PRESENT: EXCUSED:

Mr. Buddy Boe Dr. Rachel T. Davis-Haley

Ms. Leslie Bouie Mr. Wood Delahoussaye

Ms. Anne Candies Ms. Judy Reese Morse

Mr. James Carter Mr. Christian Rhodes

Ms. Janice R. Manuel Ms. Beth Scioneaux

Mr. Gary Solomon Mr. Carlos Zervigon

Mr. Jefferson Turner

EX-OFFICIO:

Mr. Silas Cooper

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 six of thirteen members present. A seventh member arrived later and was noted. Quorum was present before voting took place.

STUDENT SERVICES/NOCCA COLLEGE PATHWAYS

Ms. Lara Naughton, College Counselor, reported on the graduating seniors. There were 125 graduating seniors who applied to more than 250 conservatories, colleges, and universities across the country. They were awarded 21.5 million in scholarships and 3.2 million in grants which averaged approximately $200,000 per student. Fifty-five students decided to attend in state at thirteen different schools. Loyola, UNO and LSU were the top three in state choices. Sixty-three students will attend out of state at forty-four different schools. Ms. Naughton viewed the greatest success as the highly personalized post-secondary plans.

Mr. Blake Coheley, Director of Admissions and Student Services, shared end of year numbers with the Board. The off-campus non-credit workshops added 356 students to total enrollment. There were successful Virtual Summer Intensives in Drama, Creative Writing, and Visual Arts. The number of students served this year totaled 870.

The Graduation and Celebration Ceremonies were successful with many families in attendance and 220 who tuned in for the live stream of the events. Mr. Carlos Zervigon attended as the Board representative. Mr. Cooper mentioned that he was out sick and thanked Mr. Boe, Ms. Sally Perry, and Ms. Sally Sushan for managing the ceremonies beautifully.

FINANCE AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Ms. Lotte Delaney, NOCCA CFO, reported that the FY 22-23 Operating Budget was approved by the governor. The approved budget is an 8% increase for next year. Major changes are in the budget for salary increases for teachers and for emergency stairs. In line with the statewide initiative, there will a salary increase of 3% for every teacher. This pay raise will be more than $1500 each which is the base amount offered by the state. Also covered is the 27th pay period in the 2023-24 school year. The pay equity issue was not addressed in this budget. Efforts will continue into next year. Mr. Gary Solomon moved to accept the budget. Mr. James Carter seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. All were in favor. Motion passed.

The ESSER III funding is the third round of federal funds that come through the Department of Education. There are formulas to determine how the funds are distributed and NOCCA doesn’t fit in the formula. Fortunately, Ms. Beth Scioneaux played a major role in securing an allocation for NOCCA in the amount of $997,004 with a sunset date of September 2023. NOCCA has identified about fifteen projects for use of the funds including professional development; equity committee training for students and adults; strategic planning;, new teacher induction; invitations for curriculum specialists to provide feedback in arts and academics; and a one-time salary supplement for faculty and staff.

NOCCA FOUNDATION

Ms. Perry, Executive Director, thanked Mr. Boe for his support as co-chair of the Foundation’s Art & Soul Gala. She reported that the Gala was a success and an enthusiastic reminder of the mission of NOCCA-the students. Ms. Perry thanked Chef Dana Tuohy for her tireless support during the event and way in which the Culinary students were showcased.

Out of about thirty applications for Summer Study support, the Foundation was able to award $77,000 for students to attend premiere programs across the country. Ms. Perry shared that this program provides the best return on investment because students often return with generous scholarships for post-secondary studies. This year, 103 masterclasses and residencies were funded. The Foundation has hired two new employees. The new Director of Alumni Programs is Dance alum Ms. Alyn Hayden and the new Director of Development is Ms. Cree Jones, who comes with years of valuable experience.

BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Ms. Anne Candies made a motion to nominate Mr. Solomon as President of the NOCCA Board of Directors. Ms. Leslie Bouie seconded. A roll call vote was held. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Mr. Carter nominated Ms. Candies for Vice-Chair of the NOCCA Board of Directors. Ms. Bouie seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Mr. Boe informed the Board that the Interim President/CEO Annual Evaluation will be sent out in next few days. He requests to have it returned within the week so the Personnel Committee can meet before the term is ended.

CEO REPORT

Mr. Cooper thanked those who have served the Board and provided stability through these difficult times. He summarized the focus of the Administrative Leadership Team’s retreat with the following questions: Where are we now? What adjustments can we make? What do we want to implement at the start of year? The team strives to facilitate a consistent, transparent, safe, and supportive environment. Mr. Cooper reported feeling invigorated and looking forward to the fall.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Boe asked for public comment. Dr. Kit Nelson thanked Mr. Boe for his dedication to NOCCA. Ms. Perry asked for a vote to elect a NOCCA Board representative to the NOCCA Foundation Board for the following year.

Mr. Solomon motioned to amend the agenda to add a nomination and vote for a representative to the NOCCA Foundation Board. Ms. Candies seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Solomon nominated Mr. Boe to represent NOCCA on the NOCCA Foundation Board. Ms. Janice Manuel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. All were in favor. Motioned passed.

REMARKS/OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Boe asked for any closing remarks/other business. Mr. Boe thanked the Board for allowing him to serve, especially the two years as Chair during which time the school experienced and responded to the pandemic for the first time; undertook a transition in the President/CEO seat; and celebrated the return of live performances when the pandemic allowed. Mr. Boe reported feeling proud of NOCCA for the stability it provided during these challenging times. He feels the institution is stronger. He closed with saying it was a “true pleasure to serve.”

Mr. Carter thanked Mr. Boe for his leadership and also thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve. Mr. Jefferson Turner thanked the board and spoke highly of the next representative that the faculty voted in.

Ms. Candies reported that Chef Frank Brigtsen, on the evening of receiving the 2022 Ella Brennan Lifetime Achievement in Hospitality Award, made mention of NOCCA numerous times. She reported it was a proud moment for NOCCA.

ADJOURN

Mr. Carter made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Solomon seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 5:48 p.m.

Submitted by: Reviewed by: Attest:

Leigh Traylor Silas Cooper Buddy Boe

Recording Secretary Secretary to the Board President of the Board

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