



APPROVED 4/20/2017

**Georgia Connections Academy (GACA)
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Thursday, February 16, 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**

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 and Rich Thompson (in person); Steve Julal, Charlotte Collins and JoAnn Brown (via phone);

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

III. Mission Statement

At the request of the Board, Mr. Thompson 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. In consideration of time and maintaining a quorum, the Board requested to consider the Consent and Action Items immediately following the Approval of the Agenda. There being no further changes noted, Mr. Thompson made the following motion and it was seconded by Mr. Julal as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Agenda for the February 16, 2017 Board Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Georgia Connections Academy, as amended, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

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. Collins and seconded by Mr. Julal as follows:

RESOLVED, the Consent Items:

- a. Approval of Minutes from the January 19, 2017 Board Meeting;
- b. Approval of Staffing Report; and
- c. Approval of Revision(s) to the 2016-2017 School Year State Specific School Handbook: Maximum Age to Enroll; are hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

Action Items

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

Mr. Julal reviewed in detail the CA invoice for the month of 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 Ms. Collins as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Connections Academy of Georgia, LLC invoice for the month of January, in the amount of \$1,989,926.20, as presented, is hereby approved for payment upon the availability of funds.

The motion passed unanimously.

- b. Approval of Employee Contract Language

Ms. Robinson reviewed the proposed employee contract language, and provided the Board with the background to the request and updated requirements for the school. She reviewed the communications to date with necessary stakeholders, and sought Board input in regards to the language. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Julal and seconded by Ms. Collins as follows:

RESOLVED, that the employee contract language, as discussed, 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.

- ii. State Testing Update

Ms. Robinson reviewed with the Board the upcoming state testing preparations by school staff.

iii. Winter School Leadership Retreat Update

Ms. Robinson reported to the Board on the Winter School Leaders' Conference that she recently attended, including professional development initiatives and networking opportunities.

iv. Graduation Plans

Ms. Robinson advised the Board that the high school graduation ceremony is planned for June 1, 2017, and encouraged Board members to attend.

b. Financial Report

Ms. Lee reviewed the financial report included in the Board Meeting materials. She 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

The Board discussed their desire to schedule an in-person Strategic Development Session in the near future. Ms. Arthur and Ms. Robinson will assist in the coordination.

[Ms. Brown left at 5:25 p.m.]

a. SCSC Monitoring Visit Update

Ms. Robinson review the monitoring report from the State Charter Schools Commission (SCSC) as included in the Board meeting materials. She further reviewed the revisions the School will make to policies as recommended by the SCSC and the drafted response.

b. Board Policies Update

Ms. Hug reviewed the Board Policies with the Board as included in the Board materials and the process completed to date by all parties involved, including herself, Ms. Robinson, Board Counsel and Connections. Ms. Hug requested all Board members to review the policies and provide feedback by March 15th for consideration at a future Board meeting.

VIII. Consent Items

This item was considered earlier in the meeting.

IX. Action Items

c. Approval of Connections Academy of Georgia, LLC Invoice for January

This item was considered earlier in the meeting.

d. Approval of Employee Contract Language

This item was considered earlier in the meeting.

X. Information Items

a. State Relations Update

Ms. Duquette provided the Board an update 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 provided the Board with additional information on student enrollment data and trends.

c. Outreach Plan for the 2017-2018 School Year

Ms. Robinson presented this item to the Board. She reviewed the school's proposed Outreach Plan for the upcoming school year, as included in the Board materials. Ms. Robinson highlighted current and projected enrollment numbers, as well as planned activities for student recruitment. Board members had discussion on the outreach plans and specific activities.

d. Board Reception and Annual Teacher Awards Banquet Update

Ms. Robinson reminded the Board of the upcoming Annual Teacher Awards Banquet and Ms. Arthur provided Board members with final details for the Board Member Reception planned prior to the Awards Banquet.

XI. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date – April 20, 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 April 20, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. ET. The meeting was adjourned at 5:46 p.m. following a motion made by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Ms. Collins.