



APPROVED 10/20/2016

**Georgia Connections Academy (GACA)
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Thursday, September 15, 2016 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 (in person), JoAnn Brown, Charlotte Collins, Steve Julal and Greg Mishkin (via phone);

Board Members Joined During Meeting: Rich Thompson;

Guests Present: Heather Robinson, School Principal (in person); Allison Reaves, Karen Duquette, Shawn Soltz 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, Mr. Mishkin made the following motion and it was seconded by Dr. Brown as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Agenda for the September 15, 2016 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. School Leader's Report

i. Data Dashboard

Ms. Robinson reviewed the school dashboard/media clips and marketing information included in the Board materials with the Board, including up-to-date enrollment numbers and associated staffing levels. She discussed back to school activities in detail, including a recent visit by state legislators. Ms. Robinson also provided a detailed account of the recent back to school picnic for the Atlanta area, as well as those satellite events planned for other areas of the state later in the month.

Ms. Robinson further reviewed the school's successes in the summer school program this past summer, as well as the participation rates.

[Mr. Thompson joined the meeting at 5:15 p.m.]

Ms. Robinson discussed data and reporting guidelines for the school, as well as accolades for school staff members.

b. Financial Report

Mr. Soltz reviewed the financial report included in the Board Meeting materials. He highlighted key aspects in the school's revenue and expense reports, as well as the school's forecast for the school year. Mr. Soltz reviewed a credit that was issued back to the school as the result of a reduced sponsor fee from the Commission.

VII. Board Strategic Development

a. Performance Framework Update

Ms. Robinson provided the Board with an update on recent meetings with representatives from the Commission regarding ways for the school to increase their score in the financial area. She advised that she will be looking for ways to strategically leverage funding to help the school's score improve on the next assessment.

b. Board Policies Review Update

Ms. Hug advised the Board that revisions had been received the morning of the Board meeting on the school's proposed policy set. She advised that she would be reviewing the proposed revisions from Board Counsel, and that they would be sent to the Board for review prior to the next meeting.

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 Ms. Brown and seconded by Mr. Mishkin as follows:

RESOLVED, the Consent Items:

- a. Approval of Minutes from the August 18, 2016 Board Meeting;
- b. Approval of Staffing Report; and
- c. Approval of Closing Enrollment for the 2016-2017 School Year;

The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Action Items

- a. Approval of Connections Academy of Georgia, LLC Invoices for July and August

Mr. Julal reviewed in detail the CA invoices for the months of July and August 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 July, in the amount of \$1,870,138.71 and August, in the amount of \$1,924,669.91, as presented, are hereby approved for payment upon the availability of funds.

The motion passed unanimously.

- b. Approval of Membership with Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce

Ms. Robinson reviewed with the Board the advantages to the school for membership in the Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce, including community partnerships and networking opportunities. She advised that the nonprofit rate for the school for membership is slightly less than \$600. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Dr. Brown as follows:

RESOLVED, that Membership with Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

X. Information Items

- a. State Relations Update

Ms. Duquette provided the Board with an update on recent legislative activities that may impact the school.

- b. School Leadership Team (PSLT) Update

Ms. Reaves provided the Board with an update on behalf of Connections' School Leadership Team. She reviewed the annual process being completed by school leadership to develop the School Improvement Plan and school year goals, as well as the process for collecting data for the quarterly metrics reports to the board.

- c. Curriculum Town Hall Reminder

Ms. Arthur reminded the Board of the timing of the upcoming Curriculum Town Hall presentation as part of the annual review process for Curriculum consideration.

XI. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date – October 20, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.

There being no further business to discuss, the next meeting was confirmed for October 20, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. ET. The meeting was adjourned at 5:38 p.m. following a motion made by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Julal.