PRESENT: EXCUSED:

Mr. Buddy Boe Mr. Troy J. Broussard

Ms. Anne Candies Ms. Celeste Marshall

Mr. Silas Cooper Ms. Catherine Morrell

Ms. Nadine Ramsey Mr. Christian Rhodes

Ms. Raquel Richmond Mr. Gary Solomon

Ms. Madalyn Schenk

Ms. Beth Scioneaux

Ms. Sarah Usdin

EX-OFFICIO:

Mr. Kyle Wedberg

COUNSEL:

Ms. Jaimme Collins

CALL TO ORDER

Board President, Ms. Madalyn Schenk, called the meeting to order at 4:39 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

STUDENT PERFORMANCE

Mr. Brian Hammell, NOCCA Director of Communications, explained President Honors, an annual event held to honor students who represent the NOCCA DNA. In addition to the award, students receive a scholarship funded by Kyle and Michelle Wedberg. The board viewed two videos that were created by the Media Arts Department to highlight President Honor recipients. Two of the recipients, Eve Axelrod, Visual Arts Level IV, and Walker Meyn, Media Arts Level III,

were present to share regarding the experience of being selected as President Honor recipients. Also present to share was Sam Axelrod, Eve’s brother, who helped film her video segment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Buddy Boe moved to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2018 meeting. Ms. Anne Candies seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

BOARD PRESIDENT UPDATE

Ms. Madalyn Schenk asked to move the June 10, 2018 Board Meeting to Monday, June 25, 2018 at 5:00 PM to allow more time for the legislative sessions to be complete. Ms. Schenk stated that her term as NOCCA Board President will conclude at the end of the June 25th meeting. Ms. Schenk recommended Mr. Troy Broussard for the NOCCA Board President and Mr. Buddy Boe for the NOCCA Board Vice President. The board was invited to recommend others. Ms. Anne Candies made a motion for Mr. Broussard to become the next President and for Mr. Boe to become the next Vice President effective July 1, 2018. Mr. Silas Cooper seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

STUDENT SERVICES UPDATE

Mr. Wedberg introduced Ms. Sarah Woodward, a NOCCA Visual Arts alumnus. Ms. Woodward graduated from NOCCA and Ben Franklin High School, attended Stanford University, and is currently working on her doctorate at Tulane. Ms. Woodward conducted NOCCA’s Alumni Report, a survey and analysis supported by a Chevron grant. The purpose of the study was to think longitudinally of challenges and successes of Academic Studio as compared with half day counterparts. The study included quantitative and qualitative information collected from 108 2015 and 2016 graduates, which was 37% of the total.

Key findings were shared in three areas:

Artistic Technique and Professionalism-All rated themselves high in original thinking, creativity, and problem-solving. Most were pursuing art, but not all. Half day students were more likely than Academic Studio students to be pursuing art.

Academic Preparation-Students reported critical thinking and writing strengths. Challenges expressed were in Integrated Sciences and test taking. Dr. Kit Nelson, Chair of Academic Studio, reported that changes were implemented immediately upon receiving this feedback from the first student graduates, in the form of ACT preparation in the Junior Year and increasing textbook use to assist in the transition.

Life Skills-Students reported that the life skills part of the NOCCA DNA could have been emphasized more. Some asked for more support of a non-college route.

Ms. Candies wanted the study to continue and was very interested in how many students are in their field after graduation. Mr. Wedberg and Ms. Woodward discussed ways in which art remains a part of students’ lives even when they are not necessarily directly working in their chosen art. Ms. Schenk wondered if the 37% who chose to respond had similar characteristics and if those who did not respond had different characteristics. Ms. Woodward stated that she did not believe there was an oversampling of the students who were doing well, and that the responses she received were both positive and negative. For example, some half day students reported not feeling as connected to NOCCA, not as embedded in the experience as Academic Studio students. Dr. Nelson shared that the development of committees from both groups, such as the Prom Committee, Student Council, and Feminists Group was in response to this observation. The on and off ramp for students was discussed as well as the age at which students begin their time at NOCCA. Sarah Woodward was thanked for her thorough work and presentation.

Mr. Coheley updated the board on the Academic Studio Lottery. The lottery was attended by Erica Evans, Louisiana Legislative Auditor, and Ms. Candies. In the 9th grade lottery there were 99 eligible students of which 66 were placed and 33 wait listed. The process started with pulling 60 students for the 9th grade class. Then priorities were considered and students were pulled from the wait list to bring the class total to 66 students. For the first time, 11th and 12th grade lotteries were also held. To be eligible, current art students filled out an application, provided a recommendation letter from their arts department chair, and provided a transcript which had to be reviewed to ensure the student would be able to graduate if the change was made. A total of 5 out of 13 students were placed to bring the junior class total up to 60 students. A total of 7 out of 10 students were placed to bring the senior class total up to 60 students.

Mr. Coheley presented the 2018-19 School Calendar for approval. Mr. Boe made a motion to approve the 2018-19 School Calendar. Ms. Sarah Usdin seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Ms. Jennie Guidry, Director of Protocol, presented the draft of the 2018-19 Student and Parent Handbook. Ms. Guidry updated and reorganized the handbook and received review and feedback from Ms. Candies. As part of the registration process, parent and students will be required to sign and return the Handbook Acknowledgement, stating that they have read the document and agree to abide by all the stipulations of the document. While the handbook does not need board approval, the board was invited to provide feedback at the next board meeting.

Mr. Wedberg outlined some changes that had taken place as a result of the findings of the Foundational Recommendation Committees. Ms. Woodward’s Alumni Report was funded by TNI. There is a new Social Worker on campus. In addition, discussion was underway on how to apply grant money toward transportation needs. Mr. Wedberg thanked TNI for all their efforts to support these improvements.

NOCCA INSTITUTE UPDATE

Ms. Elizabeth McMillan, TNI’s Director of Advancement, announced the Open House on April 25, to showcase the various venues that TNI offers. All spaces, including Press Street Gardens, the Plessy Site, Press Street Station, and 5 Press Gallery, are available for event rental. Event planners were invited to view the creative possibilities of the spaces. The TNI Gala was scheduled for May 12th. Ms. McMillan update the board on the status of financial aid to students. TNI has awarded about $122,000 in term-time aid, $70,000 for summer study, and $20,000 in faculty professional development and artists-in-residence programs. The mural along Homer Plessy Way (formerly Press Street), painted by Ayo Scott, was complete and would be highlighted at the dedication of Homer Plessy Way. Ms. McMillan also stated that the capitol campaign was down to about $5 million.

CEO REPORT

Mr. Lotte Delaney, NOCCA CFO, gave a school safety update. After the recent school shooting in Florida, the entire student body was gathered together. The purpose was to share with students what NOCCA does to keep them safe and to reassure them. Ms. Amy Alvarez, NOCCA Social Worker, was present at the student meeting to talk to the students about helping all students feel part of the community and to remind them to visit with an adult if they are concerned about someone. Students were told why it was important to wear I.D.’s and were told that the officers at front were not just security officers, but were police officers, ready to act if needed. Probability and possibility were discussed, emphasizing that NOCCA is still a safe place to be.

Reminding the board that part of his goal for this year was to do more work at the state level, Mr. Wedberg shared regarding ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act). While on the Interests and Opportunities Committee, he has been a part of ensuring that art is in the definition and formula for elementary and high schools. Comprehensive High Schools and Focused High Schools were both explained.

OTHER

Mr. Wedberg shared that Mr. Troy J. Broussard, who was unable to attend this meeting due to work, facilitated AARP buying out the house for the current running Musical Theatre student production on April 19th. Mr. Broussard had also committed to doing the same for an upcoming Drama production. Mr. Wedberg thanked Mr. Broussard and invited to board to attend the reception and production.

Mr. Wedberg told the board that the link to complete financial disclosure (due May 15) and the link for the board’s annual President/CEO Review were both sent via email at the start of this board meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Boe made a motion to move into Executive Session. Ms. Candies seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried. The board went into Executive Session at 6:07 PM.

Ms. Nadine Ramsey moved to reconvene. Ms. Usdin seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Executive Session ended and the board reconvened at 6:59 PM.

Mr. Wedberg invited the board to attend Celebration Season events and offered tickets to all ticketed events. He also reminded the board of the date change for the next meeting, June 25th.

ADJOURN

Ms. Usdin moved to adjourn. Mr. Cooper seconded the motion. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.

Submitted by: Reviewed by: Attest:

Leigh Traylor Kyle Wedberg Madalyn Schenk

Recording Secretary Secretary to the Board President of the Board

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