



APPROVED 06/21/2017

**South Carolina Connections Academy (SCCA)
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Wednesday, May 17, 2017 at 3:00 p.m.**

**Held at the following location and via teleconference:
220 Stoneridge Drive, Suite 403
Columbia, SC 29210**

I. Call to Order

Mr. Prince called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m. when all participants were present and able to hear each other. The agenda had been posted in accordance with legal requirements and the school was open to the public to attend the meeting.

II. Roll Call

Board Members Present: Gary Prince, Frank Thomas and Adam Hall (in person); Mike Campbell and Meka Childs (via phone);

Board Members Absent: Rebecca Battle-Bryant and Beth Purcell;

Guests Present: Amanda Ebel, School Leader; Bobby Rykard, South Carolina Public Charter School District Representative; Kyle Michel, Kyle Michel Law Firm; Jay W. Ragley, Connections staff (all in person); Rachel Graver, Tanya Lee and Laura Coleman, Connections staff (all via phone).

III. Public Comment

There were no comments at this time.

IV. Routine Business

a. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Prince asked the Board to review the Agenda distributed prior to the meeting and properly noticed and posted per the legal requirements. There being no changes noted, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Agenda for the May 17, 2017 South Carolina Connections Academy Board of Directors Meeting, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

V. Oral Reports

a. South Carolina Public Charter School District Update

Mr. Rykard reviewed the recent communication from the South Carolina Public Charter School District (SCPCSD) as included in the Board meeting materials. He discussed the annual performance report in detail with the Board. The Board expressed concerns with various measurements and interpretations within the School Performance Framework. Mr. Rykard advised he would follow up on those concerns to ensure an ongoing positive relationship between the SCPCSD and School. The Board thanked Mr. Rykard for his attendance and feedback.

[Mr. Rykard left the meeting at 3:41 p.m.]

b. School Leader's Report

Ms. Ebel reviewed the Executive Director's and Monthly School Reports (MSR) with the Board, highlighting the most-up-to-date enrollment numbers.

i. Graduation and End of Year Activities Update

Ms. Ebel advised the Board of the school's planning for the upcoming high school graduation ceremony and encouraged Board members to attend. She further reviewed recent student activities, including first annual awards ceremony and school dances.

ii. State Testing Update

Ms. Ebel provided the Board with an update on ongoing state testing, including staff preparation and participation rates.

c. Financial Report

Ms. Lee reviewed the financial materials included in the Board materials in detail, highlighting the budget and forecasting areas of the financial statements and changes since the previous meeting's report. She reviewed the balance sheet, including the school's expense statements and revenue.

VI. Consent Agenda

Mr. Prince asked the Board members whether there were any items from the Consent Items that they wished to have moved to Action Items for discussion, or tabled. There being no changes noted, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Consent Items:

- a. Approval of Minutes from the April 19, 2017 Board Meeting;
- b. Approval of Staffing Report;
- c. Approval of Federal Title Funding Documentation: Revised Homeless Education Policy;
- d. Ratification of Staff Compensation Plan for the 2017-2018 School Year; and
- e. Approval of Board President as Board Designee to Approve Summer Staffing Decisions for the 2017-2018 School Year; are hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Action Items

a. Approval of Connections Academy of South Carolina, LLC Invoice for April

Mr. Thomas reviewed the invoice for the month of April, as included in the Board package, and derived from the financial report provided earlier in the meeting. He asked the Board members whether they had any questions on the invoice. There being none, he recommended the approval of the invoice to the Board based on his review. There being no further discussion, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Connections Academy of South Carolina, LLC invoice for April, in the amount of \$2,022,414.64, as presented, is hereby approved for payment pending the availability of funds.

The motion passed unanimously.

b. Approval of Budget and Fee Schedule for the 2017-2018 School Year from Connections Academy of South Carolina, LLC

Ms. Lee reviewed the proposed 2017-2018 school year budget outline and Budget Notes documents with the Board, also reminding them of the budget development process to date that included the school leader, Board Treasurer and/or other Designee(s) and Connections staff. She further reviewed the accompanying fee schedule from Connections Academy of South Carolina, LLC with the Board. Ms. Lee advised the Board that the 2017-2018 Fee Schedule being presented summarizes the basis for all charges from Connections to the school under the Educational Products and Services Agreement (EPSA), and that the basis for all charges is drawn directly from the Budget. Board members discussed the budget, including related staffing, outreach and other specific expenses for the school, as well as the fee schedule and all services provided by Connections under the schedule. There being no further discussion, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, that the proposed budget for the 2017-2018 school year and all assumptions provided therein and the fee schedule for the 2017-2018 school year, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Information Items

a. State Relations Update

Mr. Ragley reviewed the State Relations report included in the Board meeting materials on legislative activities that may impact the school.

b. Partner School Leadership Team (PSLT) Update

Ms. Graver presented to the Board on behalf of Connections' School Leadership Team.

i. Telecommunications Services Update

Ms. Graver provided the Board with additional information on the Voice over Internet Protocol (VOIP) Services communications upgrade based on Board member feedback at the previous Board meeting. She reviewed the additional upcoming technology upgrades in order to ensure sufficient call clarity and internet bandwidth. The Board expressed their support of the upcoming communications transition.

ii. School Leader Review Process Update

Ms. Graver outlined the annual school leader review process with the Board. She reminded Board members that the process includes feedback from the Board through a survey. Ms. Graver further reminded the Board that Ms. Ebel's final review will take place during the Board's Annual Meeting in June. She also reiterated the importance of Board member participation in the review process.

IX. Adjournment and Confirmation of Next Annual Meeting – Wednesday, June 21, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. ET

Mr. Prince noted that the Board was at the end of its agenda and that the next annual meeting is scheduled for June 21, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. ET. A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 4:34 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.