



**APPROVED 04/23/15**

**Georgia Connections Academy (GACA)  
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
Thursday, February 19, 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**

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**I. Call to Order**

Ms. Hug called the meeting to order at 5:04 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); Steve Julal, Charlotte Collins, Rich Thompson and Greg Mishkin (via phone);

Board Members Absent: JoAnn Brown;

Guests Present: Heather Robinson, School Principal (in person); Elisa Buckner, Tricia Weatherspoon and Constance Watson, School Staff Members; 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.

**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 Mr. Mishkin as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Agenda for the February 19, 2015 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. Principal's Report

Ms. Robinson advised the Board that she was pleased to update them that the school had received their Level II Code, which will allow the school to proctor AP, PSAT and other exams for students, rather than partnering with local districts. She further advised that, along with the efficiency advantage, there was funding available for the school to apply for in conjunction with this acquisition.

### 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. Board members discussed specific metrics and data with Ms. Robinson.

### ii. State Testing Update

Ms. Robinson provided the Board with an update on the State Testing. She reviewed the planned procedures and assistance to staff for the end of grade state testing.

### iii. Graduation and Prom Planning

Ms. Robinson reviewed with the Board the school staff members' progress on planning for both graduation ceremonies and prom. Board members expressed their satisfaction with the school's efforts in planning great events for students within the budgetary parameters.

### iv. State Capitol Visits

Ms. Robinson presented the Board with an update on recent state capitol visits by school staff members and families.

### v. Title Audit Update

Ms. Robinson provided the Board with an update on the current progress of the school's title audit, including the anticipated date of completion.

### 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, and anticipated funding sources for the school.

## VII. Board Strategic Development

### a. EMO Evaluation

Mr. Julal advised the Board that he received the final documentation for the evaluation this past week, and it will be ready for Board review at the next meeting.

[Mr. Thompson left the meeting at 5:29 p.m.]

b. Strategic Development Training Update

Ms. Hug advised the Board that the next training session is expected to be held in March, and further details will be sent to the Board via email in the coming weeks. She reminded the Board that this is the final session currently planned.

**VIII. 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 Mr. Mishkin and seconded by Mr. Julal as follows:

RESOLVED, the Consent Items:

- a. Approval of Minutes from the January 15, 2015 Board Meeting;
- b. Approval of Staffing Report;
- c. Approval of Revision(s) to the 2014-2015 School Year State Specific School Handbook: Honor Roll Program;
- d. Approval of Outreach Plan for the 2015-2016 School Year; and
- e. Approval of Additional Federal Title Funding Plans for the 2014-2015 School Year; are hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

**IX. Action Items**

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

Mr. Julal reviewed in detail the CA invoices for the months of November, December and January 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 Mr. Mishkin as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Connections Academy of Georgia, LLC invoices for the months of November, in the amount of \$ 1,672,932.15, December, in the amount of \$ 1,490,541.64, and January, in the amount of \$ 1,544,923.87, as presented, are hereby approved for payment upon the availability of funds.

The motion passed unanimously.

**X. 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 Activity Update

Ms. Hug provided the Board with an update on the current balance of the Board member training and activity budget, and the potential training and retreat opportunities for the Board for the rest of the school year. Board members discussed the conferences and retreat options, and indicated their intent to send Board members to the National Charter Schools Conference in June.

**XI. 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. Mishkin and seconded by Ms. Collins, to enter into Executive Session at 5:46 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 and Steve Julal. Guest(s) in attendance at the request of the Board were: Heather Robinson, 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 6:30 p.m. via a roll call vote, motioned by Mr. Mishkin and seconded by Ms. Hug.

No action was taken during Executive Session.

Board members indicated their intent to pass a resolution based on their Executive Session discussion. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Mishkin and seconded by Ms. Collins as follows:

RESOLVED, that the denial of the Caretaker's request for the school to modify his student's curriculum, as presented, is hereby approved;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the denial of the elimination of the Entrance Agreement, as presented, is hereby approved; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the denial of the elimination of the Attendance Contract, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

**XII. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date – April 16, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.**

The next meeting is scheduled for April 16, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. ET via teleconference. A motion was made by Ms. Collins and seconded by Mr. Mishkin to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.