PRESENT: EXCUSED:

Mr. Buddy Boe Ms. Celeste Marshall

Mr. Troy J. Broussard Ms. Raquel Richmond

Ms. Anne Candies Ms. Beth Scioneaux

Mr. Silas Cooper

Ms. Catherine Morrell

Councilmember Nadine Ramsey

Mr. Christian Rhodes

Ms. Madalyn Schenk

Mr. Gary Solomon

Ms. Sarah Usdin

EX-OFFICIO:

Mr. Kyle Wedberg

COUNSEL:

Mr. Mark Beebe

CALL TO ORDER

Board President, Ms. Madalyn Schenk, called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The roll was taken. There were ten of thirteen members present. Quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Buddy Boe moved to approve the minutes of the August 22, 2017 meeting. Mr. Gary Solomon seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

STUDENT PERFORMANCE

The Culinary Arts Department presented food items that were for sale in their Holiday Marketplace. Eliana Casas, Level IV Culinary Arts Academic Studio student, Reagan Williams, Level IV Culinary Arts Academic Studio student, and Daniel St. Etienne, Level IV Culinary Arts Brother Martin student, explained that the marketplace provided them a venue to sell the creative items they have prepared. They described their process of testing recipes, new spices, and new techniques. This year’s items were Cranberry Trio (Cranberry Preserves, Cranberry Curd, and Cranberry Pepper Jelly), Rum & Cola Fruitcake, Bacon Onion Jam, Coffee & Beignet Biscotti, and Bywater Bark. All of these items were available online through the The NOCCA Institute website and were available for pick-up or shipping. Proceeds from the sales folded back into the Culinary Arts Department. The Board members were invited to sample the marketplace items. The Board members thanked the Culinary Arts students and Chef Dana Tuohy, Culinary Arts Department Chair, for sharing.

BOARD PRESIDENT UPDATE

Ms. Schenk acknowledged that both Ms. Raquel Richmond and Ms. Sarah Usdin lost parents recently and Ms. Lotte Delaney, NOCCA Chief Financial Officer, recently lost her husband. Condolences were expressed for the loss of these family members.

Ms. Schenk reported that First Lady Donna Edwards was on campus for a roundtable lunch with students and a tour. This was her first time to visit the NOCCA campus and, as an arts education advocate, was very happy with the depth of the work and professionalism she observed.

Mr. Mark Beebe expressed that he had been in trial representing a group of interveners in the Type 2 Charter Challenge, which was the challenge of the constitutionality of funding for Type 2 Charter Schools by the Iberville School Board and the teacher’s unions. Mr. Beebe had been previously involved in litigation in 2015 and had won a decision that said it was constitutional to fund Type 2 Charters. This was significant to NOCCA because Type 2’s are designated public schools as well as parish and city schools, just as NOCCA is in the enabling legislation. Mr. Beebe was optimistic that the State Supreme Court would decide that it was constitutional to fund Type 2 Charters, protecting the MFP funding for NOCCA and similar schools.

Ms. Anne Candies, Head of the Personnel Committee, reported that the Personnel Committee met on August 25, 2017 to discuss the NOCCA Staff/Faculty evaluation of the President/CEO, Mr. Kyle Wedberg. The Committee met again on September 22, 2017 to discuss the NOCCA Board of Directors’ evaluation. At the September meeting, the Committee voted to give Mr. Wedberg the previously discussed salary increase. A summary of the results of both of the above evaluations was provided to the Board. The Committee prepared an Evaluation Schedule for 2017-18:

 April 9-Annual Survey opened to NOCCA Faculty/Staff

 April 10-Annual Survey opened to NOCCA Board of Directors

 April 20-Annual Survey closed to NOCCA Faculty/Staff and NOCCA Board of Directors

May 14-(tentative) meeting of the Personnel Committee to review Data from NOCCA Faculty/Staff Annual Survey and NOCCA Board of Directors Annual Survey

June 12-Personnel Committee report to the full Board with results and recommendations

Ms. Schenk and Mr. Wedberg invited the Board to sign-up for the yearly 1:1 Meetings between Mr. Wedberg, each member of the Board, and either Ms. Schenk or Mr. Troy Broussard.

2018-19 BUDGET SUBMISSION

Mr. Wedberg began by expressing gratitude to Ruth Prudhomme at LSMSA for the assistance in drafting the budget in Ms. Lotte Delaney’s absence due to the passing of her husband. Also thanked was the Division of Administration, which offered to provide support by assisting in identifying any areas of need on the budget forms submitted.

Mr. Wedberg explained that the budget document not only shows the budget request for $8.7 million dollars for 2018-19, but it also shows the trend over the last six years. The budget shows requested, approved, and actual. When the actual is less than the approved, the mid-year cuts depleted the previously approved funds.

Mr. Wedberg explained that in preparation for the creation of this budget each department was asked to submit prioritized requests. Campus wide needs were listed as well. In the resulting $8.7 million dollar request, each department was given its number one request, and campus wide initiatives such as raises, vehicles, and deferred maintenance were included.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Mr. Wedberg thanked the Board and the Strategic Plan core team for the work that went into creating the Strategic Plan.

Ms. Jennie Guidry outlined the final Strategic Plan currently offered for Board approval.

Vision Statement: We believe in the transformation power of the arts. We aspire to create an educational community that nurtures and challenges young people to become more curious kind, empathetic, engaged, and willing to grapple with complex problems in order to create a just, sustainable, and joyful world.

Ms. Guidry stated that the vision statement was created to answer the “Why are we here?” question. Mr. Silas Cooper commented that the team was one of the most productive, collaborative teams he has been a member of since coming to NOCCA.

Mission Statement: NOCCA’s mission is to provide a world-class, pre-professional arts education for every young person in Louisiana with curiosity, creativity, talent and motivation to pursue a life in the arts as they realize the best possible versions of themselves and their futures.

The Mission Statement answers the question, “What do we do?” Ms. Phyllis Treigle, NOCCA Faculty member, commented that the team was kind and collaborative in the creation of these statements. Ms. Nikki Jackson, NOCCA Faculty member, stated that the team was thorough in its consideration of the difference between the vision and mission statements.

NOCCA Community Values: The Arts, Community, Creativity, Curiosity, Discipline, Diversity, Equity, Integrity

There was discussion about whether or not NOCCA and The NOCCA Institute needed to be together to vote on the Strategic Plan. Ms. Schenk stated that the NOCCA Board was being asked to take action at this meeting and if there was a proposal for change after meeting with The NOCCA Institute, it would be brought before the Board for consideration.

The Strategic Direction 2017-2027: Access NOCCA had three components: addressing barriers to local access, professional development across the state, and developing satellite programs.

There are current Foundational Recommendation Committees focusing on Protocol, Entry/Exit, Optimizing Operations, Student Support, and Equity, as well as some other areas. Mr. Wedberg stated that over half the campus is on one of these committees. Ms. Guidy stated that presentations to the Board on these recommendations would be made in the Spring. Ms. Anne Candies asked if the Board could receive a progress report in January rather than waiting until the Spring. Ms. Guidry agreed that was possible. Ms. Schenk also offered that Board 1:1s would be a good time to discuss particular areas of interest.

Mr. Boe asked why the word “grapple” was chosen in the vision rather than something more positive. Ms. Jackson answered that in this complex world, problems are not solved with quick easy answers. Mr. Cooper suggested that there is value in helping students become comfortable with approaching complexities of life. Mr. Richard Collins stated that art is always in the context of history, science, and culture.

Mr. Gary Solomon asked about the choice of the word “pre-professional”. Ms. Guidry stated that there was a desire to work with students who want to pursue art as part of their lives.

Ms. Schenk thanked the team for all the hard work.

Mr. Boe moved to approve the Strategic Plan framework. It was also stated that the specifics of plan will evolve over time and that was expected and supported. Ms. Candies seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

NOCCA INSTITUTE UPDATE

Ms. Sally Perry, The NOCCA Institute Executive Director, explained that Chevron gave a significant grant in the amount of $275,000 which will be used for student support, professional development, summer transition program, Social Work, teacher exchanges, and other broad level support. The NOCCA Institute Newsletter will be released soon. Ms. Perry invited the Board to become one of the “Friends of NOCCA” by offering financial support. Tickets for The NOCCA Institute’s fundraiser Home for the Holidays are available now. Ms. Perry discussed preparations for the GALA and stated there are two new staff members, John Robertson and Sarah Stickney Murphy.

Ms. Perry stated that The NOCCA Institute has awarded 174 assistance awards totaling $108,000 out of the total budgeted, $133,000-$135,000. The NOCCA Institute is offering Tuesday night adult classes such as tap and creative writing. The Strategic Plan was fully funded by Chevron.

CEO REPORT

Mr. Wedberg stated he would like to postpone the reporting of October 1 numbers and ESSA until next meeting.

Mr. Wedberg announced that all three students who had been placed on the Alternative Credit Track completed the requirements for graduation.

Dr. Kit Nelson explained changes in process based on the experience of the Alternative Credit Track. Three areas were targeted for change: Classrooms, Faculty, and Administration.

Classroom: Information is gathered to understand what the students are coming in with. Assessments are administered to identify skill level and final report cards are collected. Meetings regarding RTI (Response to Intervention) will be held weekly rather than monthly. College readiness across all four years addressed with ACT Prep courses, talking with students about goals and strategies at Mentor meetings and Grade Level Meetings.

Faculty: Time is spent re-evaluating content of courses, discussing college readiness, and addressing social/organizational skills of students.

Administration: The Student Support Team is addressing tardiness, absences, and problem areas.

Dr. Richard Collins, Director of Student Advancement and College Readiness, explained some findings of the Chevron-supported Alumni Survey, which the Board will see more of at the January meeting. Math and Sciences data revealed students were not ready for testing. Some students felt less prepared for social situations.

Dr. Collins also shared regarding the Foundational Recommendation Committees. The Protocol Committee is discussing consistent rules and consequences across campus. The Student Supports Committee is discussing Special Education and Social Work. The Entry/Exit Committee is systematizing the Growth Plans, considering earlier interventions, clearer expectations, and different kinds of Growth Plans.

Mr. Wedberg updated the Board on his work toward his Annual Goals. Toward being more present on statewide boards, Mr. Wedberg has been named to the State’s Arts Council and to the Volunteer Louisiana Board. He has also been letting some local commitments go to focus more at the state level. Toward faculty supports, over half of the faculty is currently involved in one of the Foundational Recommendation Committees and Letters of Commitments for the 2018-19 school year will be offered to faculty in January instead of March in the interest of working towards “earlier is better” for notifications.

All other matters remaining unaddressed will be pushed to January.

OTHER

Ms. Schenk reported that First Lady Donna Edwards was very pleased with Mr. Wedberg’s work on the ESSA Definition. Mr. Wedberg commented that other states are now looking to Louisiana’s ESSA Definition as a model and progressive example.

Mr. Boe thanked Ms. Candies for her work on the Personnel Committee and expressed his satisfaction with the new plans put in place.

ADJOURN

Mr. Boe moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Candies seconded the motion. All were in favor. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

Submitted by: Reviewed by: Attest:

Leigh Traylor Kyle Wedberg Madalyn Schenk

Recording Secretary Secretary to the Board President of the Board

Date Approved:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_