



**APPROVED 06/21/2018**

**Florida Connections Academy, Inc. (FCA)  
MINUTES OF THE BOARD RETREAT  
Thursday, May 31, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.**

**Held in person at the following location and via teleconference:**

Hilton Tampa Airport Westshore  
2225 N Lois Avenue  
Tampa, FL 33607

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**I. Call to Order**

Ms. Hudspath called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. when all Board members and Pearson Online and Blended Learning (POBL) support staff were present.

All participants present introduced themselves, and provided some brief background on their interest and association with the school and Board.

Board Members Present: Star Hudspath, Paula Cate, Chris Bates, John Grant and Becky Bergue;

Guests: Marcie Trombino, School Leader; Karen Duquette, Missy Nelson, April Greeson, Heather Woodard and Megann Arthur, POBL staff.

**II. A Day in the Life**

Ms. Trombino presented this item to the Board. She used a demonstration (demo) account to show a "Day in the Life" of a student, all aspects of the student's Connexus home page, lessons, attendance and assessments. At the Board's request, Ms. Trombino also provided a demo of a Live Lesson room, and explained logistics of the learning tool for students and teachers, including capabilities of the system to help maintain student focus and specialize instruction.

She further provided a "Day in the Life" demonstration for learning coaches, including their webmail interface and sample information that would be provided on student performance and attendance.

Ms. Trombino also reviewed a "Day in the Life" of a teacher with the Board. She provided a demo of their dashboard, the data available to them on students, and task management. The participants discussed timing for Welcome Calls and responses to students "in alarm." The Board had discussion with Ms. Trombino on experiences and expectations for teachers and families.

**III. Connections 101, FCA and Connections Partnership**

Ms. Duquette presented this item to the Board. She reviewed the team supporting the school on behalf of POBL in detail, as well as services provided. She provided an overview of services provided to the school and Board that they can expect to interact with regularly from State and Strategic Client Relations, Board Relations, School Financial Services, Partner School Leadership Team and Program Management, as well as other departments that will periodically work with the Board, such as

Facilities Management, Public Relations, HR and Marketing.

The Board discussed POBL services as well as additional learning opportunities for Board members, with all participants.

#### **IV. The School Leader's Role**

Ms. Nelson presented this item to the Board. She reviewed specifics of the role of school leader within a Connections Academy school. Ms. Nelson highlighted the unique benefits and challenges that have been noted within the statewide virtual education model, as well as Ms. Trombino's previous experience in a similar role. She also provided a comparison of school leader management duties versus Board policy responsibilities.

#### **V. Strategic Planning Session and SWOT Discussion**

Ms. Woodward provided participants with an overview of the proposed strategic planning process, including the purpose and components of the planning process and final Strategic Plan. She reviewed previously polled and submitted responses by members of the Board and school leadership to the SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis for the school. Ms. Woodward and members of the Board had discussion on the school's Mission Statement and Board priorities for the short and long terms.

#### **VI. Lunch and Board Meeting**

[At 12:50 p.m., The Board began the regular Board meeting. Separate minutes were kept for the regular Board meeting.]

#### **VII. Setting of Strategic Goals and Action Planning**

The Board reviewed their SWOT analysis and brainstormed strategic planning goals for the upcoming approximately three years. Board members narrowed their priorities and established their final goals for the strategic plan, focusing on State Testing, Charter Compliance, Establishing Positive Community Relationships and Optimizing Program Offerings. Following the establishment of the specific goals, the Board worked with Ms. Trombino and POBL staff present to brainstorm action items and plans to support completion of each goal. Board members discussed data available to them from the school and POBL, as well as expectations that have been communicated to the school by their authorizer, and how to incorporate all into the plans. All participants discussed next steps in the strategic planning process, and continuous efforts planned throughout the first year of operations.

#### **VIII. Adjournment**

Ms. Hudspath noted that the Board was at the end of its agenda. The Board being at the end of its agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.