PRESENT: EXCUSED:

Mr. Buddy Boe Mr. James Carter

Ms. Leslie Bouie Rep. Candace Newell

Mr. Troy J. Broussard Ms. Judy Reese Morse

Ms. Anne Candies Mr. Christian Rhodes

Mr. Gary Solomon Ms. Raquel Richmond

Mr. Jefferson Turner Ms. Beth Scioneaux

Ms. Sarah Usdin

EX-OFFICIO:

Mr. Kyle Wedberg

COUNSEL:

Ms. Jennifer Bergeron

CALL TO ORDER

Board President, Mr. Troy J. Broussard, called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Broussard welcomed public comment regarding the Board Meeting minutes of January 28, 2020. There was none. Mr. Buddy Boe moved to approve the minutes of the NOCCA Board Meeting of January 28, 2020. Mr. Gary Solomon seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

STUDENT PRESENTATION

Mr. Silas Cooper, Director of Arts, described the Chicago National Unified Auditions. More than 70 schools gather to provide a single location for students to be able to audition for multiple schools. NOCCA students in Theater Design, Musical Theatre, and Drama are able to audition for up to 12-15 schools. NOCCA faculty members attend as well and are able to advocate for the students. Mr. Cooper acknowledged The NOCCA Institute (TNI) for financially supporting students to attend.

Two students shared about their experiences at the Chicago National Unified Auditions. Hannah Bialous, Level IV Musical Theatre Benjamin Franklin student, spoke about the financial benefit of the schools coming to her rather than her having to travel to each of them. She explained the process of preparing at school with mock practice of the entire process and expressed that having her NOCCA teachers there with her alleviated some stress. For Julian Simmons, Level IV Drama Academic Studio student, connecting with other students and faculty was a benefit of the unified gathering. He was intrigued to learn that many people knew of NOCCA and his instructors, which made apparent the legacy left by those who came before.

BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Mr. Broussard announced that Ms. Beth Scioneaux was currently serving as Interim Louisiana Superintendent of Education following the resignation of former superintendent John White.

STUDENT SERVICES UPDATE

Mr. Blake Coheley, Director of Student Services, made a report of February 1, 2020 numbers. Of note, an additional 360 students were served on campus and twenty-six students were served off campus since the October 1, 2019 report. Academic Studio enrollment was at 231 and regular student enrollment was at 521 for a total of 1,017 students served this year to date. NOCCA anticipates serving additional students in on campus and off campus workshops between now and the end of the year.

A total number of 613 applications were processed during the application season, about 100 more than last year. Students were able to apply for summer as well as fall. A total of 316 students were accepted. There were seventy-one students outside of Orleans, Jefferson, and St. Tammany Parishes served. Students from Florida, California, Kentucky, New York, and Texas completed applications and auditioned with plans to move to Louisiana if accepted. All eleven disciplines accepted students for the Summer Intensive with a total of 208 spots, over 100 more than last summer. There were eighty-five 9th grade applicants who were eligible for the Academic Studio Lottery.

Dr. Kit Nelson, Director of Academic Studio, discussed three types of changes in the Student Handbook: technical, minor shifts, and substantial changes. She highlighted pages 8-9, 13-14, 26, 29, and 31. Topics discussed included Credit Recovery, Student Support, Special Education, and the Expulsion Process. A motion was made by Ms. Sarah Usdin to approve the NOCCA Student Parent Handbook with the changes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Boe. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion passed.

A change to the NOCCA Calendar was proposed. If approved April 17, 2020 would become a holiday to allow for an additional day for Spring Break, to avoid managing school during French Quarter Fest, and to allow a campus rental for a large scale event to take place unimpeded. The Board was assured that NOCCA days of attendance met and exceeded state requirements. Mr. Boe made a motion to approve the change to the NOCCA Calendar. Ms. Leslie Bouie seconded the motion. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion passed.

FINANCE

Ms. Lotte Delaney, NOCCA Chief Financial Officer, share that NOCCA was about 67% of the way through the year and had spent about 67% of the budget. TNI has agreed to support the Summer Intensive with $60,000. The Projected Operating Budget for 20-21 recommended by the state does not allow for fulfillment of the requested priorities such as pay equity, employee pay raises, additional funding for hourly employees, summer programming, emergency stair repair, and a full time DPS position. Mr. Wedberg and Ms. Delaney plan to testify to the House Appropriations during budget hearings regarding the NOCCA budget.

Ms. Delaney reported that NOCCA’s Legislative Auditor reports have consistently resulted in zero findings. This is mentioned because of recent news reports of statewide abuse.

THE NOCCA INSTITUTE REPORT

Ms. Sally Perry, Executive Director of TNI, shared regarding the upcoming TNI Gala. Specifically she told of the online auction items and process and encouraged the Board to participate. All were invited to the Patron Party. The Gala Alum Spotlight Stage was described.

NOCCA PRESIDENT/CEO REPORT

Mr. Wedberg requested that the Board hold in their thoughts the Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts (LSMSA) as they respond to a recent suicide on campus.

Mr. Wedberg discussed LSMSAs requested amendment to the Renumeration Bill, which allows for TNI to be able to support NOCCA faculty and staff. Mr. Wedberg is observing how and if the requested amendment will affect NOCCA’s and TNI’s current process.

Mr. Wedberg shared NOCCA’s Design Principles and Decision Tree for Closure Plans which outlines potential response scenarios to the current Coronavirus pandemic. NOCCA currently has one student who self-reported exposure and is on a fourteen day quarantine. Plans for continuing curriculum and grading in the different closure scenarios were discussed. Student’s technology accessibility was discussed. The request was made for the Board to be bcc’d on communications regarding the virus.

REMARKS/OTHER BUSINESS

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

Mr. Boe made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Solomon seconded the motion. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by: Reviewed by: Attest:

Leigh Traylor Kyle Wedberg Troy J. Broussard

Recording Secretary Secretary to the Board President of the Board

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