PRESENT: EXCUSED:

Mr. Buddy Boe Ms. Judy Reese Morse

Ms. Leslie Bouie Rep. Candace Newell

Mr. Troy J. Broussard Mr. Christian Rhodes

Ms. Anne Candies Ms. Raquel Richmond

Mr. James Carter

Ms. Beth Scioneaux

Mr. Gary Solomon

Mr. Jefferson Turner

Ms. Sarah Usdin

EX-OFFICIO:

Mr. Kyle Wedberg

COUNSEL:

Ms. Stefini Salles

CALL TO ORDER

Board President, Mr. Troy J. Broussard, called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

STUDENT PRESENTATION

Mr. Silas Cooper, Director of Arts, introduced Chef Dana Tuohy, Chair of Culinary Arts. Chef Dana described how her department adapted to teaching remotely. Mr. Cooper told the board that the Culinary Arts Department had one of the most innovative plans. Students kept food journals and completed a tour of their kitchens to identify what they had in their pantry and what utensils and cookware they had in their home. Students would be provided basic materials to stock their pantries and periodic restocking would take place. In this way, students could participate in the cooking projects at home and have the added benefit of providing food to the families. The gardening program had to be adjusted as well. A study of food sustainability would be initiated. Some of the challenges would shift to the family such as responding to minor knife accidents with a band-aid while students are learning basic knife skills.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Broussard welcomed public comment regarding the Board Meeting minutes of June 15, 2020. There was none. Mr. Buddy Boe moved to approve the minutes of the NOCCA Board Meeting of June 15, 2020. Mr. Gary Solomon seconded the motion. A roll call vote was completed. All were in favor. Motion carried.

BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Officer elections took place. Ms. Sarah Usdin nominated Mr. Boe as Chair of the NOCCA Board of Directors and Mr. Christian Rhodes as the Vice-Chair of the NOCCA Board of Directors. Mr. Solomon seconded the motion. A roll call vote was completed. All were in favor. Motion carried. Mr. Broussard expressed joy at serving the Board for six years. Mr. Boe and Mr. Wedberg thanked Mr. Broussard for his calming, steady voice on the Board. Mr. Boe assumed the role as Chair of the meeting.

COVID-19 FOR 2020-21

Regarding school plans around COVID-19, Mr. Boe expressed his desire for NOCCA to be a “known” that families could make their own decisions and adjustments around rather than an “unknown” that added to the uncertainty of the present times.

Mr. Wedberg recognized the Administrative Leadership Team, Faculty, and Staff for the extraordinary work in planning. Mr. Wedberg reiterated the design principle guiding the planning which is the goal to have no faculty, staff, or student’s family become infected with COVID-19 through their interactions at NOCCA. NOCCA will not be an early adopter of on-campus learning. The duration of distance learning and potential move to the hybrid model will be determined in the future based on an established decision tree.

Ms. Leslie Bouie expressed her strong support for the current decision. Mr. Jefferson Turner stated that he felt exhausted from the reality of the current times but exhilarated to be on campus recently, seeing that, though different, NOCCA was activating to keep reaching students through it all.

Mr. Boe presented for approval the revised 2020-21 NOCCA School Calendar which pushed the start of school back by one week from August 13, 2020 to August 24, 2020, allowing more time for teacher preparation. Mr. Solomon made a motion to approve the calendar. Ms. Bouie seconded the motion. A roll call vote was completed. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Mr. Wedberg shared regarding the possibility of bringing small groups of students on campus based on special needs for greater attention than distance learning provides.

Mr. Wedberg described the start of year documents that Adams & Reese suggested for addition to the Student/Parent Handbook and Faculty/Staff Handbook. In addition, a Payroll Policy update regarding the one-year off-campus lunch time-keeping provision related to COVID-19 was presented. All required approval by the Board. The documents contained information in line with the Louisiana Department of Education standards and Act 9 standards around COVID-19 preparation.

Mr. Boe entertained a motion to approve the four handbook revisions recommended by Adams & Reese and the payroll policy provision as related to COVID-19. Ms. Bouie made the motion and Ms. Anne Candies seconded the motion. A roll call vote was completed. All were in favor. Motion passed.

FINANCE

Ms. Lotte Delaney, NOCCA CFO, stated that NOCCA received the approved budget from the State of Louisiana which is basically a standstill budget, meaning the same as last year. She expressed the hope of being able to hold on to it through potential future Special Sessions regarding revenue. The Revenue Estimating Conference had not been updated yet. Two highlights were shared. At Mr. Wedberg’s request, some funds were set aside for Equity Work. In addition, NOCCA will be able to provide cost of living adjustments for unclassified employees and Civil Service employees will follow the scheduled cost of living payroll increases.

Mr. Wedberg asked for the Board’s approval of the 1.5% cost of living adjustment. Mr. Boe entertained the motion for the approval of the 1.5% cost of living adjustment for all unclassified employees and added the recommendation to approve that Mr. Wedberg is included in that 1.5% pay adjustment. Mr. James Carter made the motion. Ms. Usdin seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

THE NOCCA INSTITUTE REPORT

Mr. Boe asked Mr. Christian Rhodes to lead a small group of Board Members to work with The NOCCA Institute (TNI) to improve and strengthen the partnership between TNI and NOCCA to ensure that the mission of NOCCA is priority in discussion and decision-making.

NOCCA PRESIDENT/CEO REPORT

Mr. Wedberg updated the Board on the current Equity Work.

* Ms. Usdin made the connection with NOLA Public Schools and NOCCA has offered to be a part of their equity audit. Mr. Wedberg stated that the greatest equity work that NOCCA can do this year is in the delivery of education while keeping everyone safe and healthy.
* With supports from TNI, a transportation study is being completed with Square Button Consulting in hopes of receiving recommendations for how to better support students in getting to NOCCA and back home.
* Two staff training sessions had been recently completed; one with the Center for Restorative Approaches (CRA) on implicit bias and one with the Dr. Laura Cornell, NOCCA’s Mental Health Clinician from Children’s Bureau, on Trauma-Informed Teaching. In addition, a CRA training on using Restorative Approaches was already on the schedule for the coming weeks.
* Mr. Wedberg would be meeting with the NOCCA Equity Committee to review how to better align the committee’s recommendations with the operations on campus.

In response to the retirement of NOCCA’s Health Services Coordinator, Mr. Wedberg informed the Board that a search for a school nurse was active.

REMARKS/OTHER BUSINESS

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

Mr. Carter made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Candies seconded the motion. A roll call vote was completed. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 5:56 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: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_