properly seconded by Cathy Zambrano. The motion passed unanimously. With the completion of all agenda items and no new business items, the meeting was adjourned.