



**APPROVED 10/16/14**

**Georgia Connections Academy (GACA)  
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
Thursday, September 18, 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**

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**I. Call to Order**

Ms. Hug called the meeting to order at 5:06 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, JoAnn Brown and Greg Mishkin (via phone);

Guests Present: Heather Robinson, School Principal (in person); Rachel Graver, 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. The Board requested to hear the State Relations Report immediately following Approval of the Agenda. In addition, the Board requested the tabling of Consent Item A: Approval of Minutes from the August 14, 2014 Meeting, noting the minutes were not available in advance of the meeting. There being no further changes noted, Ms. Brown made the following motion and it was seconded by Mr. Julal as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Agenda for the September 18, 2014 Board Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Georgia Connections Academy, as amended, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

## Information Items

### a. State Relations Update

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

[Mr. Ragley left the meeting at 5:16 p.m.]

## V. Oral Reports

### a. Principal's Report

#### i. Update on Enrollment and Staffing

Ms. Robinson reviewed the Monthly School Report (MSR) and enrollment with the Board, including those students in the pre-enrollment stages of the process. She further reviewed the staffing updates that have been made based on enrollment, as well as ongoing training for staff members.

#### ii. Update on Back to School Activities

Ms. Robinson provided the Board with an overview of back to school activities at the school, including a welcome event for families and upcoming field trips.

#### iii. Media Clips and Marketing

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

#### iv. Update on Summer School Results

Ms. Robinson updated the Board on summer school sessions and graduating students.

### 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.

#### i. Update on June 30, 2014 Fiscal Audit

Mr. Julal updated the Board on the audit progress and thanked Connections for their assistance throughout the process.

## VI. Board Strategic Development

### a. Upcoming Mandatory GCSA Training – October 5-7

Ms. Hug reminded the Board of the upcoming mandatory governance training.

b. EMO Evaluation

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. 2014-2015 Items for Board Consideration

Ms. Woodward reviewed the outline of items planned to be presented for Board consideration throughout the current school year. She further advised the Board that the document was fluid, and items may be included, omitted, or considered on a varied timeline based on a number of factors, including state submission and enrollment deadlines, as well as school need for student support.

## VII. **Consent Items**

Ms. Hug asked the Board members whether there were any additional 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 Ms. Collins and seconded by Mr. Julal as follows:

RESOLVED, the Consent Items:

- b. Approval of Minutes from the August 21, 2014 Meeting;
- c. Approval of Staffing Report; and
- d. Approval of Revisions to State Specific Handbook: Promotion Policy; are hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

## VIII. **Action Items**

a. Approval of Connections Academy of Georgia, LLC Invoices for July and August

Mr. Julal reviewed in detail the CA invoices for the months of July and August 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 invoices or required any further explanation. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Julal and seconded by Ms. Collins as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Connections Academy of Georgia, LLC invoices for the months of July, in the amount of \$1,734,335.04, and August, in the amount of \$1,829,130.47, as presented, are hereby approved for payment upon the availability of funds.

The motion passed unanimously.

## **Audit Committee, Committee of the Entire Board**

Acceptance of the Audit Report for the 2013-2014 School Year

Mr. Julal reviewed the audit report for School Year 2013-2014 ending June 30, 2014 as included in the Board materials. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Brown and seconded by Mr. Julal as follows:

RESOLVED, that the School Year Audit for the year ending June 30, 2014, as presented, is hereby accepted.

The motion was passed with five (5) affirmative votes by Ms. Hug, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Julal, Ms. Collins and Ms. Brown and one (1) abstention by Mr. Mishkin.

**IX. Information Items**

a. State Relations Update

This report was given earlier in the meeting.

**X. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date – October 16, 2014 at 5:00 p.m.**

The next meeting is scheduled for October 16, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. ET via teleconference. A motion was made by Mr. Julal and seconded by Ms. Collins to adjourn the meeting at 5:45 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.