PRESENT: EXCUSED:

Ms. Anne Candies Dr. Rachel T. Davis-Haley

Ms. Rhenea Carter

Mr. Wood Delahoussaye

Ms. Janice R. Manuel

Dr. Joe Ricks

Ms. Beth Scioneaux

Mr. Gary Solomon

Mr. Mark-Anthony Thomas

Mr. Stephen Weber

Ms. Robin Williams

Mr. Carlos Zervigon

EX-OFFICIO:

Mr. Silas Cooper

CALL TO ORDER

Board President, Mr. Gary Solomon, called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The roll was taken. There were eleven members present A quorum was present.

STUDENT PERFORMANCE

Ms. Lara Naughton, NOCCA College Counselor, shared the news that two NOCCA Academic Studio students, Felicity White and Wilmer Mejia-Castro, were named as QuestBridge Scholars, selected from among 18,000 applicants across the country to receive full four-year scholarships to their matched college. These two students are among only 1800 applicants awarded the scholarship. Felicity, Musical Theatre, will attend the University of Pennsylvania and Wilmer, Media Arts, will attend Boston University. Students selected for this award are evaluated through an intensive application interview process and must exemplify high academic potential and leadership qualities. Felicity was present and shared that she intends to study Sociology with a concentration in law and society. Felicity hopes to work as a child advocacy lawyer. Ms. Naughton also shared that NOCCA has three POSSE scholars who will receive full tuition to the following universities: Illinois Wesleyan, Texas A&M and Tulane.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Solomon asked for a correction to the minutes of the November 2, 2022 NOCCA Board Meeting. In the Board Chair report, it was incorrectly recorded that the meeting with Commissioner Dardenne was about the potential state purchase of the Solomon Family Hall from the NOCCA Foundation. Mr. Solomon asked for “Solomon Family Hall” to be changed to “Chevron Forum”, which is the correct name of the entire building. Dr. Joe Ricks moved to approve the minutes of the November 2, 2022 NOCCA Board Meeting with the requested correction of changing the words “Solomon Family Hall” to “Chevron Forum”. Ms. Janice Manual seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

STUDENT SERVICES

Mr. Blake Coheley, Director of Admissions and Student Services, reported that auditions would begin the following Friday and Saturday. Results would be shared with families during the first week of March. NOCCA does accept late applications but can’t guarantee an audition because each department has different needs determining decisions regarding late auditions.

Mr. Coheley introduced the NOCCA 2023-24 School Calendar for approval. He shared that a great attempt was made to align the calendar with our main partner schools. This will help families and faculty as well. Dr. Ricks motioned to approve the NOCCA 2023-24 School Calendar. Mr. Carlos Zervigon seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

FINANCE AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Ms. Lotte Delaney, NOCCA CFO, described the Faculty and Staff Handbook Update. Changes in the information technology (IT) area include updates of the policies for acceptable use including faculty/staff annual sign-off on its content; bringing your own device to NOCCA; requesting support; and administrative privileges. These changes were needed to keep the handbook current with changes in IT and to maintain NOCCA’s new cybersecurity insurance policy. Ms. Beth Scioneaux motioned to approve the Faculty and Staff Handbook update. Ms. Manuel seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Ms. Delaney explained the process of receiving the Elementary and Secondary Emergency Relief (ESSER) Funding allocated to NOCCA. Each allotment received requires an application to the State Department of Education on how NOCCA will spend those dollars. On the most recent allotment, NOCCA applied for stipends for teachers and staff which the state department accepted. Faculty and Staff must have been employed for the full 2021-22 school year and must still be employed as of today to be eligible for the stipend. Other guidelines outline the relationship between the status of the employee (full-time, part-time, hourly) and the percentage of the payment to be received. Mr. Carlos Zervigon motioned to approve the plan for ESSER Funding for Employee Retention. Dr. Ricks seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Ms. Delaney also presented the current budget which is on target for the year.

NOCCA FOUNDATION

Ms. Sally Perry, NOCCA Foundation Executive Director, began by reporting on the success of the December 21, 2022 Home for the Holidays concert which is held each year to honor a NOCCA alum, Daniel Price, who was killed in San Francisco. The net $30,000 proceeds will benefit the Student Success Fund. Ms. Perry described Give NOCCA Day coming up March 30, 2023. More will be shared about this event at a future meeting.

BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Mr. Solomon thanked the Board for the high level of attendance to the meeting. The Board was encouraged to spend time on campus when classes were in session and invited the Board to reach out to Leigh Traylor or Mr. Silas Cooper to schedule a tour/visit.

Mr. Solomon commented on a recent newspaper article in which 14 state agencies, including NOCCA, were cited for missing an accounting reporting deadline. Ms. Delaney explained that every budget has performance indicators attached to it. These performance indicators are reported on quarterly and NOCCA missed two reports; one during COVID and one during Hurricane Ida when the NOCCA campus was closed. Ms. Scioneaux added that there are no consequences for missing these deadlines.

Mr. Solomon requested advocacy for NOCCA with state legislators as the fiscal session was beginning soon. Mr. Cooper and Ms. Delaney were asked by the state to keep the recommended funding level confidential at this time until further notice.

PRESIDENT/CEO REPORT

Mr. Cooper acknowledged the Board for such robust attendance. Mr. Cooper described the current plan for changing the schedule at NOCCA for the 2023-24 school year. He expressed his concern about the long days required of our Level I students who start their school days around 8:00 a.m. and finish their days in their art from 4:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. which translates to a 55 hour week before counting time spent in transportation. The new schedule addresses and improves on that by changing the Level I art time to 1:15 p.m. – 3:45 p.m., the same time as upper levels. To thoroughly consider/create this schedule change, a committee consisting of Mr. Cooper; Ms. Kesha McKey, Director of Arts; Dr. Kit Nelson, Director of Academic Studio; and Mr. Coheley met for an hour each week since January 2022. At the culmination of Mr. Cooper’s presentation regarding the benefits of this schedule change, the Board applauded.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Solomon asked for public comment.

Ms. Perry suggested that NOCCA host a legislative luncheon with the legislators that represent Orleans, Jefferson, and St. Tammany Parishes.

REMARKS/OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Solomon asked for any closing remarks/other business.

ADJOURN

Dr. Ricks made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Wood Delahoussaye seconded the motion. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

Submitted by: Reviewed by: Attest:

Leigh Traylor Silas Cooper Gary Solomon

Recording Secretary Secretary to the Board President of the Board

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