PRESENT: EXCUSED:

Ms. Anne Candies Mr. Wood Delahoussaye

Ms. Rhenea Carter Mr. Stephen Weber

Dr. Rachel T. Davis-Haley Ms. Robin Williams

Ms. Janice R. Manuel Mr. Carlos Zervigon

Dr. Joe Ricks

Ms. Beth Scioneaux

Mr. Gary Solomon

Mr. Mark-Anthony Thomas

EX-OFFICIO:

Mr. Silas Cooper

CALL TO ORDER

Board President, Mr. Gary Solomon, called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The roll was taken. There were seven members present and one more arrived late for a total of eight members present. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Rhenea Carter moved to approve the NOCCA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes of May 1, 2024. Mr. Mark-Anthony Thomas seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

NOCCA FOUNDATION

Mr. Solomon acknowledged Ms. Sally Perry, NOCCA Foundation Executive Director, for her many years of enthusiastic dedication to NOCCA and for attending this last NOCCA Board meeting as the Foundation’s Executive Director. Ms. Perry gave an update on the Foundation’s financial support of NOCCA students. One example was the support for the graduating class of 2024. Of the graduates, 57% received support from the Foundation. Of those 57% of graduates, 99% planned to attend college. The total support received by these students over their time at NOCCA was $197,000 and the total amount of scholarships and grants offered to these graduates was $17.21 million. Ms. Perry acknowledged the Foundation’s donors for their investment in NOCCA students. In addition, 45% of the students receiving Student Support live at or below poverty level. Ms. Perry shared acknowledgements with many members of the board.

Ms. Elizabeth McMillan, NOCCA Foundation Director of Advancement, announced that the Vocal classroom would be named in honor of Ms. Perry, with the support of Ms. Madalyn Schenk, former President of both the NOCCA Foundation Board of Directors and NOCCA Board of Directors. In addition, an endowment was gifted by the Solomon family, Arnold and Rachel Kirschman, and Tricia and Rick Kirschman to create a scholarship in Ms. Perry’s name to be given each year to a student chosen from nominations across campus.

STUDENT SERVICES

Mr. Andy Bower, Director of Community Engagement, reported on the statewide outreach over the summer. The number of students served has doubled since last summer. This summer there were 12 teaching artists (3 of those going to multiple places), 11 partner sites, and 8 different cities throughout the state.

Mr. Brian Hammell reported that by the end of the year student numbers had reached over 2,059 students from enrollment, off campus, and on campus workshops.

ARTS AND ACADEMICS

Mr. Hammell and Mr. Silas Cooper reported that the team is evaluating the year of Experience NOCCA after school workshops by talking with teachers and is making adjustments in the plan for the upcoming year.

Dr. Kit Nelson, Director of Academic Studio, facilitated a discussion regarding the Student and Parent Handbook. Regarding attendance, language was added describing the importance of daily attendance and noting the legal responsibility of parents to ensure students attend school. Documentation regarding absences must be received within two days of the student’s return to school. Regarding expulsion, the Disciplinary Review Committee reviews and makes recommendations regarding expulsion. They also can recommend whether or not the student can re-apply to NOCCA. President/CEO makes final determination. In addition, added guidelines for return to NOCCA no sooner than a school year following recommendation for expulsion. Mr. Solomon requested adding examples of timeline for re-applying. Regarding wireless device policy, cell phones or other devices should not be seen or heard until 3:45 p.m. and after and only in the breezeway and/or canteen. If confiscated, must be turned in at the beginning of the day and retrieved at the end of the day for one week, one month, etc. depending on the frequency of the infraction. Dr. Joe Ricks motioned to approve the handbook updates subject to Adams and Reese writing an illustrative example in the section regarding re-applying after recommendation for expulsion. Dr. Rachel Davis-Haley seconded the motion.

After some discussion, Dr. Ricks modified the previous motion by moving to approve the handbook update pending the addition of the following: Illustrative example for re-application timeline, the search of a vehicle is with faculty/staff witness except in exigent circumstances, and a process for re-entry form will be created. Ms. Beth Scioneaux seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Dr. Nelson reported that Summer School was a successful 4 weeks of serving students needing credit recovery and incoming 9th grade students needing additional preparation for beginning 9th grade work. Dr. Nelson also reported that Academic Studio numbers were at 234 with over fill in 11th grade. At this time, there is no need for a lottery.

The Board chose to defer action on the SPED Camera Policy.

FINANCE AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Ms. Anna Schwab, Deputy CFO, reported that the budget was on pace for this time of year.

BOARD PRESIDENT REPORT

Mr. Solomon thanked Ms. Candies for her many years of service on both the NOCCA Board of Directors and the NOCCA Foundation Board of Directors.

Ms. Anne Candies motioned in accordance with Louisiana law, the by-laws of the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts, and the Louisiana Legislative Act 491 effective June 5, 2024, in which the Board may select its Chair and President and other officers, to elect Mr. Solomon as the NOCCA Board Chair and President and Dr. Ricks as Vice Chair. Dr. Davis-Haley seconded the motion.

Mr. Mark Beebe explained that Louisiana Legislative Act 491 gives the Governor the authority to appoint the Chair of all boards composed of a majority of Governor appointed seats. NOCCA’s Board of Directors is composed of 9 Governor appointed seats out of a total of 13 seats. The Governor has the right to appoint the Chair of the NOCCA Board of Directors by August of this year. The Board has the right to appoint a Chair that will serve up until the Governor makes the appointment, if the Governor so chooses. After August, the Board’s selected Chair will continue to serve in that role. In addition, Mr. Solomon is beginning his second full four-year term, though has served for 7 years. The first partial term was to complete the term of Mr. Lee Randall. NOCCA by-laws allow for members to serve two full four-year terms.

A vote was held on Ms. Candies’ motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Solomon thanked the Board for signing the thank you letters for the legislators who were instrumental in the two-year process of securing 8.1 million for the purchase of the Chevron Forum on Homer Plessy Way, pending the Governor’s signature or veto by June 23, 2024.

PRESIDENT/CEO

Mr. Cooper thanked Board members who were stepping off the Board and those who were continuing to serve.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

REMARKS/OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Solomon asked for any closing remarks or other business. None was offered.

ADJOURN

Ms. Candies made a motion to adjourn. Dr. Ricks seconded the motion. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

Submitted by: Reviewed by: Attest:

Leigh Traylor Silas Cooper Gary Solomon

Recording Secretary Secretary to the Board President of the Board

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