



NASHVILLE
COMMUNITY
EDUCATION

Nashville Community Education Commission Meeting March 10, 2021; 4:00pm Zoom Access

In attendance:

Commissioners:

Commission Chair Dr. Katherine Y Brown
Commissioner Vice Chair Jane-Coleman Cottone
Commissioner Secretary Whitney Slovick
Commissioner Monica Reyna

Staff:

Mary Beth Harding, Executive Director
LaKeitha Anderson, Community Engagement Coordinator
Joshua Hill, Administrative Services Officer

Call to order:

4:03pm by Commission Chair Dr. Katherine Y Brown.

Public Comments:

N/A

Un-Finished Business:

N/A

Announcements:

1. Spring 2021 Update
 - Metro Schools has reaffirmed that NCE will not be able to hold classes until Metro Nashville is at least in Phase IV
 - Mary Beth has pushed in-person classes until later in the session with hopes that Metro Nashville will be at Phase IV by then
 - Some classes that were scheduled to be in-person have been able to move to virtual learning
2. Spring 2021 Enrollment Updates
 - Mary Beth updated the commission on the status of the Spring 2021 enrollments.
 - As of March 2021, Spring 2021 enrollment was at 548 with revenue of \$42,921; compared to the same session in 2020, enrollment was at 2023 with revenue at \$111,634 for all of FY20.
 - Cancellation rate for Spring 2021 is 30%; compared to Spring 2020 rate of 40%.
 - Under 30% is considered successful by LERN standards.

Action Items:

1. FY 22 Strategic Planning
 - Metro Finance

- i. Mary Beth applied NCE for FY22 funding under Metro's General Fund for the same amount as FY21 (Under \$350,000)
 - ii. The chances of being funded are slim
- 501c3
 - i. IRS Status: still waiting to get tax-exempt status from IRS (should be first week of April)
 - ii. Memorial Foundation will be unable to provide funding this year
 - iii. There are very few grants/funders available right now
 - iv. The advice from funders is to put energy into a merger
- Merging Potential
 - i. There is a potential merger opportunity with Nashville Adult Literacy Council
 - 1. Open to discussion with other groups as well
 - ii. There is no guarantee
 - iii. Some of the pros with this merger are that NALC is established, has a great relationship with their funders, located in the Cohn school, and NALC has a history with NCE
 - iv. Some of the cons are that this would be a huge mission shift, some programming lost, staff loss, loss of Independence, and the program is very dependent on funding
 - v. May be able to bring any money left at the end of FY21 with NCE and equipment, etc...
 - vi. May also be able to use the Friends of group to continue fundraising and work toward being independent later
- Mayor's Office Grants
 - i. Mary Beth explained that in the past the Mayor's Office has been able to grant discretionary funds to nonprofits
 - ii. The Mayor's Office is not sure how they are going to do this for FY22
 - iii. If the Mayor's Office does have funds, they will consider funding our transition to an extent
- Reality
 - i. If NCE is unable to secure Metro funding and/or merge with an existing nonprofit, Nashville Community Education will cease to exist beyond June 30

Discussion Items:

1. FY21 Budget Update
 - Mary Beth updated the commission on the FY21 budget
 - We are well below our spending budget and should remain so throughout the rest of the year

Vacation and Sick Accrual Update:

No announcements.

Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Vice Chair Jane-Coleman Cottone; Seconded by Commissioner Secretary Whitney Slovick. The meeting was adjourned at 4:30pm.

**Next meeting - April 21, 2021
Likely Zoom; 4:00pm**