PRESENT: EXCUSED:

Mr. Buddy Boe Rep. Candace Newell

Ms. Leslie Bouie Mr. James Carter

Ms. Anne Candies

Dr. Rachel T. Davis-Haley

Ms. Janice R. Manuel

Ms. Judy Reese Morse

Mr. Christian Rhodes

Ms. Beth Scioneaux

Mr. Gary Solomon

Mr. Jefferson Turner

Ms. Sarah Usdin

EX-OFFICIO:

Mr. Kyle Wedberg

COUNSEL:

Mr. Mark Beebe

CALL TO ORDER

Board President, Mr. Buddy Boe, called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

MOMENT OF RECOGNITION

Mr. Kyle Wedberg acknowledged the passing of Mr. Raymond Weber, Jr. and Governor Mike Foster.

STUDENT PRESENTATION

Ms. Anne Gisleson, Creative Writing Department Chair, spoke of one of the “gifts of the pandemic”; the Master Class led by Joy Harjo, U.S. Poet Laureate. After the Creative Writing students read Ms. Harjo’s collection of poems, *An American Sunrise*, Creative Writing teacher Andy Young reached out to Ms. Harjo via Facebook and invited her to visit for a Master Class. The department was delighted that Ms. Harjo accepted the invitation and doubly enthusiastic about the Master Class that ensued.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Boe welcomed public comment regarding the Board Meeting minutes of August 13, 2020. There was none. Ms. Anne Candies moved to approve the minutes of the NOCCA Board Meeting of August 13, 2020. Mr. Gary Solomon seconded the motion. A roll call vote was completed. Seven were in favor. Four abstained (Dr. Davis-Haley, Ms. Manuel, Ms. Morse, and Mr. Christian Rhodes) due to not being present at the August 13, 2020 meeting. Motion carried.

BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Mr. Boe welcomed Dr. Rachael T. Davis and Ms. Janice Manuel to the Board; and acknowledged the reappointments of Mr. Solomon and Ms. Candies.

COVID-19 FOR 2020-21

Mr. Wedberg spoke of the rolling interventions implemented in the form of bringing small groups to campus, whether to provide needed academic support or to access arts spaces for individual/group work.

Mr. Wedberg asked the board to approve using a hybrid model when the students return to campus and that NOCCA stay hybrid for the remainder of the year. This allows for appropriate spacing on-campus and for planning for those students who choose not to return to campus. Mr. Boe asked the board for a motion. Ms. Sarah Usdin made the motion to approve NOCCA’s return to school in a hybrid model and to remain hybrid for the remainder of the year. Ms. Leslie Bouie seconded the motion. A roll call vote was completed. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Mr. Wedberg spoke to the environmental conditions influencing the decision regarding return to the physical campus, including the multiple shifts, schedules, and plans that students and families were dealing with and the reality of the affect holidays would have on students’ actual days on campus relative to the date of return.

Mr. Wedberg asked the board to approve return to campus on January 11 in a hybrid model. Ms. Bouie made a motion to approve the January 11 return to school in a hybrid model. Ms. Usdin seconded the motion. A roll call vote was completed. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Mr. Wedberg asked the Board to approve moving two days into the calendar that were previously days off from school to make up for days missed for Hurricanes. The two days were November 11 and February 12. He also requested that the official start of 2nd semester is moved from January 11 to January 13 in order to balance the count of days required by the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education each semester. Ms. Usdin made a motion to add November 11 and February 12 to the school calendar and to start the 2nd semester on January 13. Ms. Candies seconded the motion. A roll call vote was completed. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Mr. Boe reminded the Board that there was a December Board meeting for further discussion and adjustment of the return to school plan, if needed.

STUDENT SERVICES/NOCCA PROGRAMMING

Mr. Blake Coheley, Director of Admissions, shared with the Board the new application platform, Acceptd. The platform will provide an entirely digital and virtual application and audition process. Arts Schools Network (ASN), of which NOCCA is a member, provided a discount for members to use Acceptd. The possibility of opening up physical sites in the community to support applicants who require technological support was discussed. A discussion ensued regarding ensuring equitable access to the new entirely online application and audition process. Mr. Coheley stated that ensuring equity for all in this process was an active conversation at NOCCA. In addition, the housing of application data in Acceptd was discussed. This topic would be revisited at the December meeting.

Mr. Coheley let the Board know that the decision had been made to not offer Summer programming this year and to instead focus on mastering the use of Acceptd and planning for a statewide virtual Summer program in 2022. An agreement was made to revisit this discussion as well.

FINANCE

Ms. Lotte Delaney, NOCCA CFO, shared two documents regarding the budget. The 2020-21 Budget Update revealed that the existing budget is on pace; NOCCA is not spending any more than it should be at this point in the budget timeline. The 2021-22 Budget submission requested funding for Summer June 2022, raises, and two arts positions.

Ms. Delaney stated hopes that the HVAC update would be completed before students return in January 2021. In addition, UV purifiers would be added in the air handling system. A discussion regarding the decision to use UV purifiers followed in response to a question regarding the efficacy.

The windows and roof projects are both in process.

THE NOCCA INSTITUTE REPORT

The NOCCA Institute (TNI) submitted a written report for the Board to review. Mr. Wedberg thanked TNI for the generous support of students. TNI underwrote two important timely needs: internet accessibility and food security. Mr. Boe shared with the Board that he had asked Mr. Solomon, Mr. Rhodes, and Ms. Candies to be on a working group to address mission alignment of the two organizations, TNI and NOCCA.

NOCCA PRESIDENT/CEO REPORT

Mr. Wedberg stated that two important staff positions had been filled: Mental Health practitioner and School Nurse.

REMARKS/OTHER BUSINESS

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

Ms. Usdin made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Bouie seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 6:03 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: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_