



APPROVED 9/18/14

**Georgia Connections Academy (GACA)
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Thursday, August 21, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. ET**

**Held at the following location and via teleconference:
Georgia Connections Academy
2763 Meadow Church Road, Suite 208
Duluth, GA 30097**

I. Call to Order

Ms. Hug called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m. when all participants were present and able to hear each other. The school location and phone line were open for the public to attend.

II. Roll Call

Board Members Present at Roll Call: Alisa Hug (in person); Rich Thompson, Steve Julal, Charlotte Collins and Greg Mishkin (via phone);

Board Members Absent: JoAnn Brown;

Guests Present: Heather Robinson, School Principal (in person); Rachel Bailey, Shawn Soltz, Jay W. Ragley, Laura Karns and Heather Woodward, Connections staff (all via phone).

III. Public Comment

There were no public comments at this time.

IV. Routine Business

a. Approval of Agenda

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

RESOLVED, that the Agenda for the August 21, 2014 Board Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Georgia Connections Academy, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

V. Oral Reports

a. Principal's Report

i. Back to School Activities, Staffing and Training Update

Ms. Robinson discussed with the Board recent back to school activities, including successful orientations with students, families and teachers. She also updated the Board on staffing and training efforts.

ii. Enrollment Update

Ms. Robinson reviewed the Monthly School Report with Board members. She further reviewed the current enrollment with the Board, included those students in the pre-approved phases of their applications.

iii. Withdrawal Analysis for the 2013-2014 School Year

Ms. Robinson noted that this item will be provided to the Board once it is available.

iv. Media Clips and Marketing

Ms. Robinson reviewed the school dashboard/media clips and marketing information included in the Board materials with the Board.

b. Financial Report

Mr. Soltz reviewed the financial information included in the Board materials with the Board. He reviewed the balance sheet, and the school's revenue and expense statements with the Board. He reviewed the end of year results, revenue, state funding, teacher health insurance, virtual state supplement, compensation expenses and the school's fund balance.

i. Unaudited 2013-2014 Financial Results

Mr. Soltz reviewed the unaudited financial results and timeline for the school's audit.

VI. Board Strategic Development

a. Public School Options Meeting in Washington, DC

Ms. Hug discussed her attendance to the Public School Options Meeting in Washington, DC.

b. EMO Evaluation

Ms. Hug and Mr. Julal noted that the work on the EMO evaluation is ongoing and is expected to be ready for review at a future meeting.

c. Update on Attendance at National Charter Schools Conference

The Board and Ms. Robinson discussed their recent attendance at the National Charter Schools Conference (NCSC) in Las Vegas, NV. The Board noted the value of the information that was presented at the conference and thanked Connections for coordinating the travel arrangements.

VII. Consent Items

Ms. Hug 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 items moved, a motion was made by Mr. Julal and seconded by Mr. Thompson as follows:

RESOLVED, the Consent Items:

- a. Approval of Minutes from the July 24, 2014 Meeting;
- b. Approval of Staffing Report;
- c. Approval of 2014-2015 Base Salaries and Incentive Percentage, Career Ladder Positions and Home-Worker Stipends;
- d. Approved of Revision(s) to the 2014-2015 School Year State Specific Handbook: Attendance;
- e. Approval of Professional Development Plan for the 2014-2015 School Year; and
- f. Approval of Board Designee on Connections Education Curriculum Advisory Panel; are hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Action Items

- a. Approval of Connections Academy of Georgia, LLC Invoice for June

Mr. Julal reviewed in detail the CA invoice for the month of June as drawn from the financial report presented earlier in the meeting and contained in the Board materials. He asked the Board members whether they had any questions on the invoice or required any further explanation. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Mishkin and seconded by Mr. Thompson as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Connections Academy of Georgia, LLC invoice for the month of June, in the amount of \$975,566.11, as presented, is hereby approved for payment upon the availability of funds.

The motion passed unanimously.

- b. Approval of School Goals for the 2014-2015 School Year

Ms. Robinson reviewed the school goals for the 2014-2015 school year included in the Board package with the Board. Ms. Robinson reminded the Board that the school goals represent the major driver for the staff incentive plan. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Mishkin and seconded by Mr. Thompson as follows:

RESOLVED, that the school goals for the 2014-2015 school year, as discussed, are hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

- c. Approval of Board Training and Conference Attendance for the 2014-2015 School Year

Ms. Woodward reviewed the upcoming trainings and conferences that have been identified that may interest members of the Board. The Board discussed the trainings offered and supported board members attendance to Board Academy and Georgia Charter Schools Commission Conference. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Mishkin and seconded by Mr. Thompson as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Board training and conference attendance for the 2014-2015 school year, as discussed, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

d. Approval of Strategic Plan

The Board reviewed the work completed to date on the school's strategic plan and noted that this item would be reviewed at a later meeting.

e. Approval of Transcript Fee Policy

Ms. Robinson reviewed the Transcript Fee Policy with the Board including the changes and additional data per their request. The Board discussed the staffing and financial impact of the policy. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Collins and seconded by Mr. Julal as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Transcript Fee Policy, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed with three (3) affirmative votes by Ms. Hug, Ms. Collins and Mr. Julal and two (2) votes against by Mr. Thompson and Mr. Mishkin. The motion passed.

IX. Information Items

a. State Relations Update

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

b. Update on Conflict of Interest Statements and Background Checks

Ms. Woodward reminded the Board to complete the Conflict of Interest statements for the 2013-2014 school year.

X. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date - September 18, 2014 at 5:00 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 18, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. ET via teleconference. A motion was made by Ms. Collins and seconded by Mr. Julal to adjourn the meeting at 6:06 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.