



**APPROVED 11/15/2018**  
Georgia Connections Academy (GACA)  
**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
Thursday, October 25, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. ET

**Held at the following location:**  
Davios at Phipps Plaza  
3500 Peachtree Road NE  
Atlanta, GA 30326

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**I. Call to Order**

Mr. Thompson called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. when all participants were present. The meeting and school location were open for the public to attend.

**II. Roll Call**

Board Members Present at Roll Call: Rich Thompson, Steve Julal, JoAnn Brown and Tiarra Felix (in person); Susanne Watts (via phone and in person);

Guests Present: Heather Robinson, School Leader; Brazilla Page, School staff; Tom ap Simon, Itine Estuart-Ruiz, Anne Parmley, Karen Duquette, Pearson Online & Blended Learning (POBL) staff (in person); Brian Rosta, Allison Solesby, Tanya Lee, Laura Coleman and Megann Arthur, Pearson Online & Blended Learning (POBL) staff (via phone).

**III. Mission Statement**

Ms. Robinson read the school's Mission Statement to begin the meeting.

**IV. Public Comment**

There were no comments at this time.

**V. Routine Business**

a. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Thompson asked the Board to review the Agenda distributed prior to the meeting. The Board requested to table the EMO Evaluation Update and add Approval of Revised Closing Enrollment to Action Items. There being no further changes noted, a motion was made by Dr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Julal as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Agenda for the October 25, 2018 Board Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Georgia Connections Academy, as amended, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

[Dr. Rosta joined at 5:07 p.m.]

## VI. Oral Reports

### a. School Leader's Report

#### i. Data Dashboard/ Strategic Plan Update

Ms. Robinson reviewed the school data dashboard information as included in the Board materials with the Board, highlighting the progress made on the school's strategic plan goals. She further provided the Board with the most up-to-date enrollment numbers.

#### ii. Final Results on 2017-2018 Goals, State Testing Results and State of the School Report

Ms. Robinson discussed last year's state testing participation and target enrollment goals as well as final enrollment numbers by grade level with the Board. She further reviewed the current enrollment and school goals. Ms. Robinson reminded Board members that the staff worked closely with POBL staff on establishing this year's school goals, and that the school goals represent the major driver for the staff incentive plan. Ms. Robinson related that the goals are created with the intention of improving school outcomes, the student and family experience, and to foster student achievements school-wide. The Board discussed the staff and student accomplishments over the past year in detail with Ms. Robinson.

#### iii. CTAE Pathways Update

Ms. Robinson reviewed with the Board the current and potential dual credit pathways to provide students additional career and technology education (CTAE). The Board discussed the potential offerings in detail with Ms. Robinson.

[Ms. Watts joined in person at 5:19 p.m.]

### b. 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. She reviewed the changes in the financials and forecasted expenses since last month's statements, including the balance sheet and school's revenue and expense statements. Ms. Lee further reviewed the revenue statement formatting options with the Board.

#### i. 2017-2018 Financial Audit Update

Ms. Lee reviewed the audit report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018, as included in the Board materials. She highlighted key aspects of the report, and discussed the audit firm's process and results. Board members discussed the audit report, and expressed their satisfaction with the school and POBL for the results.

## VII. Board Strategic Development

### a. EMO Evaluation Update

This item was tabled earlier in the Board meeting.

## VIII. Consent Items

Mr. Thompson 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 by Ms. Watts and seconded by Dr. Brown as follows:

RESOLVED, the Consent Items:

- a. Approval of Minutes from the September 20, 2018 Board Meeting;
- b. Approval of Staffing Report;
- c. Approval of Connections Academy of Georgia, LLC Invoices for September;
- d. Approval of Revision(s) to the Employee Handbook: Short Term Disability Language for Maternity Leave Policy; and
- e. Approval of Board President to Work with the School Leader to Finalize and Submit the Annual Report in Accordance with All Applicable Deadlines; are hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

## IX. Action Items

### a. Approval of School Focus Goals for the 2018-2019 School Year

Ms. Robinson reviewed the school focus goals for the 2018-2019 school year, included in the Board package with the Board. She advised the staff worked closely with school leadership and POBL on establishing the school goals. She further reminded the Board that the school goals represent the major driver for the staff incentive plan. There being no further discussion, Mr. Julal made the following motion and it was seconded by Ms. Watts as follows:

RESOLVED, that the school focus goals for the 2018-2019 school year, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

### b. Approval of Board Training and Conference Attendance for the 2018-2019 School Year

Ms. Arthur reviewed the upcoming trainings and conferences that have been identified that may interest members of the Board, and reminded Board members of the previously approved budget for Board trainings and member activities. The Board reviewed the upcoming training offerings, as well as the advantages and specific agenda topics of each conference, and their support of Board members making an effort to attend the training opportunities. The Board expressed their desire for two (2) Board members to attend the National School Boards Association Conference and three (3) Board members to attend the National Charter Schools Conference, in addition to the required annual state trainings. There being no further discussion, Ms. Watts made the following motion and it was seconded by Mr. Julal as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Board training and conference attendance for the 2018-2019 school year, including in person, National and State Conferences, as discussed, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

### Approval of Revised Closing Enrollment

Mr. Thompson reviewed with the Board new considerations for revising the closing enrollment of specific grades for the 2018-2019 school year, in order to effectively manage the school and focus on student academic achievement. The Board discussed the options in detail, including financial and staffing considerations associated with closing enrollment. The Board expressed their desire for the enrollment closure of grades 8, 9, 11 and 12 for the spring semester as previously approved and to allow enrollment to remain open for grades 6, 7 and 10. There being no further discussion, Mr. Julal made the following motion and it was seconded by Dr. Brown as follows:

RESOLVED, that enrollment for the 2018-2019 School Year will remain open for grades 6, 7 and 10, as discussed, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

**X. Information Items**

a. State and Strategic Client Relations (SCCR) Update

Ms. Duquette provided the Board with an update on legislative activities which may impact the school.

b. School Leadership Team (PSLT) Update

Dr. Rosta presented to the Board on behalf of Pearson Online and Blended Learning's (POBL) School Leadership Team. He provided the Board with an update on support services and specific representatives to the school and Board by POBL. He introduced Ms. Allison Solesby as the new PSLT representative for the Board. The Board thanked Dr. Rosta for his work with the school and welcomed Ms. Solesby.

i. School Operations Metrics

Dr. Rosta reviewed the first quarter school operations metrics included in the Board materials, highlighting the school's performance as compared with other POBL partnering schools of similar size and years in operation.

[Ms. Coleman left at 6:28 p.m.]

**XI. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date – Thursday, November 15, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. ET**

Mr. Thompson noted that the Board was at the end of its agenda. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:31 p.m. The next meeting is to be held on Thursday, November 15, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.