



**APPROVED 1/26/2017**

North Carolina Connections Academy  
**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
Thursday, November 17, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.

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

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**I. Call to Order**

Dr. Setser called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. when all participants were present and able to hear each other. The meeting location was open for the public to attend.

**II. Roll Call**

Board Members Present: Bridget Phifer (in person); Bryan Setser, Eric Strother, Donna Sullivan and Kristin Cuilla (via phone);

Board Members Absent: Catherine Edmonds;

Guests Present: Nathan Currie, School leader; GeRita Walden, School staff (in person); Meesha Brown, Generation Ready; Pat Hoge, Melissa Nelson, Jay W. Ragley, Karen Duquette, Brenda Little, Heather Woodward and Laura Coleman, Connections staff (all via phone)

**III. Public Comment:**

There were no public comments at this time.

**IV. Audit Committee, Committee of the Entire Board**

a. Review and Acceptance of the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year Audit Report

Ms. Little advised the Board of the additional work necessary to finalize the 2015-2016 audit report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2016. She further advised that the audit report is due to prior to the Board's next meeting. The Board discussed and agreed to appointment of the Board Treasurer as Board Designee to work with Connections and the auditor to finalize the audit report. There being no additional discussion, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Board Treasurer as Board Designee to finalize and submit the 2015-2016 school year Financial Audit Report, as discussed, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

## V. Routine Business

### a. Approval of Agenda

Dr. Setser asked the Board to review the Agenda distributed prior to the meeting. There being no changes noted, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Agenda for the November 17, 2016 Meeting of the Board of Directors of the North Carolina Connections Academy, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

### Consent Items

In consideration of time, the Board requested to move this item up on the agenda. 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. The Board decided to review each item individually.

### a. Approval of Minutes from the October 27, 2016 Board Meeting

Dr. Setser asked Board members whether there were any changes to the Minutes from the October 27, 2016 Board Meeting as included in the Board Meeting materials. There being no changes, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOVLED, the Minutes from the October 27, 2016 Board Meeting, as presented, are hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

### b. Approval of Staffing Report

### c. Approval of Live Tutor Proposal

The Board expressed their intent to review the next items together. Dr. Setser asked Board members whether there were any questions or changes to the Staffing Report as included in the Board Meeting materials. There being none, Dr. Setser asked Mr. Currie for additional information on the Live Tutor Proposal included in the Board Meeting materials. There being no additional questions or discussion, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, the Staffing Report, as presented, is hereby approved.

FURTHER RESOLVED, the Live Tutor Proposal, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

### Action Items

### a. Approval of Connections Academy of North Carolina, LLC Invoice for October

Mr. Strother reviewed in detail the Connections Academy of North Carolina, LLC invoice for the month of October as drawn from the financial report in the Board materials. He asked the Board members whether they had any questions on the invoice or if any items required further explanation. There being no further discussion, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Connections Academy of North Carolina, LLC invoice for the month of October, in the amount of \$966,066.95, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

b. Approval of Enrollment Freeze Policy

Mr. Currie reviewed the School's desire to request the Board to approve an Enrollment Freeze Policy at a future Board Meeting. There being no further discussion, this item was tabled.

**Information Items**

At the request of the Board, the Staff Compensation Review Process and Curriculum Audit Update were moved up on the agenda.

Staff Compensation Review Process

Dr. Setser reviewed staff requests for increased compensation and plans to work with Connections on short and long term salary restructuring.

[Ms. Brown joined the meeting at 9:16 a.m.]

Curriculum Audit Update

Dr. Setser introduced Ms. Brown to review Generation Ready's Curriculum Audit report as provided in the Board Meeting materials.

[Dr. Setser left the meeting at 9:25 a.m.]

Ms. Brown provided a detailed review of the process and findings during the Curriculum Audit, including short and long term recommendations to implement alignment changes. Dr. Hoge reviewed Connections support of the Curriculum Audit and differing findings of alignment. Dr. Hoge further reviewed upcoming collaboration meeting plans with Generation Ready. The Board thanked Ms. Brown and Dr. Hoge for their feedback and expressed a desire to move forward with curriculum alignment changes with minimum disruption to students.

[Ms. Coleman left the meeting at 10:00 a.m.]

[Ms. Brown left the meeting at 10:12 a.m.]

a. State Relations Update

This item was tabled.

b. Partner School Leadership Team Update

i. School Leader Review Process Reminder

This item was tabled.

c. Future Funded Enrollment Growth

Mr. Currie reviewed with the Board a proposed Funded Enrollment Target for the 2017-2018 school year of 2,160 students. Mr. Currie further advised that the proposed enrollment target will be presented for approval during the upcoming January Board meeting, if Board members indicate their support of the number. The Board did not express any concerns with the proposed number.

d. Curriculum Audit Update

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

e. Staff Compensation Review Process

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

**VI. Oral Reports**

a. Principal's Report

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

i. Student Activities Update

Mr. Currie reviewed outreach provided to families impacted by the recent hurricane and timeline for upcoming state reports.

ii. Student Intervention Efforts Update – Tier 1 and Tier 2

This item was tabled.

iii. Live Tutor Update

This Item was discussed within Action Items earlier in the meeting.

iv. School Improvement Plan Update

This item was tabled.

v. State Testing Update

This item was tabled.

vi. Future Facility Plans Discussion

The Board requested Mr. Currie to provide a financial impact for discussion at a future Board meeting.

b. Financial Report

This item was tabled.

i. Financial Dashboard Review

This item was tabled.

ii. Monthly Cash Flow

This item was tabled.

**VII. Consent Items**

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

**VIII. Action Items**

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

**IX. Information Items**

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

**X. CLOSED SESSION - N.C. Gen. Stat. §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 agreed that there was no need to meet in Closed Session.

**XI. Approval of Action(s) Necessary Based on Executive Session**

This item was tabled.

**XII. Adjournment and Confirmation of Next Meeting – Thursday, January 26, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:44 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 26, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.