



APPROVED 02/21/2018

South Carolina Connections Academy (SCCA)
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Wednesday, January 17, 2018 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 3:06 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, Adam Hall, Meka Childs, Rebecca Battle-Bryant, Joe Baxter and Ashley Hinson (via phone);

Board Members Joined During Meeting: Frank Thomas (via phone);

Guests Present: Amanda Ebel, School staff (in person); Kyle Michel, Kyle Michel Law Firm; Jay W. Ragley, Brian Rosta, Tanya Lee and Laura Coleman, Pearson Online & Blended Learning (POBL) staff (all via phone).

III. Public Comment

There were no comments at this time.

IV. Audit Committee, Consideration of the Entire Board

a. Review and Consideration of Audit Firm Engagement for 2017-2018 School Year Financial Audit

Ms. Lee reviewed the audit firm's proposed engagement letter to the Board. She noted that the proposed audit firm is the same firm the school had engaged for the previous school year's audit. Board members discussed the audit firm's scope of work and estimated charges, as outlined in the engagement letter. There being no further discussion, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, that the engagement of Clark Eustace Wagner, CPA, PA as the school's audit firm for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

[Mr. Thomas and Mr. Ragley joined at 3:07 p.m.]

V. 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 January 17, 2018 South Carolina Connections Academy Board of Directors Meeting, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Oral Reports

a. School Leader's Report

Ms. Ebel reviewed the Monthly School Report (MSR) with the Board, highlighting enrollment changes from last meeting's report and trends in the report. She further reviewed recent student accomplishments.

Future Facility Plans

Ms. Ebel reviewed the school's current lease expiration date and desire to relocate. She further outlined the anticipated process and timeline for the school facility search.

i. School Operations Metrics

Ms. Ebel reviewed the school operations metric data included in the Board materials, highlighting the school's performance as compared with other Pearson Online and Blended Learning's (POBL) partnering schools of similar size and years in operation.

b. Financial Report

Ms. Lee reviewed the financial materials included in the Board material. She reviewed the changes in the financials and the forecasted expenses since the last meeting's statements, enrollment funding, projected fund balance and specific expenses. The Board discussed special education funding in detail with Ms. Lee and Ms. Ebel.

VII. 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 November 15, 2017 Board Meeting;
- b. Approval of Staffing Report;
- c. Approval of Connections Education Invoices for November and December;
- d. Ratification of the School's 2016-2017 School Year Annual Report;
- e. Approval of Revision(s) to the 2017-2018 School Year General School Handbook: Clubs and Activities Policy;
- f. Approval of the 2018-2019 School Year General School Handbook; and
- g. Approval of the 2018-2019 School Year State Specific School Handbook; are hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Action Items

a. Approval of Funded Enrollment Target for the 2018-2019 School Year

Ms. Ebel reviewed the proposed enrollment target for the 2018-2019 school year of 5,000 students and sought Board input in regards to the number. The Board had a discussion and agreed that this was a good target to set for the upcoming school year based on staffing and budget. The motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, that funded enrollment target for the 2018-2019 school year, as discussed, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Information Items

a. State Relations Update

The Board reviewed Ms. Duquette's written update on legislative activities which may impact the school. The Board discussed legislative activities and other charter school's activities in detail with Mr. Michel and Mr. Ragley.

b. Partner School Leadership Team (PSLT) Update

There was no update at this time.

c. Upcoming LiveLesson® Sessions

Ms. Coleman reminded the Board that they will soon be receiving additional information on the Outreach plans for the upcoming school year via email.

d. Future Facility Plans

This item was reviewed earlier in the meeting.

e. Budget Development Process Update

Ms. Lee reviewed the 2018-2019 budget development process with the Board, as well as potential long term financial planning options. She reminded the Board that the process, while ongoing, is significantly aided by the Board's approval of a funded enrollment target as completed earlier in the meeting. Ms. Lee further reminded the Board of the approximate timeline and those involved heavily in the process, including the Board Treasurer, School Leader and POBL. Ms. Lee also reviewed potential changes to the fee schedule for optional services to the school, as well as benefit rate changes that are expected to have a positive impact on the school's financials.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Personnel Matter – S. C.C. § 30-4-70(a)(1) – for the discussion of employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee, a student or a person regulated by public body

The Board entered into executive session at 3:46 p.m., upon a motion being made, seconded and confirmed via a roll call vote of all Board members present, pursuant to S.C.C. § 30-4-70(a)(1) for the discussion of employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee, a student or a person regulated by public body. Board members in attendance were Gary Prince, Frank Thomas, Adam Hall, Meka Childs, Rebecca Battle-Bryant, Joe Baxter and Ashley Hinson. Guests invited by the Board to attend were: Brian Rosta and Laura Coleman. All others left the meeting at this time.

The Board ended Executive Session and entered into open session at 4:00 p.m. upon a motion being made, seconded and confirmed via roll call vote of all Board members present. No action was taken during Executive Session.

XI. Adjournment and Confirmation of Next Meeting – Wednesday, February 21, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. ET

Mr. Prince noted that the Board was at the end of its agenda and that the next meeting is scheduled for February 21, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. ET. A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 4:00 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.