



APPROVED 08/17/2021

**Arkansas Connections Academy, Inc. (ARCA)
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

Tuesday, July 20, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

To be held in person and via teleconference:

Arkansas Connections Academy
1009 Beau Terre Drive, Building O
Bentonville, AR 72712

800-747-5150; access code 028-1338

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Dr. Beck called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. when all participants were able to hear each other. Dr. Beck conducted a Roll Call.

Board Members Present: Dennis Beck, Melissa Cruise, Kelly O'Brien, and David Hartman (all via phone);

Board Members Absent: Virginia Walden Ford;

Guests: Nicole Stephens, School Leader; Ashley Peterson, School staff (at the school location); Kristin DeGross, Bryce Adams, Carla Hicks, Laura Coleman, Nicole Anderson, and Mandi Adams-Brazill, Pearson Virtual Schools staff (all via phone).

II. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

III. Routine Business

a. Approval of Agenda

Dr. Beck asked the Board Members whether there were any changes necessary to the Agenda that has been posted in accordance with Arkansas open meeting law. There being no changes noted, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Agenda for the July 20, 2021 Arkansas Connections Academy, Inc. Board Meeting, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Oral Reports

a. School Leader Report

i. Update on Summer Leadership Conference

Ms. Stephens reported to the Board on the recent virtual Summer Leadership Retreat, including professional development initiatives, reflection and relaxation techniques, and opportunities to share better practices among School Leaders.

ii. Planning for 2021-2022 School Year

Ms. Stephens reviewed with the Board the preparations for the next school year, including the upcoming back to school teacher in-service.

V. Consent Items

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

RESOLVED, the Consent Items:

- a. Approval of Minutes from the June 15, 2021 Annual Board Meeting;
- b. Approval of Staffing Report; and
- c. Approval of Pearson Invoice(s) for June (# 91000008280); are hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Action Items

a. Approval of Amendment to Statement of Agreement: Fee Schedule with Pearson Virtual Schools

Mr. Adams presented to the Board the amended Statement of Agreement (SOA): Fee Schedule with Pearson Virtual Schools. Mr. Adams advised the Board that the SOA will run concurrently with the school's charter and there are no changes to the Fee Schedule. There being no further discussion, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Amendment to Statement of Agreement: Fee Schedule with Pearson Virtual Schools, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

b. Ratification of Revision(s) to Staff Compensation Plan for the 2021-2022 School Year

Mr. Adams reviewed with the Board the revised Staff Compensation Plan, as included in the Board meeting materials. Mr. Adams advised the Board that the Teacher Equalization Funds have allowed for increased staff compensation rates, which was previously approved by Dr. Beck with his appointment as Board Designee to approve summer staffing decision. There being no further discussion, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, the Revision(s) to Staff Compensation Plan for the 2021-2022 School Year, as presented, is hereby ratified.

The motion passed unanimously.

c. Approval of Health and Safety Plan

Ms. Stephens reviewed with the Board the Health and Safety Plan, as included in the Board meeting materials. She reviewed the necessity of the plan and website posting requirements to receive Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funding. There being no further discussion, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Health and Safety Plan, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

d. Approval of Membership with the Arkansas Public School Resource Center (APSRC)

Ms. Stephens reviewed with the Board the valuable relationship with the Arkansas Public School Resource Center (APSRC). Dr. Beck further advised of the benefits of membership, as well as the continued support provided to the school. There being no further discussion, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Membership with the Arkansas Public School Resource Center (APSRC), as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Information Items

a. Board Support Updates

Mr. Adams provided the Board with an update on support services and personnel provided to the school and Board by Pearson Virtual Schools. He introduced Ms. Nicole Anderson as the new School Success Partner (SSP) representative for the Board. The Board thanked Mr. Adams for his work with the school and welcomed Ms. Anderson.

VIII. Adjournment and Confirmation of Next Meeting Date - August 17, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

Dr. Beck noted that the Board was at the end of its agenda and that the next meeting was scheduled to be held on August 17, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. At 10:28 a.m. the Board made and seconded the following motion:

RESOLVED, that the adjournment of the Arkansas Connections Academy, Inc. July 20, 2021 Board meeting, is hereby approved.

The motion was approved unanimously.