



APPROVED 06/22/2017

North Carolina Connections Academy
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING
Thursday, May 25, 2017 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. The meeting location was open for the public to attend.

II. Roll Call

Board Members Present: Bridget Phifer (in person); Bryan Setser and Donna Sullivan (via phone);

Board Members Joined During Meeting: Eric Strother and Kristin Cuilla (via phone);

Board Members Absent: Joyce Loveless and Catherine Edmonds;

Guests Present: Nathan Currie, School leader; Sarah O'Shea, Elizabeth Matson and Christina Robinson, School staff (all in person); Mary Cobzaru, School staff; David Schmidt, Vality Consulting, David Hostetter, Board Counsel; Steven Guttentag, Ted Ochs, Melissa Nelson, Brenda Little, Heather Woodward, Karen Duquette, Alyssa Walters 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. School Leader's Report

i. End of Year Activities Update

This item was discussed later in the meeting.

[Ms. Cobzaru left the meeting at 9:07 a.m.]

ii. State Testing Update

Mr. Currie introduced Ms. O'Shea to review the upcoming state testing. Ms. O'Shea reviewed preparations by school staff members, hiring of testing proctors and expected expenses with the Board. Mr. Currie further advised the Board that the State Department of Education will be visiting the state testing sites similar to last year.

iii. Office Configuration Update

This item was discussed later in the meeting.

iv. Dreambox Update

Mr. Currie introduced Ms. Matson to provide the Board with an update on the Dreambox pilot. Ms. Matson reviewed the survey data from caretakers, learning coaches and teachers for the Dreambox pilot as included in the Board meeting materials, including feedback requesting the Dreambox supplement be optional. Ms. Matson reviewed her recommendation to expand the pilot from K-3 grades to K-5 grades on an optional basis. The Board discussed the Dreambox data in detail and requested the supplemental program remain mandatory.

v. Alternative Pathways Academy

Mr. Currie introduced Ms. Robinson to present the Alternative Pathways Academy (APA) proposal to the Board. Ms. Matson reviewed the APA proposal as included in the Board meeting materials, including the target student audience and proposed budget. Mr. Currie further advised the Board that the proposal is in the beginning research stages and that the Board will be approached for consideration of the final proposal at a future Board meeting when a larger target audience is identified.

[Ms. Walters left the meeting at 9:15 a.m.]

[Mr. Miner joined the meeting at 9:16 a.m.]

Call to Order

Having a quorum of the Board present, Dr. Setser called the meeting to order at 9:20 a.m. when all participants were present and able to hear each other.

III. Confirmation and Appointment of Potential Board Member Candidate: Joyce Loveless

This item was considered later in the meeting.

IV. Public Comment

There were no comments at this time.

V. Routine Business

a. Approval of Agenda

The Board acknowledged the Agenda distributed prior to the meeting and did not request any changes.

VI. CLOSED SESSION

- a. § 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

- b. § 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

The Board entered into Closed Session at 9:23 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)(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 and pursuant to North Carolina General Statute § 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. Board members in attendance to begin the session were: Bryan Setser, Eric Strother, Bridget Phifer and Donna Sullivan. Guests invited by the Board to attend were: David Hostetler, David Schmidt and Nathan Currie. All others left the meeting at this time.

[Ms. Cuilla joined the meeting at 9:30 a.m.]

The Board ended Closed Session and entered into open session at 10:05 a.m. upon a motion being made, seconded, and confirmed via roll call vote of all Board Members present. No action was taken during Closed Session.

[Dr. Setser left the meeting at this time]

[Dr. Guttentag, Mr. Ochs, Ms. Nelson, Ms. Little, Ms. Woodward, Ms. Duquette and Ms. Coleman joined the meeting at this time]

VII. Approval of Action(s) Necessary Based on Closed Session

No action was taken during Closed Session. Each Board Member present advised Connections of concerns including, Connexus Fees, Teacher Compensation and Curriculum alignment. The Board expressed their desire to hold a Budget Workshop in June prior to the next Board Meeting.

[Dr. Guttentag and Mr. Ochs left the meeting at 10:30 a.m.]

Action Items

- a. Approval of Connections Academy of North Carolina, LLC Invoice for April

Dr. Strother reviewed in detail the Connections Academy of North Carolina, LLC invoice for the month of April 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. The Board discussed last year's state testing pass through expenses in detail with Ms. Little. Ms. Little advised she would send all documentation associated with last year's pass through expenses to Ms. Phifer. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Dr. Cuilla and seconded by Dr. Sullivan as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Connections Academy of North Carolina, LLC invoice for the month of April, in the amount of \$926,223.69, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

Confirmation and Appointment of Potential Board Member Candidate: Joyce Loveless

Dr. Cuilla reminded the Board of their April Board meeting appointment of Joyce Loveless to the Board, pending her acceptance and successful completion of the background check requirements. Ms. Coleman reviewed Ms. Loveless'

subsequent acceptance and successful background check. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Phifer and seconded by Dr. Sullivan as follows:

RESOLVED, that the appointment of Joyce Loveless to the North Carolina Connections Academy Board of Directors, as a Class 2 Director, for a term to the 2018 Annual meeting, as discussed, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously

VIII. Oral Reports

a. School Leader's Report

i. End of Year Activities Update

Mr. Currie discussed with the Board end of year school activities, including the end of the year celebration with students and staff.

ii. State Testing Update

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

iii. Office Configuration Update

Mr. Currie reviewed the office reconfiguration proposal with Board members as included in the Board meeting materials. He further reviewed the need for more flexible workstations based upon staff growth and the budget associated with the proposed reconfiguration. The Board discussed the proposed office reconfiguration with Mr. Currie, as well as the potential to have more employees work from home. The Board expressed their desire to continue discussion of this item during the June Budget Workshop.

iv. Dreambox Update

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

v. Alternative Pathways Academy

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

b. Financial Report

Ms. Little directed the Board to the Financial Report, included in the Board meeting materials. There were no questions or discussion from the Board.

i. Financial Dashboard Review

There were no questions or discussion from the Board on the Financial Dashboard Review, as included in the Board meeting materials.

ii. Monthly Cash Flow

There were no questions or discussion from the Board on the Monthly Cash Flow document, as included in the Board meeting materials.

IX. Consent Items

Dr. Cuilla asked the Board members whether there were any Consent Items that they wished to have moved to Action Items for discussion, or tabled. There being no changes, a motion was made by Dr. Strother and seconded by Ms. Phifer as follows:

RESOLVED, the Consent Items:

- a. Approval of Minutes from the April 27, 2017 Board Meeting;
- b. Approval of Staffing Report;
- c. Approval of Federal Title Funding Documentation: Revised Homeless Education Policy;
- d. Approval of Board President as Board Designee to Approve Summer Staffing Decisions for the 2017-2018 School Year; and
- e. Approval of Revision(s) to the NCCA Board Policy Manual:
 - i. State Specific Handbook: Community Service Graduation Requirement; are hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

[Dr. Sullivan, Mr. Hostetler and Ms. Nelson left the Board meeting at 10:58 a.m.]

X. Action Items

- a. Approval of Connections Academy of North Carolina, LLC Invoice for April

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

XI. Information Items

- a. State Relations Update

Ms. Duquette reviewed the State Relations report included in the Board meeting materials on recent legislative activities which may impact the school.

- b. Partner School Leadership Team (PSLT) Update

There was no update at this time.

- i. LEAP and Scantron Metrics Update

There were no questions or discussion from the Board on the LEAP and Scantron Metrics document, as included in the Board meeting materials.

XII. Adjournment and Confirmation of Annual Meeting – Thursday, June 22, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 11:04 a.m. Dr. Cuilla advised Dr. Setser will contact the Board in regards to the June Budget Workshop. The annual meeting is scheduled for June 22, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.