



**APPROVED 4/27/2017**

**North Carolina Connections Academy  
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING  
Thursday, February 23, 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**

Dr. Setser called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. when all participants were present and able to hear each other. The meeting location was open for the public to attend.

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

Dr. Setser provided the Board with an update on the continued search for a new Board member. Board members discussed Board composition, as well as their preferred background and credentials for the Board.

**III. Roll Call**

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

Board Members Joined During the Meeting: Catherine Edmonds (via phone);

Guests Present: Nathan Currie, School leader; Temple Crutchfield, GeRita Walden, Elizabeth Matson, Christina Roberson and Sarah O'Shea, School staff (all in person); Jill Hammergren, Public Relations (via phone and in person); David Hostetler, Board Counsel; Melissa Nelson, Brenda Little, Jay W. Ragley, Karen Duquette and Laura Coleman, Connections staff (all via phone).

**IV. Public Comment**

The Board acknowledged a recent communication received from a parent and requested Mr. Currie to respond.

**V. Routine Business**

a. Approval of Agenda

Dr. Setser asked the Board to review the Agenda distributed prior to the meeting. The Board requested to table Consent Item (c) Approval of School Calendar for the 2017-2018 School Year as there was no documentation available for the Board meeting. Mr. Currie requested the addition of the consideration of Approval of Summer Academy to be discussed during his Oral Report. There being no changes noted, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Agenda for the February 23, 2017 Meeting of the Board of Directors of the North Carolina Connections Academy, as amended, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

## VI. Oral Reports

### a. School Leader's Report

Mr. Currie introduced Ms. Crutchfield to review the AIG Plan with the Board prior to the other reports.

#### AIG Plan Update

Ms. Crutchfield provided the Board with an update on the Academically or Intellectually Gifted (AIG) Plan as approved by the State and the progress of those students within the program.

[Ms. Crutchfield left the meeting at 9:14 a.m.]

### i. School Activities Update

Ms. Walden discussed with the Board upcoming school activities.

### ii. State Testing Update

Mr. Currie reviewed with the Board the upcoming state testing preparations by school staff. He further introduced Ms. Matson and Ms. O'Shea to review the proposed Summer Academy and related expenses for the testing assessments.

[Ms. Edmonds joined the meeting at 9:19 a.m.]

#### Approval of Summer Academy

Ms. Matson and Ms. O'Shea reviewed the proposed Summer Academy with the Board as included in the Board meeting materials. They further reviewed the goals, milestones and budget. The Board discussed the budget in detail, including priorities that may need to shift in order to provide this program. There being no further discussion, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Summer Academy Plan, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

[Ms. Hammergren joined the meeting in person at 9:27 a.m.]

### iii. Winter School Leaders' Conference Update

Mr. Currie reported to the Board on the Winter School Leaders' Conference that he recently attended, including professional development initiatives and networking opportunities.

### iv. Student Data Analysis

Mr. Currie encouraged Board members view the LiveLesson® link provided by Douglass Ready on student data.

v. AIG Plan Update

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

vi. School Improvement Plan Update

Mr. Currie introduced Ms. Roberson to review the School Improvement Plan and goal progress made to date.

[Ms. Duquette left the meeting at 9:48 a.m.]

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 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.

c. Future Planning

i. Teacher Compensation Phase II Update

The Board discussed the budget implications of the second phase of the teacher compensation plan in detail.

ii. Curriculum Discussion

There was no update at this time.

iii. Connections Relationship Options

There was no update at this time.

## 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 January 26, 2017 Board Meeting;
- b. Approval of Staffing Report;
- d. Approval of of Revision(s) to the NCCA Board Policy Manual;
  - i. State Specific Handbook: Maximum Age to Enroll;
  - ii. 2017-2018 School Year General School Handbook; and
  - iii. 2017-2018 School Year State Specific Handbook; are hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

## VIII. Action Items

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

Dr. Strother reviewed in detail the Connections Academy of North Carolina, LLC invoice for the month of January 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 invoice for the month of January, in the amount of \$980,967.37, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

[Ms. Duquette rejoined the meeting at 10:00 a.m.]

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

## IX. Information Items

### a. State Relations Update

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

## X. CLOSED SESSION

a. Coaching Leadership and Evaluation Process - § 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

b. § 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

The Board entered into Closed Session at 10:08 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 §143-618.11(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, Kristin Cuilla, Bridget Phifer and Catherine Edmonds. Guests invited by the Board to attend were: David Hostetler, Melissa Nelson and Laura Coleman. All others left the meeting at this time.

[Ms. Nelson and Ms. Coleman left the meeting at 10:15 a.m.]

The Board continued Closed Session, 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.

The Board ended Closed Session and entered into open session at 11:00 a.m. upon a motion being made, seconded, and confirmed via roll call vote. No action was taken during Closed Session.

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

No action was taken during Closed Session.

**XII. Adjournment and Confirmation of Next Regular Meeting – Thursday, April 27, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for April 27, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.