PRESENT: EXCUSED:

Mr. Buddy Boe Ms. Leslie Bouie

Ms. Anne Candies Mr. James Carter

Dr. Rachel T. Davis-Haley Mr. Wood Delahoussaye

Ms. Janice R. Manuel Ms. Judy Reese Morse

Ms. Beth Scioneaux Mr. Christian Rhodes

Mr. Gary Solomon

Mr. Jefferson Turner

Mr. Carlos Zervigon

EX-OFFICIO:

Mr. Silas Cooper

COUNSEL:

Mr. Mark Beebe

CALL TO ORDER

Board President, Mr. Buddy Boe, called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

NOCCA STAFF PRESENTATION

Ms. Lara Naughton, NOCCA College Counselor, reported on the Posse Foundation Awards. Posse Foundation is a national organization that awards full tuition scholarships to students who show extraordinary leadership potential. Most of the students selected come from low income households and many are first generation to college. Posse New Orleans partners with Tulane, Notre Dame-Indiana, Villanova-Pennsylvania, Case Western-Ohio, and Illinois Wesleyan. Each college awards ten scholarships. Those ten students become a posse of mutual support before, during and after their college experience. Posse provides mentor and training during each of these periods as well. NOCCA had six Posse winners this year: Oscar Foster, Culinary Arts, will attend Tulane; Camron Irvin, Visual Arts will attend Illinois Wesleyan; Zariah Duncan, Musical Theatre, will attend Illinois Wesleyan; Jordan Colin, Jazz Instrumental will attend Illinois Wesleyan; Semaj Young, Drama, will attend Illinois Wesleyan; and Makana Ford, Dance, will attend Villanova.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Carlos Zervigon moved to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2022 NOCCA Board Meeting. Ms. Rachel Davis-Haley seconded the motion. A roll call vote was completed. All were in favor. Motion carried.

NOCCA BOARD CHAIR

Mr. Buddy Boe asked the Board to authorize him to create a special committee to search for the new President/CEO. Ms. Anne Candies motioned to authorize Mr. Boe to create a President/CEO search committee. Mr. Zervigon seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted. All were in favor. Motion passed.

NOCCA ARTS AND ACADEMICS

Mr. Cooper announced that as of Monday, March 21, 2022 in alignment with Centers for Disease Control recommendations, NOCCA intends to move to a mask-optional campus with no restriction on size of assembly.

Dr. Kit Nelson, Director of Academic Studio, asked for a motion to amend the provided update to the Student and Parent Handbook regarding credit recovery. Specifically, the sentence “If a student receives an ‘F’ or no credit for more than 3 credits, they will not be invited to return to Academic Studio” will be amended to read “If a student receives an ‘F’ or no credit for more than 2.5 credits, they will not be invited to return to Academic Studio.” Mr. Jefferson Turner motioned to approve the amendment to the provided update regarding credit recovery. Ms. Candies seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Other updates describe what grades show on the student’s transcript, describe summer credit recovery specifics, and outline that 12th grade students may be withheld from arts classes or may attend summer courses to complete credit recovery.

Mr. Turner motioned to approve the amended update to the Student and Parent Handbook regarding Credit Recovery. Mr. Gary Solomon seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Ms. Kesha Mckey, Director of Arts, spoke of NOCCA’s Performance Season. The new mask-optional policy will allow for in-person performances for the first time in a long while. Next week, Musical Theatre will perform the musical *Pippin* for the entire student body in three separate performances. There will also be a nighttime performance for families and VIP guests. Other upcoming in-person performances for students and families were shared with the board.

Mr. Cooper reiterated the importance of the students in all eleven disciplines experiencing and respecting each other’s artistic growth.

NOCCA STUDENT SERVICES

Mr. Blake Coheley, NOCCA Director of Admissions and Student Services, shared the audition results for the 2022-23 school year. Of the total of 497 applications, 380 were submitted and 336 auditioned. There were 204 student accepted. Eighty students are eligible for the Academic Studio 9th grade lottery and sixty-six will be placed. The lottery will be recorded on March 30, 2022 with a legislative auditor present and then linked on the website for the public. The Academic Studio Graduation will be Friday, May 13, 2022 and the Celebration Ceremony will be split into two groups but both on Monday, May 16, 2022. The application for the virtual statewide summer program is live.

FINANCE AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Ms. Lotte Delaney, NOCCA CFO, reported that the summer program was going to be funded by federal ESSER funds. NOCCA’s first budget hearing would be Monday, March 28, 2022 before the House Appropriations Committee. In support of the budget hearing process, Mr. Solomon asked if the Board could provide introductions to statewide legislative contacts. NOCCA will provide a list of legislators to the Board for confirming contacts for introductions. Regarding Hurricane Ida FEMA and insurance status, Ms. Delaney reported that wind-driven rain damage is not covered by the state’s insurance, which describes most of the damage to the E building and F building. Those two buildings combined have over $100,000 in damage. Most of the damage to buildings A, B, C, and D will be covered by insurance, but there are complications to the potential timing of this construction due to the current roofing project. The FEMA claims are behind the insurance claims.

NOCCA FOUNDATION

Ms. Sally Perry, NOCCA Foundation Executive Director, highlighted the continued, successful collaboration with Mr. Cooper, illustrated by the mutual representation on the search committee for the open Foundation Director of Alumni Affairs position. All of the core programs that the Foundation supports are fully funded, allowing for building up reserves for the next fiscal year. The Foundation sold a record number of 3700 King Cakes for a total gross of $106,000. For the Art & Soul Gala raffle, Ms. Perry was happy to report that a Lincoln Corsair was donated. The Gala will be held on Saturday, May 14, 2022.

NOCCA INTERIM PRESIDENT/CEO REPORT

Mr. Cooper reported on the commitment to complete the Beloved Communities Equity Cohort Audit which the Foundation is writing a grant to support. In addition, the NOCCA Equity Committee and the Foundation Equity Committee recently had a joint meeting in which both groups felt inspired for the continued work ahead. Mr. Cooper shared how beneficial it was getting to know the individual board members in the scheduled 1:1 meetings and invited those that had not met with him yet to reach out to schedule one. In closing, Mr. Cooper expressed how much he was enjoying his role as President/CEO and that he found the skills required were similar to those he utilizes in his art: staying focused, maintaining stability and calm, staying in the moment, and not losing track of the overall objective.

REMARKS/OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Boe asked for any closing remarks/other business. There were none.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Boe asked for public comment. There was none.

ADJOURN

Mr. Solomon made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Zervigon seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

Submitted by: Reviewed by: Attest:

Leigh Traylor Silas Cooper Buddy Boe

Recording Secretary Secretary to the Board President of the Board

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