



**APPROVED 2/16/2017**

**Georgia Connections Academy (GACA)  
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
Thursday, January 19, 2017 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 5:03 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, Rich Thompson, Charlotte Collins and JoAnn Brown (via phone);

Board Members Joined During Meeting: Steve Julal and Greg Mishkin;

Guests Present: Heather Robinson, School Principal (in person); Allison Reaves, Jay W. Ragley, Karen Duquette, Shawn Soltz, Shon Hocker, Laura Coleman and Megann Arthur, Connections staff (all via phone).

**III. Mission Statement**

At the request of the Board, 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. Thompson made the following motion and it was seconded by Ms. Brown as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Agenda for the January 19, 2017 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 data dashboard information and Monthly School Report (MSR), as included in the Board materials with the Board. She also reviewed the upcoming annual Teachers of the Year event and the success of the recent annual site visit by the State Charter Schools Commission.

#### ii. School Operations Metrics

This item was discussed later in the meeting.

### 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.

## VII. Board Strategic Development

### a. Performance Framework Update

Ms. Robinson reviewed with the Board the school's Performance Framework Data as included in the Board materials. She provided CCRPI Scores for the each school level for the past five years.

[Mr. Mishkin joined the meeting at 5:20 p.m.]

Ms. Robinson identified areas of variance and noted measurement calculation changes that create challenges to track the data accurately. The Board discussed the data and current overall school grade in detail with Ms. Robinson.

[Mr. Julal joined the meeting at 5:36 p.m.]

### b. SCSC Governance Training Update

Ms. Robinson provided the Board with an update on the upcoming SCSC Governance Training in February.

## 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. Thompson as follows:

RESOLVED, the Consent Items:

- a. Approval of Minutes from the November 17, 2016 Board Meeting;
- b. Approval of Staffing Report;
- c. Approval of Revision(s) to the 2016-2017 School Year State Specific School Handbook: Promotion Policy;
- d. Approval of the 2017-2018 School Year General School Handbook; and

- e. Approval of the 2017-2018 School Year State Specific School Handbook; are hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

## IX. Action Items

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

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

RESOLVED, that the Connections Academy of Georgia, LLC invoices for the months of November, in the amount of \$1,968,393.05, and December, in the amount of \$1,953,495.45, as presented, are hereby approved for payment upon the availability of funds.

The motion passed unanimously.

- b. Approval of Funded Enrollment Target for the 2017-2018 School Year

Ms. Robinson reviewed the proposed enrollment target for the 2017-2018 school year of 4,000 students and sought Board input in regards to the number. The Board had discussion and agreed that this was a good target to set for the upcoming school year based on staffing and budget. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Julal and seconded by Ms. Brown as follows:

RESOLVED, that the funded enrollment target of 4,000 students for the 2017-2018 school year, as discussed, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

- c. Approval of Employee Contract Language

The Board requested the tabling of this item to the next Board meeting as a document was not available for their review and consideration. There being no further discussion, this item was tabled.

### **Review and Acceptance of Resignation of Board Member, Gregory Mishkin**

Upon the request of the Board, this item was moved up on the agenda. Ms. Hug reviewed Mr. Mishkin's desire to resign from the Board, effective January 20, 2017. Mr. Mishkin reviewed with the Board his reasons for resigning and wished the Board and School the best in the future. The Board acknowledged Mr. Mishkin's previously submitted resignation and service to the board and schools, and that his resignation is effective the following day.

[Ms. Duquette left the meeting at 5:57 p.m.]

## **Approval of Board Meeting Notifications to Caretakers and Learning Coaches via Webmail**

Mr. Mishkin re-iterated his belief in the importance of parent and guardian attendance at Board meetings and recommended Board meeting notifications be sent to Caretakers and Learning Coaches before every Board meeting via Webmail. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Mishkin and seconded by Mr. Thompson follows:

RESOLVED, that Board Meeting Notifications will be made to Caretakers and Learning Coaches, as discussed, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

### **X. Information Items**

#### **a. State Relations Update**

Mr. Ragley reviewed the written State Relations Report provided by Ms. Duquette in the Board meeting materials on recent legislative activities that may impact the school.

#### **b. School Leadership Team Update**

Ms. Reaves presented to the Board on behalf of Connections' School Leadership Team. She reviewed the School Operations Metrics included in the Board materials, highlighting the school's performance as compared with other Connections' partnering schools of similar size and years in operation. Ms. Reaves further provided the Board with information on the upcoming Winter School Leader's Retreat and Ms. Robinson's planned involvement.

[Ms. Brown left the meeting at 6:08 p.m.]

#### **c. Upcoming LiveLesson® Sessions**

Ms. Arthur presented this item to the Board. She reminded the Board that they will be soon be receiving a link to a LiveLesson® session presentation intended to provide a more in-depth look at the Outreach plans for the upcoming school year prior to the next Board meeting's documentation and review. Ms. Arthur further reminded the Board of the timing of the upcoming Curriculum Town Hall presentation as part of the annual review process.

### **XI. Review and Acceptance of Resignation of Board Member, Gregory Mishkin**

This item was presented earlier in the meeting.

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

The Board entered into Executive Session at 6:13 p.m. upon a motion made by Mr. Julal, seconded by Mr. Mishkin and confirmed 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, Rich Thompson, Greg Mishkin, Steve Julal and Charlotte Collins. Guests in attendance were: Allison Reaves 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 Mr. Thompson at 6:22 p.m. No action was taken during Executive Session.

Mr. Mishkin re-iterated his earlier comments regarding his best wishes for the school, and the Board members thanked him for his service to date.

**XIII. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date – February 16, 2017 at 5:00 p.m.**

Ms. Hug noted that the Board was at the end of its agenda. There being no further business to discuss, the next meeting was confirmed for February 16, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. ET. The meeting was adjourned at 6:24 p.m. following a motion made by Mr. Mishkin and seconded by Mr. Julal.