



APPROVED 02/19/2015

Georgia Connections Academy (GACA)
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Thursday, January 15, 2015 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); Charlotte Collins, Rich Thompson and Greg Mishkin (via phone);

Board Members Absent: Steve Julal;

Guests Present: Heather Robinson, School Principal; Amy Wilcox, School Staff Member; Leonard Parker, Member of the Public (in person); Caroline Gladstone, School Staff Member; Rachel Graver, Shawn Soltz, Jay W. Ragley and Megann Arthur, Connections staff (all via phone).

III. Mission Statement

Ms. Hug asked Ms. Robinson to read the school's Mission Statement to begin the meeting, and Ms. Robinson did so.

IV. Public Comment

There were no public comments made at this time, though Ms. Hug acknowledged the presence of Mr. Leonard Parker, and indicated the Board's intent to hear a presentation from him in the first Executive Session during the meeting.

V. 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 Ms. Collins as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Agenda for the January 15, 2015 Board Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Georgia Connections Academy, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION - Pursuant to O.C.G.A. §§ 50-14-3 – to discuss records made exempt from public inspection or disclosure pursuant to Article 4 of Chapter 18

A motion was made by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Ms. Collins, to enter into Executive Session at 5:08 p.m. via a roll call vote of the Board pursuant to O.C.G.A. §§ 50-14-3 – to discuss records made exempt from public inspection or disclosure pursuant to Article 4 of Chapter 18.

Board members in attendance were Alisa Hug, Charlotte Collins, Greg Mishkin, JoAnn Brown and Rich Thompson. Guest(s) in attendance at the request of the Board were: Heather Robinson, Leonard Parker, Amy Wilcox, Rachel Graver and Megann Arthur. All other attendees left the meeting at this time.

After the Board concluded their discussion, the Board resumed their open session at 5:20 p.m. via a roll call vote, motioned by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Ms. Brown.

No action was taken during Executive Session.

[Mr. Parker left the meeting and Mr. Ragley, Mr. Soltz and Ms. Gladstone joined the meeting at 5:22 p.m.]

VII. Oral Reports

a. Principal's Report

i. Dashboard/Media Clips and Marketing

Ms. Robinson reviewed the school dashboard/media clips and marketing information included in the Board materials with the Board. She reviewed recent state testing, including the processes and procedures. Board members discussed onboarding procedures for new students with school leadership. Ms. Gladstone also updated the Board on preparations provided to families prior to state testing.

ii. Update on State Specific School Handbook: Abusive LC/ Caretaker Policy

Ms. Robinson provided the Board with an update regarding a minor language change in the recently Board-approved Abusive Learning Coach/Caretaker Policy for the school, which provides the school with recourse in the event that a learning coach or caretaker acts in an improper manner with school staff members. Ms. Robinson advised that, following feedback from Counsel, the term "due process" has been changed to "grievance policy" throughout the policy. Board members did not express any concern with the language change.

iii. Quarterly Metrics Report

Ms. Robinson presented this item to the Board. She reviewed the data included in the Board materials, highlighting the school's performance as compared with other Connections' partnering schools of similar size and years in operation. Board members discussed the metrics data with Ms. Robinson.

iv. Update on Testing Technology Purchase

Ms. Robinson provided the Board with an update on the progress of the school's preparations for the year's state testing, including the use of Cantey Technology to assist with testing.

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. The Board discussed Title and IDEA funding anticipated for the school.

VIII. Board Strategic Development

a. EMO Evaluation

Ms. Hug presented this item to the Board. She confirmed that the finalization of the evaluation data was still in progress.

b. Strategic Development Training Summary

Ms. Hug highlighted discussions held at the last strategic development training session of the Board. She advised that Mr. James Stephens has indicated that he would like to spend an additional three (3) hours with the Board in March.

IX. 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. The Board requested that item (g) Approval of the 2015-2016 School Year State Specific School Handbook be moved to Action Items for discussion. There being no additional items moved, a motion was made by Mr. Mishkin and seconded by Mr. Thompson as follows:

RESOLVED, the Consent Items:

- a. Approval of Minutes from the November 20, 2014 Meeting;
- b. Approval of Staffing Report;
- c. Approval of School Enrollment Opening for the 2015-2016 School Year;
- d. Approval of Agreements for Student Enrollment for 2015-2016 School Year: Regulatory Program Description, Parent /Legal Guardian (Caretaker) Acknowledgement and Designated Learning Coach Agreement;
- e. Approval of Revision(s) to the 2014-2015 School Year State Specific School Handbook: Grievance Policy;
- f. Approval of the 2015-2016 School Year General School Handbook; and
- h. Approval of Pay Pal Proposal; are hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

X. Action Items

a. Approval of Connections Academy of Georgia, LLC Invoices for November and December

Ms. Hug indicated that she had not been able to speak with Mr. Julal prior to the meeting to confirm his review of the financial materials and invoices. The Board discussed the options, and indicated their desire to table this item to the next meeting, to allow for Board Treasurer review of all documentation.

b. Approval of Funded Enrollment Target for the 2015-2016 School Year

Ms. Robinson reviewed the proposed enrollment target for the 2015-2016 school year of 4,000 students and sought Board input in regards to the number. The Board had a discussion and agreed that this was a good target to set for the upcoming school year based on staffing and budget. Board members had additional discussion on the advantages of steady growth, and maintaining high standards and results. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Collins and seconded by Mr. Thompson as follows:

RESOLVED, that funded enrollment target of 4,000 students for the 2015-2016 school year, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the 2015-2016 School Year State Specific School Handbook

Ms. Collins reviewed the process for grievances, as detailed in the 2015-2016 School Year State Specific School Handbook. Board members had discussion on the stage of the grievance policy process where a parent's issue is escalated to the parent member of the Board. The Board discussed alternative options for this stage in the process for grievances, and determined that the policy should allow for escalation to the Board President. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Mishkin and seconded by Ms. Collins as follows:

RESOLVED, that the 2015-2016 School Year State Specific School Handbook, as amended at meeting, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

XI. Information Items

a. State Relations Update

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

b. Upcoming LiveLesson® Sessions

Ms. Arthur presented this item to the Board. She reminded the Board they will be receiving links soon for LiveLesson® sessions for the upcoming Board consideration of the Curriculum and Outreach Plans for the 2015-2016 School Year. Ms. Arthur advised the Board that these recorded presentations are a more in-depth look at the plans prior to the Board meeting presentations and documentation.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION - Pursuant to O.C.G.A. §§ 50-14-3 – to discuss the employment, compensation or periodic evaluation of an employee

A motion was made by Ms. Brown and seconded by Mr. Mishkin, to enter into Executive Session at 6:32 p.m. via a roll call vote of the Board pursuant to O.C.G.A. §§ 50-14-3 – to discuss the employment, compensation or periodic evaluation of an employee. Board members in attendance were Alisa Hug, Charlotte Collins, Greg Mishkin, JoAnn Brown and Rich Thompson. Guests in attendance were Rachel Graver and Megann Arthur. All others left the meeting at this time.

After the Board concluded their discussion, the Board resumed their open session via roll call vote motioned by Mr. Mishkin and seconded by Ms. Collins at 6:44 p.m.

No action was taken during Executive Session.

XIII. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date – February 19, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 19, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. ET via teleconference. A motion was made by Mr. Mishkin and seconded by Ms. Collins to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.