PRESENT: EXCUSED:

Mr. Buddy Boe Mr. James Carter

Ms. Leslie Bouie Ms. Judy Reese Morse

Ms. Anne Candies Mr. Christian Rhodes

Dr. Rachel T. Davis-Haley

Mr. Wood Delahoussaye

Ms. Janice R. Manuel

Ms. Beth Scioneaux

Mr. Gary Solomon

Mr. Jefferson Turner

Mr. Carlos Zervigon

EX-OFFICIO:

Mr. Kyle Wedberg

COUNSEL:

Mr. Mark Beebe

CALL TO ORDER

Board President, Mr. Buddy Boe, called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Boe asked for a motion to approve the Board Meeting minutes of August 3, 2021. Ms. Leslie Bouie moved to approve the minutes of the NOCCA Board Meeting of August 3, 2021. Ms. Janice Manuel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was completed. All were in favor. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

HURRICANE IDA IMPACT UPDATES

Ms. Lotte Delaney, NOCCA CFO, shared photos of the areas of the campus that were damaged as a result of Hurricane Ida. The main campus experienced water intrusion and roof damage on all structures. Multiple parties were involved in the process of repair which complicated the effort. The state department required separate third party administrators for insurance claims and FEMA claims. Structural engineers and adjustors were on site. In addition, claims for each building had to be handled separately. Ms. Delaney reported that, although repairs had not been completed, the main building was functional. Some areas were missing carpet, some classes had to move and share functioning spaces, and three tents were placed outdoors for class meeting space. In Solomon Family Hall, Hurricane Ida exacerbated some existing environmental issues. Classrooms were moved to the Great Hall and Press Street Gallery was utilized for a short time. If possible, some of the repairs will be made in the summer. Mr. Kyle Wedberg thanked Ms. Delaney; the Maintenance Team of Mr. Joe Johnson and Mr. Ronnie McCray; Mr. Blake Coheley, NOCCA Director of Admissions and Student Services; Ms. Rachel Lee, NOCCA Finance Specialist; Mr. Mischa Krilov, NOCCA IT; and Ms. Betty Coulon, NOCCA Procurement Officer for their teamwork and commitment during this process. Ms. Delaney answered “no” when Ms. Anne Candies asked if NOCCA was being offered any rental reprieve from the NOCCA Foundation. Ms. Candies recommended investigating rental reprieve.

Dr. Kit Nelson, NOCCA Director of Academic Studio, reported on the action to inquire with families from heavily impacted areas to determine needs. Available open Academic Studio spots were offered to half-day students whose homes were heavily damaged and whose schools had unclear open dates. Two new students were added; one from Robert and one from Destrehan. The parent of one of those students told Dr. Nelson that NOCCA changed their lives in so many ways by making this happen. Dr. Nelson thanked NOCCA Foundation for responding with food gift cards for families experiencing food insecurity.

Mr. Wedberg asked for approval from the Board for the decision to add students to the Academic Studio outside of the Board-approved Lottery Process. Ms. Bouie made a motion to approve the addition of these two students outside of the Board-approved Lottery Process. Ms. Candies seconded. A roll call vote was completed. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Mr. Coheley explained the necessity to update the school calendar to make up for the days lost to Hurricane Ida, ensuring the required number of days are present to give high school credit. Ms. Beth Scioneaux motioned to approve the updated calendar. Mr. Carlos Zervigon seconded the motion. A roll call vote was completed. All were in favor. Motion passed.

FINANCE AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Mr. Wedberg stated that for the first time in NOCCA’s twenty-two years as a state agency, there was a finding by the Legislative Auditor. Ms. Delaney explained that the finding relates to how NOCCA pays out leave when an employee no longer works for NOCCA. NOCCA has two main categories of employees: Classified, or Civil Service, with clearly defined rules on how leave is earned, accrued and paid; and Unclassified which includes all other employees and teachers. Rather than *earning* leave, teachers are *allotted* a specific number of leave days, classified as sick leave by the state but used by NOCCA as personal leave as well as sick leave. That leave can accrue over time. NOCCA’s practice has been to pay teachers for what is left in that allotted leave “bank”, in the same way that all other Classified and Unclassified employees are paid for their earned leave “bank”. The finding refers to a state prohibition on paying out sick leave. In response to this finding, NOCCA will need to work with the state to create a way that all leave doesn’t get put into sick leave, making it ineligible for compensation at the time of termination from NOCCA. Mr. Wedberg proposed a policy change for NOCCA’s Faculty and Staff Handbook which removes the designation of Classified or Unclassified from the description of all NOCCA employees in Part 7:1h Disbursement of Accrued Annual Leave Upon Separation. Mr. Wood Delahoussaye motioned to approve the policy change to Part 7:1h. Ms. Beth Scioneaux seconded the motion. A roll call vote was completed. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Mr. Wedberg explained the policy change proposed for Part 7:1p Natural Disasters & Emergency Situations. In the past, NOCCA has filed with FEMA for reimbursement of staff compensation during natural disaster/hurricane-related closures. FEMA has denied reimbursement because our policy says only unclassified employees are eligible. This proposed policy change to Part 7:1p removes the term unclassified so the policy states all employees are eligible, thereby enabling NOCCA to be eligible for FEMA reimbursement for all employees who work during natural disaster/hurricane-related closures. Mr. Solomon made a motion to approve the proposed change to Part 7:1p. Mr. Delahoussaye seconded the motion. A roll call vote was completed. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Ms. Delaney reviewed the budget proposal for FY23. There is approximately a 15% increase in the Operating Budget, with the following priorities selected by NOCCA.

* Four percent salary increase
* Compensation Calibration, including related benefits
* Recurring costs associated with Achieve (ESSER Funding)
* Emergency stairs repairs
* Additional hourly faculty

NOCCA currently has two projects in Capital Outlay: a roofing project and a window project. The emergency stairs repairs will also be submitted.

ADMISSIONS

Mr. Coheley stated that Hurricane Ida caused a delay in publishing the NOCCA application for the 2022-23 school year. The online application was expected to go-live November 1. We will continue to use the Acceptd platform for virtual auditions. Mr. Coheley has been able to complete virtual as well as in-person outreach. Each arts discipline will host a virtual Town Hall event and two virtual Audition Information Sessions. A virtual Parent Information Session will be held as well. The application deadline is January 21, 2022. Mr. Coheley agreed to share the dates for these events with the Board.

The October 1 numbers were shared. This snapshot is used for state reporting. There was a small decline in enrollment, possibly due to Covid-19, Hurricane Ida, and the resulting limited outreach opportunities. Non-credit virtual workshops will be increased.

There was a plan to offer a non-credit, non-audition virtual summer programming statewide.

NOCCA has been asked to produce another masterclass for the First Lady of Louisiana. The planning is in process.

NOCCA FOUNDATION

Mr. Boe reported that the Working Group of NOCCA Board Members and NOCCA Foundation Board Members continues to meet; discussing Strategic Plans and improving the work of both organizations. Mr. Boe recognized the huge support of the NOCCA Foundation.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Carlos Zervigon motioned to move to Executive Session to discuss the performance and work of NOCCA President/CEO. Ms. Rachel Davis-Haley seconded. A roll call vote was completed. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Mr. Solomon motioned to return to the Regular Session. Ms. Candies seconded. A roll call vote was completed. All were in favor. Motion passed.

REMARKS/OTHER BUSINESS

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

ADJOURN

Ms. Manuel made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Delahoussaye seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:33 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: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_