



**APPROVED 2/23/2017**

North Carolina Connections Academy  
**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
Thursday, January 26, 2017 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**

In the absence of a quorum of Board members, Mr. Strother indicated the Board's intent to hear Oral Reports until additional members of the Board could join the meeting. The meeting location was open for the public to attend.

**II. Review and Consideration of Potential Board Member Candidate**

Ms. Coleman provided the Board with an update on the continued search for a new Board member. Board members discussed current Board composition, as well as their preferred background and credentials for the next candidate for the Board.

**III. Roll Call**

Board Members Present: Bridget Phifer (in person); Eric Strother and Catherine Edmonds, (via phone);

Board Members Joined During Meeting: Donna Sullivan (via phone);

Board Members Absent: Bryan Setser and Kristin Cuilla;

Guests Present: Nathan Currie, School leader; GeRita Walden, Twala Timmons, Elizabeth Matson, School staff; Khrista Petry and Mark Petry, Members of the Public; Jill Hammergren, Public Relations (in person); Melissa Nelson, Brenda Little, Jay W. Ragley, Karen Duquette, Heather Woodward, Shon Hocker and Laura Coleman, Connections staff (all via phone).

**IV. Public Comment**

There were no public comments at this time.

[Mr. and Ms. Petry, Ms. Timmons and Ms. Matson joined the meeting at 9:15 a.m.]

## Oral Reports

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

a. School Leader's Report

i. School Activities Update

Mr. Currie reviewed with the Board recent school activities, including the school mascot competition and winning design submitted by Ms. Petry.

ii. School Operations Metrics

There were no questions on the School Operations Metrics as included in the Board materials, highlighting the school's performance as compared with other Connections' partnering schools of similar size and years in operation.

iii. State Testing Update

Mr. Currie introduced Ms. Matson to provide the Board with the State Testing Update. Ms. Matson reviewed with the Board the upcoming state testing preparations by school staff members.

[Dr. Sullivan joined the meeting at 9:30 a.m.]

## Call to Order

Having a quorum of the Board present, Mr. Strother called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. when all participants were present and able to hear each other.

## V. Routine Business

a. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Strother asked the Board to review the Agenda distributed prior to the meeting. The Board requested to table item X. Closed Session for Mr. Currie's mid-year evaluation to revisit at the next Board meeting when more Board members can participate. The Board further discussed the reorganization of the agenda to consider the Consent and Action Items immediately following the Approval of Agenda due to time constraints. There being no further changes noted, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Agenda for the January 26, 2017 Meeting of the Board of Directors of the North Carolina Connections Academy, as amended, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

## Consent Items

At the request of the Board, this item was moved up on the agenda. Mr. Strother 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 November 17, 2016 Board Meeting;
- b. Approval of Minutes from the December 8, 2016 Special Board Meeting;
- c. Approval of Minutes from the January 12, 2017 Special Board Meeting;
- d. Approval of Staffing Report; and
- e. Approval of LiveTutor Invoice(s); are hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

### **Action Items**

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

At the request of the Board, this item was moved up on the agenda. Mr. Strother reviewed in detail the Connections Academy of North Carolina, LLC invoices for the months of November and December as drawn from the financial report in the Board materials. He asked the Board members whether they had any questions on the invoices 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 invoices for the months of November, in the amount of \$884,617.41, and December, in the amount of \$958,488.51, as presented, are hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

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

At the request of the Board, this item was moved up on the agenda. Mr. Currie reviewed the proposed enrollment target for the 2017-2018 school year of 2,160 students and sought Board input in regards to the number. The Board had a discussion on the school's cap and agreed that this was a good target to set for the upcoming school year. The motion was made and seconded as follows:

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

The motion passed unanimously.

[Ms. Edmonds left the meeting at 9:40 a.m.]

### **VI. Oral Reports**

- a. School Leader's Report

Mr. Currie and Ms. Walden reviewed the Monthly School Report (MSR) with the Board, highlighting enrollment changes from the previous month's report. The Board discussed the data in detail with Mr. Currie and Ms. Walden.

- i. School Activities Update

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

- ii. School Operations Metrics

This item was referenced earlier in the meeting.

iii. State Testing Update

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

b. 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 meeting'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.

iii. Staff Bonus Update

Mr. Strother advised the Board that their previously approved Staff Compensation Phase I will be issued to staff on January 30, 2017.

c. Future Planning

i. Teacher Compensation Phase II Update

Mr. Strother updated the Board on ongoing conversations with Connections to identify areas in the budget to utilize for Phase II of the Teacher Compensation.

ii. Curriculum Discussion

Mr. Strother further updated the Board on ongoing conversations with Connections to address the curriculum alignment concerns, Connections fees, marketing, special education and potential alternative relationship options.

**VII. Consent Items**

This item was considered earlier in the meeting.

**VIII. Action Items**

a. Approval of Connections Academy of North Carolina, LLC Invoices for November and December

This item was considered earlier in the meeting.

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

This item was considered earlier in the meeting.

**IX. Information Items**

a. State Relations Update

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

b. Upcoming LiveLesson® Sessions

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

**X. CLOSED SESSION – N.C.G.S. § 143-618.11(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**

This item was tabled earlier in the meeting.

**XI. Adjournment and Confirmation of Next Regular Meeting – Thursday, February 23, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.**

Mr. Strother noted that the Board was at the end of its agenda. The next meeting is scheduled for February 23, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:09 a.m.