



APPROVED 04/18/2019
Georgia Connections Academy (GACA)
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Thursday, February 21, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. ET

Held at the following location:
325 Edgewood Ave SE
Atlanta, GA 30312

I. Call to Order

In Mr. Thompson's absence, Mr. Julal called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m. when all participants were present. The meeting location was open for the public to attend.

II. Roll Call

Board Members Present at Roll Call: Steve Julal, Susanne Watts and Tiarra Felix (all in person);

Board Members Absent: Rich Thompson and JoAnn Brown;

Guests Present: Heather Robinson, School Leader and Brazilla Page, School staff; Leche Richardson, Member of the Public (in person); Karen Duquette, Allison Solesby, Tanya Lee, Sally Fernandez, Laura Coleman and Megann Arthur, Pearson Online & Blended Learning (POBL) staff (via phone

III. Mission Statement

Mr. Julal 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. Julal asked the Board to review the Agenda distributed prior to the meeting. There being no changes noted, a motion was made by Ms. Felix and seconded by Ms. Watts as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Agenda for the February 21, 2019 Board Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Georgia Connections Academy, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

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. She also shared with the Board the current status of items contained within their Strategic Plan.

ii. Update on Enrollment Opening for 2019-2020 School Year

Ms. Robinson provided the Board with an update on this item. She reviewed the opening enrollment date of March 4, 2019, for the 2019-2020 school year, and advised that this date would allow for the best enrollment experience for families at the school. Board members were supportive of the enrollment start date.

iii. Winter Leadership Conference

Ms. Robinson reported to the Board on the Winter Leadership Retreat that she recently attended, including professional development initiatives and networking opportunities.

iv. Staff Bonus Structure Discussion

Ms. Robinson reviewed the bonus incentive options for the upcoming school year. She further reviewed her recommendation with the Board for their consideration at a future meeting. Board members were supportive of Ms. Robinson's recommendation.

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 the last meeting's statements, including the balance sheet and school's revenue and expense statements.

VII. Board Strategic Development

a. Review and Consideration of Updates to Strategic Plan

i. SCSC Response to Request for Additional Grade Level(s)

Ms. Robinson reviewed the letter submitted to the State Charter Schools Commission (SCSC) requesting their approval for the school to add grades 4 and 5 back into the program. Board members had discussion on the testing data and school results that they believe strongly support this request. She further reviewed the expected timeline for a response from the SCSC.

b. Comprehensive Performance Framework Results

Ms. Robinson reviewed with the Board the comprehensive performance framework results including the adjustment in points in one area.

c. Review and Acceptance of EMO Evaluation

Mr. Julal advised that the EMO evaluation results will be discussed in further detail during the April Board meeting.

d. SCSC Annual Mandatory Training Update

Ms. Arthur provided the Board with an update on options for completing the compliance requirement for those unavailable to attend the two SCSC planned annual sessions in GA. Ms. Arthur advised she would conduct more research, obtain quotes from trainers and coordinate with the Board members and Ms. Robinson.

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. Felix and seconded by Ms. Watts as follows:

RESOLVED, the Consent Items:

- a. Approval of Minutes from the January 9, 2019 Board Meeting;
- b. Approval of Staffing Report;
- c. Approval of Connections Academy of Georgia, LLC Invoices for January;
- d. Approval of School Calendar for the 2019-2020 School Year; and
- e. Approval of Revised Fiscal Controls Policy; are hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Action Items

a. Review and Approval of Response to SCSC Monitoring Visit Report

Ms. Robinson reviewed with the Board the response to the SCSC Monitoring Visit Report. She further reviewed the benefits to add grades 4 and 5 back to the school, as well as school leadership and POBL's recommendations regarding the timing of adding each grade back to the school. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Watts and seconded by Ms. Felix as follows:

RESOLVED, that the response to SCSC Monitoring Visit Report and request for the addition of Grades 4 and 5, 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. Ms. Arthur further reviewed the Attorney General's opinion on personnel recommendations and approvals by the Board. The Board requested to discuss this item in more detail during an upcoming Board meeting.

b. School Leadership Team (PSLT) Update

Ms. Solesby presented to the Board on behalf of Pearson Online & Blended Learning's (POBL) Partner School Leadership Team. Ms. Solesby provided the Board with additional background on the recent Winter School Leaders' Conference, including Ms. Robinson's award.

c. Outreach Plan for the 2019-2020 School Year

Ms. Robinson reviewed the school's proposed Outreach Plan for the upcoming school year, as included in the Board materials. She highlighted current and projected enrollment numbers, as well as planned activities for student recruitment.

XI. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date – Thursday, April 18, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. ET at location TBD

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 6:02 p.m. The next regular meeting is to be held on Thursday, April 18, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. at location TBD.

XII. Annual Teacher and Counselor of the Year Reception to Follow Regular Meeting at Maggiano's, 3368 Peachtree Road, Atlanta, GA 30326

The Board attended the Annual Teacher and Counselor of the Year Reception following the Board meeting.