



APPROVED 11/20/14

Georgia Connections Academy (GACA)
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Thursday, October 16, 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 5:02 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 and JoAnn Brown (in person); Steve Julal, Charlotte Collins and Greg Mishkin (via phone);

Board Members Joined During Meeting: Rich Thompson;

Guests Present: Heather Robinson, School Principal; Caroline Gladstone, School Staff (in person); Amy Wilcox, School Staff; Rachel Graver, Tanya Lee, Jay W. Ragley, Heather Woodward and Megann Arthur, Connections staff (all via phone).

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

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 noted that the EMO Evaluation item will be tabled, as there remain some outstanding Board member evaluations to collect. There being no additional changes noted, Mr. Julal made the following motion and it was seconded by Ms. Brown as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Agenda for the October 16, 2014 Board Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Georgia Connections Academy, as amended, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

[Mr. Thompson joined the meeting at 5:07 p.m.]

V. Oral Reports

a. Principal's Report

i. 2013-2014 School Year School Goals Update/ Principal's State of the School Report

Ms. Robinson provided the Board with a state of the school report. She reviewed state testing results in detail with the Board. Ms. Robinson discussed last year's enrollment figures and goals with the Board and reviewed the current enrollment and school goals. She further discussed staff training, as well as graduation rates. Ms. Robinson reminded Board members that the staff worked closely with Connections staff on establishing this year's school goals, and reiterated that the school goals represent the major driver for the staff incentive plan.

[Mr. Thompson left the meeting at 5:35 p.m.]

Ms. Robinson commented that the goals are created with the intention of making the school a better experience for students and to allow for better outcomes and student achievements. The Board thanked Ms. Robinson for her thoroughness and partnership in the educational process.

ii. Media Clips and Marketing

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

iii. Update on Prom Planning

Ms. Robinson provided the Board with an update on planning for the school's first prom. She advised that the school staff members are currently considering combining prom with graduation, to leverage resources over that weekend. Ms. Robinson further advised that she will provide further updates throughout the school year.

b. Financial Report

Ms. Lee reviewed the financial information included in the Board materials with the Board. She reviewed the balance sheet, and the school's revenue and expense statements with the Board. Ms. Lee discussed the current enrollment and forecast, as well.

VI. Board Strategic Development

a. Update on Attendance at Mandatory SCSC Training – October 9-10

Ms. Hug provided the Board with an update on the previous week's mandatory governance training provided by the Charter Commission. Board members discussed the training and significant takeaways from sessions.

b. EMO Evaluation

This item was tabled earlier in the meeting.

[Mr. Thompson re-joined the meeting at 5:53 p.m.]

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. Ms. Robinson provided the Board with some additional background information on Items (f) and (g). There being no items moved, a motion was made by Ms. Brown and seconded by Mr. Julal as follows:

RESOLVED, the Consent Items:

- a. Approval of Minutes from the September 18, 2014 Meeting;
- b. Approval of Staffing Report;
- c. Approval of Revision(s) to the 2014-2015 School Year General School Handbook: Conduct, Due Process and Communication Policy;
- d. Approval of Revision(s) to the 2014-2015 School Year State Specific School Handbook: Bullying and Prohibited Behaviors;
- e. Approval of Curriculum Strategy for the 2015-2016 School Year;
- f. Approval of Revisions to the Employee Handbook: Out of State Teacher Policy; and
- g. Approval of Federal Title Funding Plans for the 2014-2015 School Year; are hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Action Items

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

Mr. Julal reviewed in detail the CA supplemental 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. Julal and seconded by Mr. Thompson as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Connections Academy of Georgia, LLC supplemental invoice for the month of June, in the amount of \$128,611.23, as presented, is hereby approved for payment upon the availability of funds.

The motion passed unanimously.

- b. Approval of Connections Academy of Georgia, LLC Invoice for September

Mr. Julal reviewed in detail the CA invoice for the month of September 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. Julal and seconded by Mr. Thompson as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Connections Academy of Georgia, LLC invoice for the month of September, in the amount of \$1,444,975.10, as presented, is hereby approved for payment upon the availability of funds.

The motion passed unanimously.

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. Board Academy Feedback

Ms. Hug and Ms. Collins provided the Board with an update on their recent trips to Board Academy in Baltimore, Maryland. Ms. Hug commented on her experiences in working with many other Connections partnering Board members from across the country. Ms. Collins discussed her takeaways from the training opportunity, as well. They both thanked the Board for the opportunity to attend the training and noted the value of the information that was presented.

Ms. Hug reminded Board members of the upcoming strategic planning session on November 20, 2014.

X. **Adjournment and Next Meeting Date – November 20, 2014 at 5:00 p.m.**

The next meeting is scheduled for November 20, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. ET via teleconference. A motion was made by Mr. Mishkin and seconded by Mr. Julal to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.