



Approved November 15, 2018

North Carolina for Quality Virtual Education, Inc.  
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
Wednesday, October 24, 2018 at 5:00 P.M.

Held at the following location and via teleconference:  
2800 Meridian Parkway, Suite 150  
Durham, NC 27713

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I. Call to Order

Ms. Phifer called the meeting to order at 5:00

II. Roll Call

Board Members Present: Bridget Phifer, Board Chair (in person); Leland Davis (in person); Jenene Seymour (via phone); Jill Hammergren (in person); Avery Staley (via phone)

Guests Present: Nathan Currie, Superintendent (in person); Natasha Miller (in person); Donna Rascoe (in person); Karen Duquette, POBL (in person); Ted Ochs, POBL (in person)

III. Review and Consideration of Potential Board Member Candidate: Ms. Jill Hammergren

Ms. Phifer stated that the background check and clearance for Ms. Hammergren has been completed and there were no reservations.

A motion was made by Leland Davis to elect Ms. Hammergren, seconded by Jenene Seymour

The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Public Comment

There were no public comments at this time.

V. Routine Business

a) Approval of Agenda

There being no changes noted

A motion was made to approve the agenda by Leland Davis, seconded by Jill Hammergren.

The motion passed unanimously.

Connections Education

A presentation of Pearson Online Blended Learning (Connections Education) began with Mr. Ted Ochs introducing himself and giving an explanation of what he does at POBL. The presentation focused on the current arrangement between North Carolina Connections Academy and Pearson Online Blended Learning (POBL). Mr. Ochs noted that the current contract expires in June 2019 and he provided a summary of products and services that POBL has to

offer North Carolina Connections Academy. Mr. Ochs mentioned that he noticed we included information regarding Staples in the board package and how they differ from POBL. Mr. Ochs reviewed where we are, how we managed to get to this point and future options.

The Board discussed when viewing current products and services there is an inability to decipher what products and services they are being charged. Most services are not broken down by price. Mr. Avery stated that POBL must be more transparent as it relates to inquiries regarding products and services. There should be a clearer picture that will give a sense of transparency. Depending on the life of the partnership that is something that can be discussed moving forward. The Board wanted to know if they can have access to the same state reports that Pearson Online Blended Learning (POBL) receives.

POBL's vision is to continue to partner with North Carolina Connections Academy for our next 4 year charter renewal and have a healthy relationship working together to steadily improve academic and operational performance of the school. POBL suggests a decision should be made by December. It is reasonable for the board to be able to request and receive what services are being provided and what are the fees associated with the services.

## **VI. Oral Reports**

### **a) Board Chair Report**

At the previous meeting an exercise on team building and strategic planning, was completed and Ms. Phifer spoke to Mr. Thomas Miller of "Leaders Building Leaders" and informed the board that they now have access to navigate the Board Governance series. It is an on line, self-paced learning module regarding board issues as well as training. Ms. Rascoe also does Board training as well on board governance and is willing to train the Board. Ms. Phifer met with Staples on the 17<sup>th</sup> regarding their products and services and we will hear from them later on today.

There were accolades given to Mr. Davis for his support and participation at the Charter School Advisory Board meeting. NCCA was afforded the opportunity to represent at CSAB.

## **VII. Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Currie is working on strategic planning with the Office of Charter School and will forward this information to the board at next month's board meeting. He has received an invitation to work with the State team on strategic planning and rebranding.

The Board discussed in detail and compared proposed Options A and B of the Teacher Bonus Structure for the 2018-2019 school year. They suggested that there should be an Option C to review. Mr. Currie informed the Board that bonuses for the 2017-2018 will be going out to the staff at the end of October.

### **i. Principals Report**

There were no Principals reporting at this time.

### **ii. ES Testing Update**

Ms. Walden provided no updates on State Testing.

### **iii. MS STEM Robotics Club**

The Board discussed the middle school's STEM Robotics Club being implemented at NCCA.

iv. Plan For F2F

North Carolina Connections Academy has scheduled 5 face to face visits at this site as well as several other sites and board members are encouraged and invited to attend. There are over 250 families that have signed up to attend the events. The focus is on Instructional and social engagement. Our goal is conduct the visits on a monthly basis. Surveys were sent to the students and families regarding their experience at the face to face visit. Ms. Hammergren being newly elected to the board, will be forwarded the information of the face to face site visits.

**VIII. Financial Report**

- i. Dashboard Review
- ii. Monthly Cash Flow
- iii. September Invoice/Support

Mr. Ted Ochs of POBL reviewed the monthly Dashboard Review, Cash Flow and September Invoices with the Board.

iv. Financial Consultant Report

There was no report presented at this time. Simon Crair Group, CPA's will have a full report prepared for the November 15, 2018 board meeting.

v. Staples Presentation

A Staples presentation was included in the board package.

**IX. Consent Items**

- a) Approval of Minutes of the September 27, 2018 Board Meeting – Approved with changes.
- b) Approval of Minutes of the October 5, 2018 Board Meeting - Approved
- c) Approval of Monthly Staffing Report with resumes – Approved
- d) Approval of Connections Academy of North Carolina, LLC Invoice(s) for September, 2018 - Approved
- e) Approval of BTSP Beginning Teacher Support Program Plan – Approved

A motion to approve all Consent Items was made by Leland Davis, seconded by Jill Hammergren.

The motion passed unanimously.

**X. Actions Items– Tabled**

- a) 2018-2019 Bonus Structure
- b) Policy 101 – Policy Review
- c) Policy 102 – Board Delegation
- d) Policy 103 – Code of Ethics
- e) Policy 104 - Conflict of Interest
- f) Policy 105 – Board Meetings
- g) Policy 600 – Equal Employment Opportunity
- h) Policy 601 – Bully and Harassment
- i) Board Member Reimbursement

A motion to table Action Items was made by Leland Davis, seconded by Jill Hammergren.

The motion passed unanimously.

**XI. Closed Session**

The Board entered into Closed Session upon a motion being made by Leland Davis at 8:22 p.m., seconded by Jill Hammergren and confirmed via roll call vote of all Board Members present, pursuant to North Carolina General § 143-318.11(a) (3) – To consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged. § 143-318.11(a)(6) – To consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee. Board Members in attendance to begin the session were: Bridget Phifer, Leland Davis, Jill Hammergren and Jenene Seymour. Guests invited by the Board were: Nathan Currie and Donna Rascoe. At 8:48 p.m. Ms. Miller was asked to depart closed session and Ms. Phifer recused herself, both returning at 9:00 p.m.

A Motion to return to open session was made at 9:00 p.m. by Jill Hammergren, seconded Leland Davis

The motion passed unanimously.

## **XII. Approval of Action(s) Necessary Based On Closed Session**

There were no actions taken in closed session.

## **XIII. Adjournment and Confirmation of next meeting Thursday, November 15, 2018 5:00 pm**

Ms. Phifer noted that the Board was at the end of its agenda. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m. Due to Thanksgiving holiday the next board meeting is scheduled for November 15, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.