PRESENT: EXCUSED:

Mr. Buddy Boe Ms. Celeste Marshall

Mr. Troy J. Broussard Ms. Raquel Richmond

Ms. Anne Candies Ms. Beth Scioneaux

Mr. Silas Cooper Ms. Catherine Morrell

Councilmember Nadine Ramsey Mr. Christian Rhodes

Ms. Madalyn Schenk

Mr. Gary Solomon (dial-in)

Ms. Sarah Usdin

EX-OFFICIO:

Mr. Kyle Wedberg

COUNSEL:

Mr. Mark Beebe

CALL TO ORDER

Board President, Ms. Madalyn Schenk, called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The roll was taken. There were seven of thirteen members present and one additional member dialed-in. Quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Buddy Boe moved to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2017 meeting. Mr. Troy Broussard seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

STUDENT PERFORMANCE

Students from the NOCCA Drama Department performed audition monologues that they have prepared for Chicago Unified Auditions. Silas Cooper, Board Member and Drama Department Chair, explained that the Chicago Unified Auditions give the students the ability to audition for the top schools in their field all in one place over a span of about four days. Jade Collins, 12th grade Academic Studio student in Drama, performed two pieces and Tyler Felix, 12th grade Drama student who was completing his academic courses online, also performed two pieces. Both students shared the long list of schools they would be able to perform for, including University of Minnesota, University of North Carolina School of the Arts, SUNY Purchase, Ithaca, Emerson, Rutgers, and Julliard.

Mr. Silas Cooper was appreciative of the financial support from The NOCCA Institute, which made it possible for many students to attend the Chicago Unified Auditions.

STUDENT SERVICES UPDATE

Mr. Blake Coheley, Director of Admissions, invited the board to review the handout on the October 1st Enrollment Numbers that were reported to the state. On October 1st, NOCCA had served a total of 609 students. The total number enrolled was 507 students, with Fall Semester Non-Audition Workshops serving 102 students. Also included was the entire list of schools that send students to NOCCA for half-day/afterschool with a breakdown of how many students came from each school. Mr. Coheley stated that the half-day/afterschool student numbers had decreased a little. Mr. Coheley shared a list of the schools he had visited as part of his recruitment plan and stated that he was surprised to learn that many students were not aware of NOCCA.

Many board members had questions and comments regarding the information Mr. Coheley presented. Mr. Coheley shared some of the many reasons students choose to homeschool including family preference, time management, family concern over school choices, and, because of grade at NOCCA entry, lack of availability of the Academic Studio. Ms. Sarah Usdin had ideas regarding NOCCA’s links to students in the community, for example, through One App or KIDsmART. Ms. Anne Candies was concerned about the numbers and expressed an interest in studying the numbers more carefully to discern why there was a dip in numbers. Mr. Cooper shared that one way he provided outreach was to teach a class at another school. Mr. Coheley suggested having auditions at other places. Mr. Cooper expressed an interest in recruiting older high school students and not just potential incoming 9th grade students.

STRATEGIC PLAN (FOUNDATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS) UPDATE

Dr. Richard Collins, Director of Student Advancement and College Readiness, reported on the progress of the Entry/Exit Committee. Goals and objectives were shared. One goal was to create a culture at NOCCA that demands high standards and provides high levels of support. Objectives toward that goal were to create more aligned, collaborative, inclusive, and equitable intake process including a junior year entry and to create more aligned, structured, equitable, and collaborative exit process with early identification for struggling students. The committee recommended implementing a junior and senior entry path into the Academic Studio and developed documents to support that process. Dr. Collins stated that there would be about three spaces available in the 2018-19 junior class and about seven spaces in the senior class. These numbers would bring the number up to 60 per grade level.

For the exit process, Dr. Collins introduced a two-step standardized growth plan model. The first step would be the growth plan NOCCA currently utilizes. The second step would be a growth plan for maintaining enrollment. Failure to uphold the goals and objectives in the second growth plan would result in the student needing to find another school. The timeline suggested would give students and families more time to find another school rather than waiting until the end of the year.

Ms. Schenk requested to add this information to the board handbook behind the Strategic Plan.

Mr. Coheley presented the revised Academic Studio Enrollment Lottery Process for Freshman Entry and the new Academic Studio Enrollment Lottery Process for Junior-Senior Year Entry. Mr. Kyle Wedberg, NOCCA President/CEO, stated that each student in the lottery for juniors and seniors would undergo a transcript audit and would be required to obtain a letter of recommendation from their arts faculty.

Mr. Boe made a motion to approve the revised Academic Studio Enrollment Lottery Process for Freshman Entry and the new Academic Studio Enrollment Lottery Process for Junior-Senior Year Entry. Mr. Cooper seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Boe made a motion to table the Executive Session. Ms. Candies seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Ms. Jennie Guidry, Director of Protocol, reported for the Consistent Rules and Accountability Committee. A request from the Strategic Plan was for clarity of rules and consequences. The committee surveyed faculty in the spring and that information informed Ms. Guidry’s revamp of the protocol policy over the summer. The cell phone policy was changed. Respect for the campus and community was emphasized as well as student growth. The new protocol policy was presented to faculty on two separate occasions. The Strategic Plan outlined a perceived lack of consequences and related perceived lack of consistency. Ms. Guidry is focusing on communication with faculty regarding events that come to her for response. She is also tracking trends per student. When students make decisions that are not in line with expected behavior, the question is asked, “Why did the student make the decision?” and “What can we do to help the student grow?” An effort has been made to improve communication and consistency across campus.

Ms. Schenk stated the importance of the faculty remaining informed of the efforts resulting from the Foundational Recommendation Committees.

Mr. Boe made a motion to table the Alumni Study Report. Ms. Candies seconded the motion.

NOCCA INSTITUTE UPDATE

Ms. Sally Perry, The NOCCA Institute (TNI) Executive Director, reported that the Friends of NOCCA Annual Fund Campaign raised about $78,000 which was roughly $15,000 ahead of last year at this time. The average gift size was approximately twice what it was last year. Ms. Perry is confident that TNI will meet its goal of $125,000 for the Annual Fund Campaign.

TNI received a major gift from Freeport McMoran Foundation of $300,000 over four years. The James P. Raymond Foundation gave $15,000 donation and the Helis Foundation gave a $35,000 artist-in-residence gift.

Home for the Holidays raised $40,000 which was $15,000 more than last year.

TNI has awarded 190 Term-Time Financial Aid Awards, 162 students have received awards, and $120,000 to date has been awarded.

Ms. Perry invited the board to TNI’s Gala on May 12, 2018.

BUDGET UPDATE

Ms. Lotte Delaney, NOCCA CFO, reported that the Governor presented the FY19 budget to the Legislative Committee and the recommended funding level for NOCCA is a $67,000 net reduction from FY18. Ms. Delaney pointed out a $76,018 reduction in funds for Capitol Police and is hopeful that this was a mistake as the funds are needed to hire another full-time officer next year. She also pointed out a $94,976 Total Other Adjustments, which she will be working to get back in the budget, if possible. Mr. Boe mentioned that there will be a Feb. 19 Special Session.

CEO REPORT

Mr. Wedberg reported that letters of dual intent will go out to faculty this week. These letters ask the faculty to commit to another year, and NOCCA commits to another year as well. He stated that the building performed well over the previous week’s weather event. Mr. Wedberg will be attending D.C. Mardi Gras. Academic Studio Graduation is May 18, 2018, with a tentative commitment from Mr. Ellis Marsalis to speak at the event. Celebration Ceremony is May 21, 2018. Mr. Wedberg recognized and thanked Ms. Usdin for her offer to support NOCCA’s sharing of King Cakes to school faculty lounges around the city.

OTHER

Mr. Coheley shared about NOCCA’s Faculty In-service Training on Transadvocacy. The faculty submitted blind questions for the informative speaker, engaged in thoughtful conversations, and received some valuable advice.

ADJOURN

Mr. Boe moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Candies seconded the motion. All were in favor. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

Submitted by: Reviewed by: Attest:

Leigh Traylor Kyle Wedberg Madalyn Schenk

Recording Secretary Secretary to the Board President of the Board

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