



NEO Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

The November meeting of the NEO Board of Directors commenced at 8:03 AM at the NEO Center.

Present: Sam Burgett, Wynton Jones (zoom), Mark Lutze, Richard Sévère, Scott Williams, Lupe Valtierra Frances Vega (joined at 9 :00 AM)

Absent: Dexter Harris, Amelia Hessling

Also Present: Adreinne Carrol, Stacy Lindskog, Dave Plesac, Rebecca Reiner, Zernul Shackelford, Andrea Smith

1. **Mission Moment:** Sam read NEO's Mission statement and Rebecca shared the story of a current high school student who has overcome incredible challenges and is finding growth and success at New Vistas.
2. **Craftsman Community Makers Lab presentation:** Due to time issues, Scott made the motion to move CCML's presentation to happen at the beginning of the meetings. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously. Scott gave an overview and history of Craftsman Community Makers Lab of Indiana (CCML). He then introduced Zernul Shackelford who created a video for the board about CCML and what it would mean for NEO and NEO's students. There was a lengthy discussion following the viewing of video about the opportunities and connections that the CCMA team and the makers lab presents to NEO and our students. Adrienne and Wynton discussed the value of this space and members would offer to NEO's training plans that include a pre-apprenticeship construction program, solar training, and mentoring.
3. **Introductions:** New Vistas High School Principal, Dave Plesac, introduced the two newest members of his team to the Board- Stacy Lindskog, Guidance Counselor, and Andrea Smith, Special Education Teacher and Director. Both shared a bit about their background and their reason for choosing to work at New Vistas. Ms. Lindskog spoke about her resolve to find and deal with loopholes and work with non-traditional students. Ms. Smith shared NEO's model of servant leadership resonated with her.
4. **Consent Agenda:** The Board reviewed the Consent Agenda for the items listed here. *Richard moved to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.*
 - a. October 16, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes
 - b. September Financial Reports and October docket; Scott Williams, NEO's Treasurer, noted that he had reviewed the credit card and bank statements and found no irregularities.
 - c. Director's Report
5. **Updates:**
 - a. **Governance Committee:** Lupe reported that he will be sending out a Board self-evaluation survey that the Board can use as a growth tool with a focus on Board Review, Management, and Feedback. He will have the data collected and ready to present at the December meeting.
 - b. **Retreat:** No retreat date has been set.
 - c. **Executive Director Selection Committee:** The committee will meet on December 11 and will finalize the job description.

6. **Training Academy:** Rebecca shared that Chester Construction had submitted its construction agreement for the work in the Training Academy in the amount of \$429,697. This is less than the original plan of \$546,750 due to the reduction in the scope of work (no offices built out). She shared that 1st Source has already approved the construction loan for the original amount and approved keeping this in case we need it for related construction costs. She requested Board approval to sign both the construction contract with Chester and the construction loan agreement with 1st Source. ***Mark moved that she sign both; the motion was seconded and approved unanimously.***
7. **Regional Referendums:** Rebecca reported on the Lake Station referendum that passed in November. New Vistas will receive a proportionate share of the tax revenue for the who attend here as well as contribute a proportionate share of the costs of the referendum campaign. This will not happen until May or June 2025. Rebecca also reported that the School City of Hobart is holding a referendum in May and asked the Board to approve New Vistas participating in this. ***Scott moved that Neighbors' New Vistas High School participate in this; the motion was seconded and approved unanimously.***
8. **Commercial Leases:** Rebecca asked if the Board had any objection to her using NEO's current commercial lease and recommendations of commercial relator, Belinda Schuster, who serves on NEO's Property Advisory Committee, to negotiate a lease with prospective tenants for the Training Academy. There were none. Rebecca will bring final leases to the Board in December if ready.
9. **Other:** Frances gave a brief overview of the Dignitaries' Breakfast that is she, JuliAnn Nisevich and others are starting to plan. More about this at the December meeting.
10. **Adjournment:** ***Scott moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:29; the motion was seconded and approved unanimously.***

Respectfully Submitted by Rebecca Reiner

Approved by Mark Lutze, Secretary:

 12.18.24