



APPROVED 10/27/2016

North Carolina Connections Academy
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Thursday, September 22, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.

Held at the following location and via teleconference:
2700 Meridian Parkway, Suite 300
Durham, NC 27713

I. Call to Order

In the absence of a quorum, Dr. Setser indicated the Board's intent to hear Oral Reports until additional members of the Board could join the meeting.

II. Roll Call

Board Members Present: Bryan Setser, Kristin Cuilla and Catherine Edmonds (via phone);

Board Members Joined During Meeting: Eric Strother (via phone) and Bridget Phifer (in person);

Board Members Absent: Donna Sullivan;

Guests Present: Nathan Currie, School leader; Eric Rowe, School Staff; Jill Hammergren, Public Relations; (in person); Melissa Nelson, Jay W. Ragley, Karen Duquette, Brenda Little, Shon Hocker, Heather Woodward and Laura Coleman, Connections staff (all via phone)

Oral Reports

At the request of the Board, this item was moved up on the agenda.

a. Principal's Report

Mr. Currie reviewed the Monthly School Report with the Board, highlighting changes from the previous month's report.

[Dr. Strother and Ms. Hammergren joined the meeting at 9:05 a.m.]

Call to Order

Having a quorum of the Board present, Dr. Setser called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. when all participants were present and able to hear each other. The meeting location was open for the public to attend.

III. Confirmation and Appointment of Board Member Candidates: Catherine Edmonds and Bridget Phifer

Board members discussed the current Board composition, the qualifications of the Board member candidates, Ms. Catherine Edmonds and Ms. Bridget Phifer, included in the Board materials, and their preferred candidate qualifications. There being no further discussion, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, that the appointment of Catherine Edmonds to the North Carolina for Quality Virtual Education Board of Directors, as a Class 1 Director, for a term of one (1) year to the 2017 Annual Meeting, effective immediately, as discussed, is hereby approved.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the appointment of Bridget Phifer to the North Carolina for Quality Virtual Education Board of Directors, as a Class 2 Director, for a term of two (2) years to the 2018 Annual Meeting, effective immediately, as discussed, is hereby approved.

The motions passed unanimously.

IV. Public Comment:

There were no public comments at this time.

V. Routine Business

a. Approval of Agenda

Dr. Setser asked the Board to review the Agenda distributed prior to the meeting. The Board confirmed receipt of the updated agenda item, Action Item E, Approval of Consulting Services Proposal. There being no changes noted, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Agenda for the September 22, 2016 Meeting of the Board of Directors of the North Carolina Connections Academy, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Oral Reports

b. Principal's Report

i. School Activities Update

Mr. Currie discussed with the Board recent school activities, including testing preparations and honor society events. Mr. Currie further advised the Board of an upcoming Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) conference in which he will be presenting.

ii. Enrollment and Staffing Update

Mr. Currie reviewed the school's current enrollment numbers with the Board, including those students in the pre-approval and approved phases of their applications. He further provided the Board with an update on changes to staff composition.

iii. State Data and Outcomes Report

Mr. Currie reviewed the state data previously sent to Board members via email between Board meetings. He further reviewed desired action steps to improve student achievement.

[Ms. Phifer joined the meeting at 9:15 a.m.]

c. Financial Report

Ms. Little reviewed the financial report included in the Board Meeting materials. She reviewed the changes in the financials and forecasted expenses from the previous month's statements, enrollment funding, projected fund balance and specific expenses.

i. Financial Dashboard Review

Ms. Little reviewed the Financial Dashboard as included in the Board meeting materials.

ii. Monthly Cash Flow

Ms. Little reviewed the Monthly Cash Flow as included in the Board meeting materials.

d. Data and Alignment Meeting Update

Mr. Currie updated the Board on a recent meeting he and Dr. Setser had with Ms. Duquette and Mr. Robertson of Connections. He reviewed the school's initiatives including, curriculum assessment and increased professional development. Ms. Duquette advised the Board that the school met all the first year school goals and Connections looks forward to a continued collaborative relationship with the school and Board. Dr. Setser advised the Board of ongoing curriculum meetings scheduled with Connections.

VII. Consent Items

Dr. Setser 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 changes, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, the Consent Items:

- a. Approval of Minutes from the August 25, 2016 Board Meeting;
- b. Approval of Staffing Report;
- c. Approval of Invoice(s) from Connections Education for Summer School 2016;
- d. Approval of Enrollment Application Deadline for the 2016-2017 School Year; and
- e. Approval of Revision(s) to NCCA Board Policy Manual:
 - i. Reimbursement Policy; are hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Action Items

a. Approval of Connections Academy of North Carolina, LLC Invoices for July and August

Dr. Strother reviewed in detail the Connections Academy of North Carolina, LLC invoices for the months of July and August as drawn from the financial report in the Board materials and recommended them for approval. He asked the Board members whether they had any questions on the invoices or if any items required further explanation.

b. Approval of Beginning Teacher Support Program Plan

Mr. Currie introduced Mr. Rowe to review the Beginning Teacher Support Program Plan, as provided in the Board materials, with the Board. Mr. Rowe reviewed the state required program aimed and offering support and training beginning teachers in detail with the Board.

c. Approval of Contract with Curriculum Auditor

Dr. Setser reviewed the Curriculum Audit proposal from Generation Ready as included in the Board materials. The Board discussed the audit proposal and requested timeline amendments as well as clarification that the curriculum should align to North Carolina standards.

d. Approval of Board Chair, Board Treasurer and School Leader as Designees on Curriculum Audit Committee

Dr. Setser reviewed the need to create a Curriculum Audit Committee and appoint Designees to monitor the review and recommendations from the proposed Generation Ready Curriculum Auditor. The Board agreed that the Board Chair, Board Treasurer and School Leader should serve as Designees in this role.

e. Approval of Consulting Services Proposal

Dr. Setser reviewed the Consulting Services Proposal from Vality Consulting Services as included in the Board materials. The Board discussed the consulting services proposal.

The Board expressed their intent to consider Action Items a, b, c, d and e together. There being no further discussion, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Connections Academy of North Carolina, LLC invoices for the months of July, in the amount of \$822,023.91, and August, in the amount of \$855,267.48, as presented, are hereby approved.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Teacher Support Beginning Program Plan, as presented, is hereby approved.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Contract with Generation Ready as Curriculum Auditor, as amended, is hereby approved.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board Chair, Board Treasurer and School Leader as designees on Curriculum Audit Committee, as discussed, is hereby approved.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Contract with Vality Consulting Services, as proposed, is hereby approved.

The motions passed unanimously.

IX. Information Items

a. State Relations Update

Ms. Duquette updated the Board on recent legislative activities which may impact the school.

b. North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (DPI) Survey Update

Mr. Currie provided the Board with an update on the upcoming survey the Board has scheduled with a representative on behalf of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (DPI). Mr. Currie advised Board members that more information will be sent via email as plans are finalized.

c. Partner School Leadership Team Update

Ms. Nelson presented to the Board on behalf of Connections' Partner School Leadership Team. She provided background on the School Operational Metrics which will be reviewed at the next Board meeting.

d. Curriculum Town Hall Reminder

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

CLOSED SESSION - N.C.G.S. §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

The Board entered into Closed Session at 10:00 a.m. upon a motion being made, seconded, and confirmed via roll call vote of all Board members present, pursuant to North Carolina General Statute §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. Board members in attendance to begin the session were: Dr. Setser, Dr. Strother, Dr. Cuilla, Ms. Phifer and Ms. Edmonds. Guests invited by the Board to attend were: Mr. Currie. All others left the meeting at this time.

The Board ended Closed Session and entered into open session at 10:08 a.m. upon a motion being made, seconded, and confirmed via roll call vote. No action was taken during Closed Session.

X. Adjournment and Confirmation of Next Meeting – Thursday, October 27, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.

Dr. Setser noted that the Board was at the end of its agenda. With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:08 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for October 27, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.