PRESENT: EXCUSED:

Mr. Buddy Boe Rep. Candace Newell

Ms. Leslie Bouie

Ms. Anne Candies

Mr. James Carter

Dr. Rachel T. Davis-Haley

Ms. Janice R. Manuel

Ms. Judy Reese Morse

Mr. Christian Rhodes

Ms. Beth Scioneaux

Mr. Gary Solomon

Mr. Jefferson Turner

Ms. Sarah Usdin

EX-OFFICIO:

Mr. Kyle Wedberg

COUNSEL:

Mr. Mark Beebe

Ms. Stefini Salles

CALL TO ORDER

Board President, Mr. Buddy Boe, called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

STUDENT PRESENTATION

The Theatre Design Department consisting of Dan Zimmer, Chair; Philip Wingerter; and Chris Arthur shared regarding their department’s adaptation to all virtual instruction. Although challenging, they felt things were going great as evidenced by their very engaged students. Interestingly, they have discussed adding more digital presentation into their curriculum for years and now have had the need and opportunity to commit themselves to learning how to do so. Mainly project-based activities have resulted in set design models, hand sewing with live demos, and paper projects which are uploaded into a program designed for costume design. In the place of learning hands-on carpentry in a wood shop for set design, art kits were sent home for model-making and painting instruction. Students have also focused on developing digital portfolios and resumes. Although many of the new curriculum ideas will be kept in the curriculum, the teachers admitted that they can’t wait to get back into school because “nothing replaces live theatre”.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Boe welcomed public comment regarding the Board Meeting minutes of October 13, 2020. There was none. Ms. Sarah Usdin moved to approve the minutes of the NOCCA Board Meeting of October 13, 2020. Ms. Janice Manuel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was completed. All were in favor. Motion carried.

TRANSPORTATION AND RECRUITMENT STUDY FROM SQUARE BUTTON

Mr. Charles West and Ms. Gabrielle Burns of Square Button Consulting presented the results of their recent transportation and recruitment study for NOCCA. With the goal of adding 100 more students in mind, they felt NOCCA already had what it needed in the facility, funding, etc. The only thing missing was the students. Transportation was identified as one impediment to that goal.

Square Button felt there was an obvious commitment by NOCCA to provide equitable access. Square Button studied the race of students who applied, were accepted, and chose to enroll and learned that African American or Black students were represented at NOCCA in greater percentages than their representation in the general population. Hispanic students were just a bit below their representation in the general population. Square Button concluded that NOCCA’s access was equitable.

The study moved to the potential of adding students from currently served-partner schools; schools that at once provided more students than they are currently sending. Sixteen schools were identified for recruitment efforts/transportation offerings. Within a five-mile radius, four schools were identified that had the potential to add 100 students to the NOCCA student body. Nine additional schools within a five-mile radius were identified as having the potential to add an additional 67 students. Outside of the five-mile radius, three schools were identified as having potential to add an additional 63 students. In total, this was about 250 potential students from the sixteen schools; a number that once attended NOCCA from these schools but are no longer represented in enrollment.

The cost of transporting students was studied. Contract buses and public transportation were considered the most cost-effective. To provide contract buses to transport about 242 students from the sixteen identified schools would require six routes per day at an annual cost of $357,000, approximately $1400 per student. Shuttle services were also priced and were found to be extremely more expensive than the contract buses.

Square Button recommended NOCCA first focus on adding 100 students from the four schools identified within the five-mile radius which would require three bus routes for a total of $178,000 annually. The cost to add the remaining of the sixteen schools and potential students was shared and conversation followed.

BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Mr. Boe shared that a Board Meeting was being added on January 7, 2021.

Mr. Boe asked the Board to nominate Mr. Troy J. Broussard as the NOCCA representative on The NOCCA Institute (TNI) Board of Directors. A motion was made by Ms. Usdin and seconded by Ms. Leslie Bouie. A roll call vote was held. Eleven were in favor. Dr. Rachel Davis-Haley abstained. Motion passed.

COVID-19 FOR 2020-21

Mr. Kyle Wedberg discussed the move to a Hybrid model of instruction for the second semester. Because of the recent uptick in COVID-19 cases, there was a need to meet again on January 7 to assess the status of the virus and the state recommendations relative to the virus. Mr. Wedberg shared the plan to move two of the scheduled Hybrid weeks in January to Virtual Only in order to give the staff and faculty two weeks after the January 7 meeting to prepare according to any changes made. The scheduled Hybrid A/B start date would be January 25, 2021.

Mr. Wedberg let the Board know that a decision had been made to award full credit to students who choose to remain totally virtual during the second semester and who successfully complete the required work.

Mr. Wedberg acknowledged the need to remain informed about decisions made by Orleans Parish Schools, the State Department of Education, and all partner schools.

STUDENT SERVICES/NOCCA PROGRAMMING

Mr. Blake Coheley, Director of Admissions, gave an update on the audition process for 2021-22. Virtual Town Halls were held by all departments with good attendance. Virtual Audition Information Sessions will be held as well.

Mr. Coheley shared that the October 1 numbers are up from last year.

There was previously a request to revisit the question of 2021 summer programming. Mr. Wedberg shared that he felt strongly that the faculty needed a break this summer rather than being asked to plan for a summer program. The plan is still in place to prepare for virtual statewide 2022 summer programming.

FINANCE

Ms. Lotte Delaney, NOCCA CFO, shared that NOCCA’s use of the current budget is right on track with 42% spent at 42% of the way through the year.

THE NOCCA INSTITUTE REPORT

The TNI report was provided to the Board prior to the Board Meeting. Mr. Boe acknowledged TNI’s support of the Transportation and Recruitment Study by Square Button with a grant from Chevron.

NOCCA PRESIDENT/CEO REPORT

Mr. Wedberg shared that on November 10 he tested positive for COVID-19 and has since recovered. Mr. Wedberg thanked the Administrative Leadership Team and the faculty for the seamless continuity of services in his absence.

Mr. Wedberg asked the Board to approve December 18 as an instructional day rather than an Inservice Day to make up for days out for hurricanes. Ms. Anne Candies made a motion to revise the calendar to make December 18 an instructional day. Mr. Gary Solomon seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. All were in favor. Motion passed.

REMARKS/OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Boe asked for remarks/other business from the Board. There was none.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Boe asked for public comment. Ms. Elizabeth Davis, NOCCA parent, shared that the virtual environment is not working well for her student. She stated that the virtual environment for her student was primarily asynchronous and that her student wasn’t receiving the type of instruction needed to succeed. She expressed concern that her student no longer wanted to go to school. Mr. Boe thanked Ms. Davis for sharing and asked Mr. Wedberg and Dr. Kit Nelson, Director of Academic Studio, to be available to Ms. Davis for further discussion and problem-solving.

Ms. Bouie made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Usdin seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Submitted by: Reviewed by: Attest:

Leigh Traylor Kyle Wedberg Buddy Boe

Recording Secretary Secretary to the Board President of the Board

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