

## MEETING MINUTES

Board meeting

September 10, 2024

5-6pm

### ATTENDEES:

Brenda Robertson – Chair  
Walter Martin – Vice Chair  
Mark Fleming – Secretary  
Steven Peters – Treasurer  
Chris Farrell – Board Member  
Natalie Wright – Board Member  
Steve Moody – Board Member  
Chad Long – K12 finance  
Eric Agney – K12 finance  
Joseph Cugliari – NCVA finance  
Jonathan Lonzano – NCVA HR  
Katie Gomersal – Head of School  
Tasha Parnell – HS Administrator  
Stacey Bryant – EC Administrator

Sara called the quorum. Brenda asked to adopt the agenda and meeting minutes. Walter made the motion; Steve M seconded it. Brenda called for the vote: it was unanimous.

Brenda read the Mission Statement

Brenda asked if there were any public comments to be made. Hearing none, she asked for a vote on the consent items.

Sara explained there was one teacher to be confirmed, but also asked for the board to approve adding 4 more EC teachers and 4 Counselors.

She let them know we have increased our number of EC students and need to comply with state requirements. Stacey explained we have 423 students currently and she anticipates adding 73 more once all the MTSS

students are included. She explained the ratios should be 10-12 per teacher and we are currently at 17 students per teacher.

Katie made the case we also need 4 more counselors given the size and demand on our current counselors. Currently we have 1500 students to 1 counselor. Adding 4 more will give the HS two additional counselors as well as one for ES and one for MS.

Chris asked about the number of EC students and if we are above average compared to other schools. Stacey said we are about on par with other schools running at 12% of our student population needing EC services.

Brenda asked Katie to give the Head of School update.

Katie said the school hosted its first virtual job shadowing event with a dentist on 8/30. It was very successful and well attended and they hope to do more of them in the coming year.

Katie said the Beginning of Grade (BOG) testing for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders was conducted. We met the 95% state required testing attendance. There were 252 students tested and 51% were proficient now. BOG test is testing what students should know by the end of the year. Slightly over half of the tested students were proficient now.

Katie explained the school was notified by the state that we may now post open positions on the state job site. Currently, K12 does all the marketing/posting for open positions. This gives us one more option.

Katie shared the good news that NCVA has been approved by the NCAA as a able to have our students post directly into their clearinghouse and make the process of being looked at by colleges easier for the students and the colleges. This was a long process, and we are happy to offer this service to our students. It will be posted on our website.

Next week Katie will meet with parents to discuss Title 1 and the Parent Bill of Rights.

The Credit Recovery Department has now enrolled 85 students of which 30% are SPED, 504, military, MacKinney Vento. The most requested class

is Math. Katie will be hosting a parents' night to explain the Credit Recovery process and how it differs from a typical class.

Evan Wilkinson did not win a medal at the Special Olympics but has been listed as one of the top ten swimmers from the US. It was a huge accomplishment and we are all so pleased and proud of Evan.

Katie said enrollment for HS is now closed and will remain closed until the end of the year. Brenda asked if it would be opened for the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester and Katie said they will look at the enrollment in January, but most likely it will remain closed.

Mark asked Katie to talk about the school grade that was announced this past week. Katie explained there were some errors in the reporting, and they are working with DPI to have them corrected, however, she does not believe it will be enough to move us much higher. We will know closer to the end of November what difference those corrections will make. She shared she was disappointed because she does not feel the school grade reflects what is happening at NCVA and knows it is an important for the status of the school. She submitted 38 corrections with evidence as required by DPI and we are hopeful it will move us somewhat higher.

Chris asked Katie what the Governance Committee should be doing to help improve our performance. He suggested we move more quickly with administrative withdrawals, and she agreed. Katie said with the new Attendance Coordinator we are doing much better making sure students are attending or finding an education solution that is a better fit for them. Katie also said that they are doing a regression analysis of all the metrics and hopes to have that for the Academic meeting in Nov.

Brenda asked if there were any more questions for Katie. There were none and so she asked Chad to give an update on the finances and present the monthly bill.

Chad gave an update on NCVA's financial outlook. There have been no major changes in funding yet; however, the state is still wrestling with funding for the new growth in schools this year. They have changed to funding in arrears which means our initial funding is based on last year's ADM and any growth will be covered after the start of the new year. The legislature did not fund the growth portion yet and while we are all

expecting the funding to be made toward the end of this year, there is nothing set definitely. Our growth this year will entitle us to an additional \$3m at the moment. We are watching the legislature and hoping they will vote the \$93+ million needed statewide. Chad did say it is good that we have the surplus we have to ensure we will be able to pay our bills until the funding comes through.

Brenda asked Chad to keep us updated each month – to track where we are with collecting from the LEAs as well. Chad explained the money we are waiting on is state money, but he will also let us know how we are doing with the LEA funding also.

Chad asked if we could front end the money and Chad said no

Mark asked if the \$93m from the legislature will be enough to make all the schools whole and Chad said he did not know.

Chad then presented the monthly bill. He explained that August and September are high months because of all the student and teacher on-boarding and start of the year costs, but that we will see those numbers drop to approximately \$1m per month come October/November.

Brenda asked Sara for an update.

Sara reminded the board members of upcoming dates: November 5/6 is the Academic meeting in Durham. Cande will be facilitating that meeting for us. And our Board workshop will be at the Proximity in Greensboro February 14-16.

Sara said the CD's are continuing to rollover as we planned and we now have approximately \$75k in our money market account. The interest rates have come down somewhat, but we are still doing well.

Sara mentioned the October Summit by K12 in Reston, VA. Right now, it appears that it is completely booked, but if anyone really wants to go, they should reach out soon and let me know. Mark, Steve M and Sara will be attending 10/24 and 25.

Brenda thanked Sara and moved on the action items.

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

Brenda asked for a motion to approve the strategic plan. Chris made the motion; Walter seconded it. Brenda called for the vote: it was unanimous.

Chris asked that we establish a place for all the records to be kept so all board members may access them. He offered to work with Sara to set this up.

Brenda asked for a motion to approved the new teacher. Steve P. made the motion; Mark seconded it. Brenda called for the vote: it was unanimous.

Brenda asked for a motion to allow 8 new staff positions be added to the budget. Chris made the motion to approve increasing the teaching staff to include 4 more EC teachers and 4 more counselors so Katie may begin looking for them to hire. Steve M. seconded the motion. Brenda called for the vote: it was unanimous.

Brenda let the board know that she will not be in the country for the October meeting and Walter will be leading the meeting.

She asked for a motion to adjourn. Mark made the motion and Walter seconded it. Brenda called for the vote: it was unanimous.