

## **NCVPS Advisory Board MINUTES**

**Virtually in Wimba Classroom**

**February 22, 2011**

**10-12 p.m.**

**Agenda Items**

**ARCHIVE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST**

Attendees: Elaine Rideout, Myra Best, Melissa Thibault, Chris Hall, Amy Cheney, Dale Ellis, David Scholl, Dawn Shephard Pope, Emily Parrish, Hope Johnston, Jamie Barnett, Don Martin, Randy Bledsoe, Lucas Gillespie, Kimberly Reynolds, Steve Joyner, Tim Murphy, Benny Hendrix, Melanie Chernoff, & Mary Musacchia.

Not Present: Martez Hill, Richard Boyd, Ed Dunlap, Todd Holden, Rep Joe Tolson, Meghan Doyle, Edmar Correia, Teryn Odom, Jane Patterson, & Susan Purser.

NCVPS Staff: Adam Renfro, Andrea Pacyna, Bryan Setser, Chanin Rivenbark, Connie Joyner, David Edwards, Deborah Pedersen, Don Lourcey, Ellen Minter, James Bell, Janice Silver, Jeffrey Page, Jennifer Nobles, John Brim, Karen Creech, Melissa Davis, Michelle Lourcey, Nathan Thanos, Sue Scott, Tammy Pearson, & Tracy Weeks.

Board meeting minutes and a Web link to the meeting archive will be sent to Board members

### **Meeting led by Dr. Bryan Setser virtually through the Wimba Classroom, February 22, 2011**

Introduction of Emily Parrish, NC Online Teacher of the Year, as a finalist for national Online Teach of the Year. Housekeeping and rules of the classroom were given to make new members feel comfortable by Chanin Rivenbark. She gave an overview of Basecamp and the Wimba Classroom, how to use the tools, and what the Board members will be doing and seeing today. The liaison assigned to each board member was available during the meeting to answer any questions as needed. Bryan asked for introductions from all those in attendance and explained how the archived meeting will be distributed. Basecamp will be used to send out messages, post files, ask questions, and pose comments and suggestions.

#### **Welcome and Introductions of New and Old board members:**

**Amy Cheney**

**Jamie Barnett**

**Meghan Doyle**

**Edmar Correia**

**Jane Smith Patterson**

**Randy Bledsoe**

**Dawn Shepard Pope**

**Todd Holden**

**Dale Ellis**

**Susan Purser**

**Ed Dunlap**

Lucas Gillispie  
David Scholl  
Teryn Odom  
Emily Parrish  
Richard Boyd  
Donald L Martin  
Hope Johnston  
Melanie Chernoff  
Steve Joyner  
Benny Hendrix  
Kimberly Reynolds  
Mary Musacchia  
Tim Murphy

**RETURNING MEMBERS**

Myra Best  
Elaine Rideout  
Chris Hall  
Melissa Thibault  
Joe Tolson

**Overview of Board Purpose:**

Email charge of Board's purpose from Martez Hill, Executive Director of the State Board, was shared by Bryan. He followed up the email by explaining the governing structure and meeting schedule.

**By-Laws review and Adoption Process - Presented by Tammy Pearson**

Tammy explained this is our first effort to adopt by-laws rather than guidelines. She opened the floor for discussion. She will make changes and then send out the draft for further approval.

Discussion/Clarification/Changes:

1. Article 2B is redundant (same as 3A). Geographical areas are not included in 3A and can be added to 3A.
2. Article 3A "may represent" or "shall represent"?
3. Add a parent representative as one of the stakeholders?
4. Does Executive Committee override the Board in adoption and amending the Bylaws? (Article IX) Not clear on when vote to approve the bylaws will happen and what the voting process will be -- needs to be added. The language regarding the authority to change the bylaws will be clarified.

Tammy stated that the Advisory Board will vote to approve the final draft of the by-laws with the understanding that updates/changes with above recommendations will be made and sent out for approval. Motion to approve by David Scholl and seconded by Amy Cheney and Don Martin.

### **Executive Committee Selection Process - Presented by Deborah Pedersen**

Deborah discussed Article V of the by-laws regarding the Executive Committee. The Chairman of the Executive Committee is appointed by the Chairman of the State Board of Education, but other members of the Executive Committee are voted on by the Advisory Board. Deborah introduced the Writeboard function in Basecamp and showed the document that details the Executive Committee Nomination process including due dates for nominations and the process for nominations and selection of members. Bryan suggested that all Advisory Board members submit a biography and picture to be posted on the NCVPS Web site.

### **Review of Keeping Pace-Presented by Tracy Weeks**

Tracy reviewed the pre-reading assignment “Keeping Pace” a report that provides a sense of the national landscape of online learning. She talked about where NCVPS fits into the various online program models and discussed the types of programs offered nationally. Tracy clarified the changes in reporting student enrollment numbers for comparison to other State Virtual Schools. NCVPS semester block courses are awarded one credit while other State programs reporting data for “Keeping Pace” record two enrollments for each year-long, one-credit course. NCVPS enrollment numbers reported to Keeping Pace jumped dramatically because we reported our enrollment numbers adjusted to align to the number of enrollments counted per credit awarded. A question was asked about how “quality” was measured by state virtual schools. Bryan answered this question by discussing quality standards developed by the Southern Regional Educational Board and how some State Virtual School, such as the Florida Virtual High School, are eligible to apply for accreditation since they award credit and diplomas. Tracy encouraged Board members to review the “Keeping Pace” report to see how North Carolina compared to other State Virtual Schools.

John Brim talked about our reporting with NCWISE and how some schools are not using our course codes or appropriately reporting NCVPS students’ participation and how this affects reporting student data accurately. NCDPI’s Accountability and NCWISE offices are working with NCVPS to rectify this in future semesters.

Bryan asked Melissa Thibault to comment on history with computer software vs. teacher-lead online instruction. She commented on the different types of online courses and instruction and gave the following link as a resource: [http://sloanconsortium.org/quality\\_scoreboard\\_online\\_program](http://sloanconsortium.org/quality_scoreboard_online_program)

### **Review of Digital Learning - Presented by Bryan Setser**

Bryan talked about the 10 recommendations. One was reading the “Keeping Pace” report. Bryan called on Don Lourcey to discuss the GO LIVE initiative and how NCVPS is moving towards implementing this program in school districts. Don singled out Person Co as a good example of how GO LIVE is implemented in a school system. Hope Johnston spoke about blended learning in the Charlotte Mecklenburg School (CMS) district. She told us CMS will be creating classes in Moodle to

launch out hopefully in the fall. Where do students not have access to NCVPS and what are we doing to address that? Bryan answered by saying we are working with kiosks, mobile, after school etc. to hopefully reach all students. We currently have a Race to the Top federal grant and are accepting applications from school systems to participate in a pilot of online STEM courses using mobile devices. The deadline for this application is March 1st.

#### **Overview of NCVPS Budget - Presented by John Brim**

John discussed the financial and business services document of transparency and overview of our administrative expenses. He talked about how the funding formula gives us money to operate <http://www.dpi.state.nc.us/docs/fbs/finance/ncvps/admin.pdf>. Current and previous years budget are on DPI's Finance and Business Services Web site. He talked about the number of positions allocated to the organization and that salaries are the largest portion of our operating budget. The second largest portion is our Software and Equipment which includes: Blackboard, Wimba, Help Desk. John will be happy to answer any questions members have about various categories for further clarification.

Don Martin asked about the teacher pay structure and were we contemplating redoing the teacher salary. He feels teacher pay is too high and needs to be realigned. Bryan addressed the teacher salary issue by saying that salaries were based on industry standard. When he came on board, one of his first business changes was to reduce the number of students in each course section and limited the number of course sections that teachers were assigned to control teacher pay. He also continued to do market research to determine teacher pay, teacher-to-student ratios that would maintain quality instruction. We removed the communications stipend paid to teachers and never offered an Internet or computer stipend like other schools.

Don also shared that some of his colleagues found his staff were doing NCVPS work on their time. He felt this was double dipping. John Brim responded that NCVPS policy requires teachers to do NCVPS business on their own time and not during school hours. Don asked if NCVPS could block teacher access to their Web sites during the school day. Bryan commented that it was the local decision to supervise this violation. He mentioned some schools are using NCVPS during the work day and if we turn off access to that IP address for teachers, it will also block access to courses for students in that school. Donald mentioned that out of 27 of his teachers that only one teacher did not access the site during last year. Bryan is reassuring we are not encouraging this behavior in the school. Tracy mentioned she would be glad to work with Dr. Martin off line to see how we can solve his issues. Many comments were made about handling misuse case-by-case. Tammy clarified how we changed our principal permission form to reflect a supervisor or superintendent's approval.

**Update on Funding Formula - Presented by Bryan Setser**

Funding formula was mandated by the North Carolina General Assembly and developed by the Financial and Business Services area of NCDPI. Bryan has been working with the e-Learning Commission Policy Committee to make recommendations on adjustments to the funding formula which may include reduced teacher pay and other options for reducing the amount of funding charged to school systems. The E-Learning Commission is considering all options, including the recommendations from the Superintendent's group for adjusting the funding formula. Don Martin asked when the formula would be ready for review? Bryan shared Philip Price and Myra Best will be the ones giving the final review of the models. No final date has been determined at this time.

**Q&A - None at this time****Committee Formation - Presented by David Edwards**

David presented the five subcommittees of the Advisory Board and asked each board member to consider on which committee they wish to serve. The committees will be the following: Marketing/Professionals, Funding, Leadership, Technology, and Curriculum. Board members were asked to provide their 1st and 2nd committee choices. The NCVPS staff are assigned to committees to support the Board members. Board members are asked to make their subcommittee selections by close of business on Friday, Feb 27th.

Next steps and follow up from today: Board members send bios and photos; announced the date and time of the next Advisory Board meeting; noted that the Executive Committee will meet weekly when elected/approved. We will be sending emails out with next steps.

**Plus/Deltas:**

Verbal and written were accepted.

PLUS: Had good participation, Wimba was easy to use, very good meeting, engagement of the group was nice,

DELTA: board members will get better at speaking as we go along

**ACTION STEPS:**

1. If you would like to serve in the leadership role as Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, or Teacher Representative to the Executive Committee, or you would like to nominate another Board member for either of these roles, forward your nomination to: [tammy.pearson@ncpublicschools.gov](mailto:tammy.pearson@ncpublicschools.gov) and include the following information:
  - which role
  - board member name
  - title
  - brief supporting statement for the nomination

3/18/11 - Notification of Executive Committee  
3/21/11 - First meeting of Executive Committee

2. Identify your first and second subcommittee choices. Send your selections to [david.edwards@ncpublicschools.gov](mailto:david.edwards@ncpublicschools.gov)

- Marketing/Professionals
- Funding
- Leadership for Innovation
- Technology
- Curriculum

3. Please send a bio (see our staff samples at <http://www.ncvps.org/index.php/about-us/staff-directory/>) and a photo that can be published on the NCVPS Web site to announce our new board to [david.edwards@ncpublicschools.gov](mailto:david.edwards@ncpublicschools.gov) and copy [tammy.pearson@ncpublicschools.gov](mailto:tammy.pearson@ncpublicschools.gov).

4. NCTIES Dinner/MEET AND GREET: We invite you to join the staff and some of our teachers next week at the NCTIES conference held in Raleigh, NC. If you wish to attend, please fill out the Google document at <http://tinyurl.com/ncvpsncties2011>.

If you would like to review today's Board Meeting, the Wimba Classroom archive can be accessed here [http://ncvpsclassroom.wimba.com/main/classroom.html?channel=\\_ncvps\\_s\\_2879\\_1\\_100819\\_2011\\_0222\\_0958\\_01&hzA=d778ec02021a73f5d68dbda15c6d8581:\\_ncvps\\_connie\\_joyner:Connie\\_Joyner:yieipuK3:1298394678&X-Wimba-IntegrationType=classroom&X-Wimba-RoomId=\\_ncvps\\_s\\_2879\\_1\\_100819&X-Wimba-PlatformType=blackboard&X-Wimba-CourseId=Advisory\\_Board&X-Wimba-IntegrationVersion=4.2.0-4&X-Wimba-CoursePkId=4970\\_1&X-Wimba-PlatformVersion=8.0.422.0](http://ncvpsclassroom.wimba.com/main/classroom.html?channel=_ncvps_s_2879_1_100819_2011_0222_0958_01&hzA=d778ec02021a73f5d68dbda15c6d8581:_ncvps_connie_joyner:Connie_Joyner:yieipuK3:1298394678&X-Wimba-IntegrationType=classroom&X-Wimba-RoomId=_ncvps_s_2879_1_100819&X-Wimba-PlatformType=blackboard&X-Wimba-CourseId=Advisory_Board&X-Wimba-IntegrationVersion=4.2.0-4&X-Wimba-CoursePkId=4970_1&X-Wimba-PlatformVersion=8.0.422.0)

NEXT MEETING DATE: MAY 17, 2011  
PLACE: Virtually via the Wimba Classroom