



APPROVED 08/20/15

Georgia Connections Academy (GACA)  
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNUAL MEETING  
Thursday, June 18, 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 5:06 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, Steve Julal, Rich Thompson and Greg Mishkin (in person) and Charlotte Collins (via phone);

Board Members Absent: JoAnn Brown;

Guests Present: Heather Robinson, School Principal; Rachel Graver and Allison Reaves (in person); Shawn Soltz, Jay W. Ragley and Megann Arthur, Connections staff (all via phone).

III. Mission Statement

Ms. Hug 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. The Board added Consent Item (d) Approval of Revision(s) to 2015-2016 School Year State Specific School Handbook: Dual Enrollment to the agenda. There being no additional changes noted, Mr. Thompson made the following motion and it was seconded by Mr. Julal as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Agenda for the June 18, 2015 Annual Board Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Georgia Connections Academy, as amended, 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. She highlighted the improvement in the school's attrition rate from the previous school year, as well as end of year academic performance data available to date.

#### ii. Enrollment and Staffing Update

Ms. Robinson reviewed current enrollment with the Board, as well as Intent to Return forms that have been received. Board members discussed attendance rates, as well as planned outreach efforts for student recruitment over the summer.

### b. Financial Report

Mr. Soltz reviewed the financial information included in the Board materials with the Board.

[Mr. Ragley joined the meeting at 5:27 p.m.]

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. Mr. Julal also confirmed his review of the financial materials, and requested an additional column to be created for future statements that shows the forecast versus actual balances.

### c. Introduction of School Leadership Team Representative

Ms. Graver introduced Allison Reaves to the Board, and advised them that she would be transitioning into the role of primary liaison to the Board on behalf of Connections' School Leadership Team. Ms. Reaves briefly addressed the Board, providing her background in education and with Connections. The Board thanked Ms. Graver for her work with the school, and welcomed Ms. Reaves.

## VII. Board Strategic Development

### a. EMO Evaluation Update

Ms. Hug and Mr. Julal indicated there was no update to be provided at this time.

### b. Strategic Plan Update

Ms. Robinson provided the Board with an update on the current progress on the final draft of the school's Strategic Plan. She advised the Board of the anticipated timeline for the document to be available for Board review.

## 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. The Board requested that Consent Item (d) Approval of Revision(s) to the 2015-2016 School Year State Specific School Handbook: Dual Enrollment be moved to Action Items for discussion. There being no additional 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 May 21, 2015 Board Meeting;
- b. Approval of Staffing Report; and
- c. Approval of Board Meeting Schedule for the 2015-2016 School Year; are hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

### Approval of Revision(s) to the 2015-2016 School Year State Specific School Handbook: Dual Enrollment

Ms. Robinson reviewed the proposed revisions to the 2015-2016 school year state specific school handbook with the Board. She highlighted the changes to the language regarding dual enrollment, to clarify that GACA students can no longer take a course at another school while enrolled at GACA, but can still participate in an activity at a local school, provided the local school will allow it. Board members discussed this and other proposed revisions to the state specific handbook, and requested the addition of one clarifying line to the policies. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Mishkin and seconded by Mr. Julal as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Revision(s) to the 2015-2016 School Year State Specific School Handbook: Dual Enrollment, including additional language as discussed, are hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

## IX. Action Items

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

Mr. Julal reviewed in detail the CA invoice for the month of May 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 May, in the amount of \$2,092,623.95, as presented, is hereby approved for payment upon the availability of funds.

The motion passed unanimously.

- b. Approval of Directors

Ms. Arthur advised the Board that two Board members' terms were up for renewal at this meeting, Alisa Hug and JoAnn Brown. Following their confirmation that they wished to continue on the Board, discussion was held on the renewal of their terms. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Mishkin and seconded by Ms. Collins as follows:

RESOLVED, that the appointment of Alisa Hug and JoAnn Brown to the Georgia Connections Academy Board of Directors, as Class 3 Directors, for a term of three (3) years to the 2018 Annual meeting, as discussed, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

c. Approval of Officers for the 2015-2016 School Year

Ms. Arthur presented this item to the Board. She reviewed with the Board each Officer position as set out in the Board-adopted Bylaws, and advised the Board that all positions would be for a term until the Annual Meeting 2016. Nominations were opened for each position. Following the closure of nominations, and there being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Thomson and seconded by Ms. Collins as follows:

RESOLVED, that the appointment of:

Alisa Hug, Board Chair;  
Rich Thompson, Vice Chair;  
Steve Julal, Board Treasurer; and  
Charlotte Collins, Board Secretary, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion was approved 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. Board members had discussion on the current legislative climate in the state.

**XI. 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 Mr. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Julal, to enter into Executive Session at 6:04 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 present were: Ms. Hug, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Mishkin, Mr. Julal and Ms. Collins. At the invitation of the Board, Ms. Graver, Ms. Reeves and Ms. Arthur remained in the Executive Session. All others left the meeting at this time.

After the Board concluded their discussion, the Board resumed their open session upon a motion by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Julal at 6:37 p.m. via roll call vote. No action was taken during Executive Session.

**XII. Approval of School Leader Compensation for the 2015-2016 School Year**

Ms. Hug reminded the Board of the discussion regarding the School Leader compensation during the Executive Session, and requested Board approval. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Ms. Collins as follows:

RESOLVED, that the School Leader compensation for the 2015-2016 school year in the amount of \$98,140.50 with a 20% bonus potential, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

**XIII. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date – August 20, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.**

The next meeting is scheduled for August 20, 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 6:38 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.