



**APPROVED 06/18/15**

**Georgia Connections Academy (GACA)  
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
Thursday, May 21, 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; Jay W. Ragley, Connections staff (in person); Rachel Graver, Shawn Soltz, Tonya Wesley and Megann Arthur, Connections staff (all via phone).

**III. Mission Statement**

At Ms. Hug's request, Ms. Robinson read the school's Mission Statement to begin the meeting

**IV. Public Comment**

There were no comments 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, Ms. Collins made the following motion and it was seconded by Mr. Julal as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Agenda for the May 21, 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

#### 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.

#### ii. State Testing Update

Ms. Robinson provided the Board with an update on the state testing, including specific participation rates by subject. She expressed her satisfaction with staff efforts for state testing for the school year.

#### iii. Graduation and End of Year Activities Update

Ms. Robinson discussed the day's graduation ceremony with the Board, and thanked those who were in attendance. She reviewed end of year activities with the Board, including the recent prom and school picnics.

### 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. Mr. Soltz also reviewed the end of year forecast with the Board.

## VII. Board Strategic Development

### a. EMO Evaluation Update

Mr. Julal discussed the written response received from Connections, and asked for Board member feedback. All Board members present confirmed their review of the response and indicated their satisfaction with the responses, and that no further discussion or dialogue was required at this time. Mr. Julal advised that he would expect the next cycle of the annual EMO evaluation to begin in July.

### b. Strategic Plan Update

Ms. Robinson provided the Board with an update on the development of the school's strategic plan. She reviewed with the Board the planning documents included in the Board materials, to assist the school and board in creating a final Plan. The Board discussed the documents and data included to date, and expressed their appreciation to Ms. Robinson for all her work on the Plan.

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

RESOLVED, the Consent Items:

- a. Approval of Minutes from the April 23, 2015 Board Meeting;
- b. Approval of Staffing Report;
- c. Approval of Board President as Board Designee to Approve Summer Staffing Decisions for the 2015-2016 School Year;
- d. Approval of Revision(s) to 2015-2016 School Year General School Handbook: Grievance Policy and Use of School Educational Materials; and
- e. Approval of Revision(s) to 2015-2016 School Year State Specific School Handbook: Discipline and Due Process for Students, and Grievance Process for Caretakers; are hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

## IX. Action Items

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

Mr. Julal reviewed in detail the CA invoice for the month of April 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. Mishkin as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Connections Academy of Georgia, LLC invoice for the month of April, in the amount of \$2,134,914.77, as presented, is hereby approved for payment upon the availability of funds.

The motion passed unanimously.

- b. Approval of 2015-2016 School Year Budget and Fee Schedule from Connections Academy of Georgia, LLC

Mr. Soltz reviewed the proposed 2015-2016 school year budget outline and Budget Notes documents with the Board, also reminding them of the budget development process to date that included the school leader, Board Treasurer and Connections staff. Ms. Robinson also discussed specifics of the school's staffing model included in the proposed budget with the Board.

[Mr. Thompson left the meeting at 5:41 p.m.]

Mr. Soltz further reviewed the accompanying Fee Schedule from Connections Academy of Georgia, LLC with the Board. He advised the Board that the 2015-2016 Fee Schedule being presented summarizes the basis for all charges from Connections to the school under the Educational Products and Services Agreement (EPSA), and that the basis for all charges is drawn directly from the Budget. Board members discussed the budget, including related staffing, outreach and other specific expenses for the school, as well as the fee schedule and all services provided by Connections under the schedule.

[Mr. Thompson re-joined the meeting at 5:55 p.m.]

The Board had extensive discussion on specific aspects of Connections' fee schedule, and how the pricing relates to enrollment. Board members also had extensive discussion on timing for the communication of staff merit increases and securing necessary staff for the next school year, in relation to budget approval.

Board members expressed their intent to go into an Executive Session to further discuss the budget and Fee Schedule, and how it relates to the Educational Products and Services Agreement (EPSA) with Connections Academy of Georgia, LLC.

**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 Mr. Thompson to enter into Executive Session at 7:16 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, Steve Julal and Rich Thompson. There were no guests invited to join the Board for the Executive Session, so all others left the meeting at this time.

[At the invitation of the Board, Ms. Robinson and Ms. Wesley joined the meeting at 7:29 p.m.]

After the Board concluded their discussion, the Board resumed their open session via roll call vote motioned by Mr. Mishkin and seconded by Mr. Thompson at 7:40 p.m. No action was taken during Executive Session.

[Mr. Ragley, Mr. Soltz, Ms. Graver and Ms. Arthur re-joined the meeting at 7:41 p.m.]

There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Julal and seconded by Ms. Collins as follows:

RESOLVED, that the budget for the 2015-2016 school year and all assumptions provided therein and the Fee Schedule from Connections Academy of Georgia, LLC for the 2015-2016 school year, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed with three (3) affirmative votes, and two (2) negative votes by Mr. Mishkin and Mr. Thompson.

The Board also noted that there was no additional action required at this time, but that Board members wished for their Board Counsel to review the compliant discussed during the second portion of their Executive Session.

**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. Results of the Parent Satisfaction Survey

Ms. Robinson reviewed the results of the Parent Satisfaction Survey, included in the Board materials, in detail with the Board. She noted that a third party independent vendor conducted the survey. A copy of the results of the survey was sent to the school Board's President directly from the third party vendor.

**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**

The Board held this session earlier in the meeting.

**XII. Adjournment and Annual Meeting Date – June 18, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.**

The next meeting is scheduled for June 18, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. ET via teleconference. A motion was made by Mr. Julal and seconded by Mr. Mishkin to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.