

Meeting Minutes  
May 4, 2024

Attendees:

Brenda Robertson – Chair  
Mark Fleming – Secretary  
Steven Peters – Treasurer  
Natalie Wright – Board member  
Chris Farrell – Board member  
Katie Gomersall – HOS  
Tasha Parnell – HS Administrator  
Kristy Rodriguez – MS Administrator  
Kelly Shanahan – Elementary Administrator  
Laura Zuber – Stride Administrator  
Hannah Forbes – Stride Administrator  
Scott Sides – Stride - VP  
Chad Long – Stride Finance  
Sara Struhs – Executive Director

Sara informed the Chair that a quorum was present. Brenda called the meeting to order.

Brenda asked for a motion to adopt the agenda and accept the minutes from the previous meeting. Steve made a motion. Natalie seconded the motion. Brenda called the vote: it was unanimous.

Brenda read the mission statement.

Brenda read the consent items and asked for a motion. Mark made the motion to approve the consent items. Steve seconded it. Brenda called the vote: it was unanimous.

Brenda asked Katie to give the HOS update. Katie said that employee hires are underway. The school is hiring 55 new employees, and this will be a lengthy process. To date, they have made 20 offers and 3 have accepted; 15 are outstanding and she expects they will respond in the coming week.

Katie met with the PR firm, McKinnon, who has been hired by Stride to meet the requests of the board to improve local communications about our school. She was very pleased with the meeting stating they will be looking at our website for improvements; will be increasing pieces highlighting our teachers and students both locally and across the state and looking to promote NCVA in general discussing our school programs, etc.

Katie asked Laura Zuber to discuss the lottery and current enrollment. Laura said the lottery went smoothly and Stride is not working through the necessary paperwork to enroll the students. This is a lengthy process. We had 2626 students returning with 137 undecideds. There have been 284 students from the lottery approved so far and 680 still being processed. Open enrollment will begin on Monday, and this will fill the openings and create the waitlist depending on openings in each grade level. We are on track to having a full school at 3800 students plus a waiting list.

Katie finished by sharing some of the positive stories coming out of NCVA.

Brenda asked Chad to present the monthly bill and an overview of the budget. Chad gave an overview of the proposed budget and the bill.

Brenda asked Sara for an Executive Director Update. Sara explained to the board that the new computers are being ordered thanks to help from Chad in negotiating the price. The entire NCVA staff will receive the new computers and, if needed, new additional monitors by the beginning of July. The cost was increased when the board agreed to make some additional upgrades. The total cost will be \$480,000.00.

Sara reminded the board that Kindergarten graduation will be in Raleigh on May 17<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 and 1:30. She also reminded them that the MS and HS proms will be held on June 12<sup>th</sup> and the HS graduation will be held the following day on June 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am. Everyone is welcome.

Sara asked the board to discuss increasing the amount of scholarships being given to graduating seniors. After much discussion they decided to increase the scholarships for students attending a four-year college or university from 2 recipients to 3 recipients and the amount was increased from \$2000.00 to \$3,000.00. The scholarships for students attending a two-year college was increased from 2 recipients to 4 recipients at \$2000.00 for each scholarship.

The board agreed that OCS students would receive a \$1000.00 scholarship if they are enrolled in a post-graduation certification or degree program. And the board requested that all graduating students who have enlisted in the military be formally recognized at graduation with a letter of appreciation for their service to our county and asked, if possible, for representatives of the branch of service in which they were enlisted be present at graduation to present the letter.

Sara ended her report by reminding the board that the NC Charter School Association's conference is being held in Charlotte this year in July.

Brenda then asked for the board to vote on the monthly bill, the increase in money for the computer upgrades, and the scholarship increases. Chris made the motion. Mark seconded it. Brenda called for the vote: it was unanimous.

Brenda then asked for a motion to adjourn. Mark made the motion and Chris seconded it. Brenda called for the vote: it was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned.