



APPROVED 01/21/15

**South Carolina Connections Academy (SCCA)
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Wednesday, November 19, 2014 at 3:00 p.m.**

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

I. Summary of Elections and Appointment of Newly Elected Board Members

Ms. Karns briefly discussed the recent Board election process, including the nomination process, those who were eligible to vote, the results, and she confirmed that the election results were verified by a third party representative from the South Carolina Public Charter School District. Ms. Karns congratulated the newly appointed Board members.

II. Introduction of Participants

This item was tabled as the Board members present were returning members.

III. Call to Order

Mr. Prince called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. when all participants were present and able to hear each other. The agenda had been posted in accordance with the legal requirements and the school was open to the public to attend the meeting.

IV. Roll Call

Board Members Present: Gary Prince and Peter Moyi, (in person, at the school, which was open to the public); Armando Colombo and Melanie Murphy (via phone);

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

Guests in Person: Josh Kitchens, SCCA Principal;

Guests via Phone: Kyle Michel, Kyle Michel Law Firm; Allison Reaves, Jay W. Ragley, Tanya Lee, Megann Arthur and Laura Karns, Connections staff.

V. Public Comment

There were no comments at this time.

VI. 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. He then asked if there were any requested changes to the Agenda. There being no changes noted, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Agenda for the November 19, 2014 South Carolina Connections Academy Board of Directors Meeting, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

[Ms. Reaves joined the meeting at 3:04 p.m.]

VII. Oral Reports

a. Executive Director's Report

i. Enrollment and Staffing Update

Mr. Kitchens discussed the most up-to-date enrollment numbers for the school with the Board. He also highlighted recent staffing additions based on enrollment.

ii. Final Results on 2013-2014 State Testing

Mr. Kitchens discussed the state testing results with the Board.

iii. Update on Student Intervention Efforts – Tier 1 and Tier 2

Mr. Kitchens updated the Board on Student Intervention Efforts. She advised the Board of school staff members' increased awareness of critical educational components and benchmarks, as well as Connections' useful tools for tracking student progress. Ms. Ebel further discussed the relation these efforts have to the school's annual success in goals completion.

iv. Graduate Tracking Efforts through NSC (National Student Clearinghouse)

Ms. Reaves provided the Board with an update on Connections' planned partnership with the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC), to compile student data after graduation. She advised that the NSC will provide information on matriculation and graduation from two-year, four-year and graduate institutions, allowing for a more measurable determination of the success of the schools in preparing students for higher education. Board members discussed the planned initiative and indicated their support of the school's participation with the NSC.

b. Financial Report

Ms. Lee reviewed the financial statements in detail, as included in the Board materials. She reviewed the balance sheet, and the school's revenue and expense statements with the Board. Ms. Lee further updated the Board on the Form 990 filing.

i. Auditor Engagement Update

Ms. Lee reminded the Board of the upcoming consideration for audit firm engagement, as the Board previously signed a one (1) year agreement with the current auditor due to the Board's annual election process.

c. Executive Director Review Process

Ms. Reaves 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. Reaves further reminded the Board that Ms. Ebel's mid-year review will be discussed during the January meeting and the 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.

VIII. Consent Agenda

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

RESOLVED, that the Consent Items:

- a. Approval of Minutes from the October 15, 2014 Meeting;
- b. Approval of Staffing Report;
- c. Approval of Federal Title Funding Plans for the 2014-2015 School Year; and
- d. Approval Board President as Board Designee to work with School Leader to Finalize and Submit the School's 2013-2014 School Year Annual Report; are hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Action Items

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

Mr. Moyi reviewed the invoice for the month of October that was included in the Board package, and derived from the financial report provided earlier in the meeting. He asked the Board 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 October, in the amount of \$1,695,115.81, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

b. Approval of Appointment of Officers to the Board

Ms. Karns reviewed the need to appoint the Officers to the Board with the conclusion of the election process. She reviewed with the Board each Officer position as set out in the Board-adopted Bylaws, and advised the Board that all positions would be until the Board's Annual Meeting in June 2015. Nominations were opened for each position. Following the closure of nominations, and there being no further discussion, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, that the appointment of:

Gary Prince, Board President;
Armando Colombo, Vice President;
Peter Moyi, Board Treasurer; and
Rebecca Battle-Bryant, Board Secretary, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion was approved unanimously.

X. Information Items

a. State Relations Update

Mr. Ragley provided the Board with an update on recent legislative activities that may impact the school.

[Ms. Arthur left the meeting at 3:27 p.m.]

b. Board Training Update

Ms. Karns advised the Board that they will soon be receiving information regarding an online state required training module.

c. Authorizer Meeting Update

Mr. Kitchens advised the Board of the upcoming visit from South Carolina Public Charter School District (SCPCSD) Superintendent, Mr. Wayne Brazell, during the Board's January meeting. Mr. Ragley also read a Title 1 Funding Update from Ms. Amanda Ebel for the Board. The Board discussed the Title 1 Funding process and decision, and Mr. Prince encouraged the Board to attend the January meeting in person to meet with Mr. Brazell.

d. Outreach Update and Future Enrollment Growth Discussion

Ms. Reaves reviewed with the Board a proposed Funded Enrollment Target for the 2015-2016 school year of 3,700 students. She reminded Board members that the target is a major driver for school budget planning, including outreach, staffing and many other initiatives. Ms. Reaves further advised that the proposed enrollment target will be presented for approval during the upcoming January Board meeting, if Board members indicate their support of the number. She reviewed past target numbers and the predicted growth for the schools based on many factors, including trends in enrollment, students currently in the pipeline and outreach efforts. The Board expressed their support of the proposed number.

XI. Adjournment and Confirmation of Next Meeting – Wednesday, January 21, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. ET

The Board confirmed the next Board meeting would be January 21, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. ET. The Board, being at the end of its agenda, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 3:52 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.