



APPROVED 11/16/2011

GEORGIA CONNECTIONS ACADEMY
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Wednesday, October 19, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. ET
Held at the following location (and via teleconference):
Georgia Connections Academy
2763 Meadow Church Road, Suite 208
Duluth, GA 30097

I. Call to Order

Ms. Hug called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. when all participants were present and able to hear each other. The school location and phone line were open for the public to attend.

II. Roll Call

Board Members Present at Roll Call: Alisa Hug (in person), Steve Julal, Charlotte Collins and Joy Berry (via phone);

Board Members Absent: Oney Temple and Greg Michell;

Guests Present: Heather Robinson, School Principal (in person); Pat Hoge, Peter Robertson, Barrie Drum, Janet Marhefka and Megann Wrisley, Connections Education Staff (via phone).

III. Routine Business

a. Approval of Agenda

Ms. Hug asked the Board to review the Agenda distributed prior to the meeting. There being no changes noted, and no further discussion, Dr. Berry made the following motion and it was seconded by Ms. Collins as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Agenda for the October 19, 2011 Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Georgia Connections Academy, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Oral Reports

a. Principal's Report

Ms. Robinson provided the Board with an update on recent activities at the school, for both families and staff members. She reviewed the most up-to-date enrollment numbers with the Board, and advised that withdrawal numbers had significantly lessened from the previous month.

- i. State of the School Report – Ms. Robinson presented this item to the Board. She advised the Board on the school's progress in the first year opening launch tasks, as well as the development of the school year's goals. She discussed areas the school plans for focus on, as well as strategies for training and achieving this year's goals. Board members thanked Ms. Robinson for her report, and expressed their satisfaction with the school's progress thus far in its first year open.
- ii. Facilities Updates – Ms. Robinson advised the Board regarding some issues being handled at the school site. She detailed the matters currently being discussed with the landlord, and advised the Board she would provide further updates at a future meeting.

b. Financial Report

Mr. Soltz reviewed the financial information contained in the Board materials with the Board, as well as expected changes to projections throughout the year as funds are deposited and spent. He reviewed the balance sheet, and the school's revenue and expense statements. Mr. Julal further advised Board members that he had reviewed all documentation with Mr. Soltz previous to the Board meeting, and that all statements appeared to be in order.

- i. Audit Firm Selection – Mr. Julal advised the Board that there was no significant update at this time. He indicated that he was still taking applications and considering firms, and that the selection(s) would be presented to the Board in the spring.

V. Consent Agenda

Ms. Hug 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. Ms. Robinson advised the Board on some minor revisions that the school was recommending be made to the Grades and Grade Point Averages Policy in Consent Item (d) Revisions to the State Specific School Handbook. Following Board members' agreement with the minor revisions, and there being no additional discussion, Ms. Collins made the following motion and it was seconded by Mr. Julal as follows:

RESOLVED, the Consent Items:

- a. Approval of Minutes from the September 21, 2011 Meeting;
- b. Approval of Staffing Report;
- c. Approval of Legal Invoice(s);
- d. Approval of Revisions to the State Specific School Handbook: Grades and Grade Point Averages, as amended in the meeting; and
- e. Approval of Online Enrollment Deadline of February 17, 2012 for the 2011-2012 School Year; are hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Action Items

a. Approval of the Connections Academy of Georgia, LLC Invoices for September

Mr. Julal reviewed in detail the CA invoice for the month of September as drawn from the financial report presented earlier in the meeting and contained in the Board materials. He asked the Board members whether they had any questions on the invoice or required any further explanation. Mr. Julal further advised the Board that payments will be made to Connections Academy of Georgia, LLC based on the availability of funds. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Dr. Berry and seconded by Ms. Collins as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Connections Academy of Georgia, LLC Invoice for the month of September, in the amount of \$315,656.72, is hereby approved for payment upon the availability of funds.

The motion passed unanimously.

b. Approval of School Goals for the 2011-2012 School Year

Ms. Robinson reviewed the school goals for the 2011-2012 school year included in the Board package with the Board. She advised that the staff worked closely with school leadership and Connections Education on establishing the school goals. Ms. Robinson further advised the Board that the school goals represent the major driver for the staff incentive plan. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Dr. Berry and seconded by Ms. Collins as follows:

RESOLVED, that the goals for the 2011-2012 school year, as presented, are hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

[Dr. Hoge joined the meeting at 6:28 p.m.]

c. Approval of Curriculum Strategy for the 2012-2013 School Year

Dr. Hoge reviewed the curriculum strategy memo that was included in the Board materials with the Board. She discussed the curriculum enhancements that were put into place for the current school year. Dr. Hoge outlined the curriculum review and enhancement process that Connections Academy goes through and noted that a part of her staff are now focusing on the curriculum development for the 2012-2013 school year. Dr. Hoge reviewed the major goals and curriculum initiatives that are being pursued based on feedback received from students, learning coaches, teachers, the Curriculum Panel made up of Board members, school authorizers and other partners of Connections Academy. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Collins and seconded by Dr. Berry as follows:

RESOLVED, that the curriculum strategy for the 2012-2013 school year, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

[Dr. Hoge left the meeting at 6:44 p.m.]

d. Approval of Board Governance and Administrative Policy Manual

This item was tabled to a future meeting.

VI. Information Items

a. Legislative Update

Ms. Drum provided the Board with an update on recent legislative activities that may impact the school.

- i. Update on Implementation Grant Application Re-submission – Ms. Drum advised the Board that she school has received positive feedback from staff members at the SBOE who had reviewed the recent re-submission of the grant application. She further advised that the application is under final review and any award to the school will be announced in November.

b. Board Member Candidate(s) Update

Ms. Hug provided the Board with an update on her discussion with a potential Board member.

c. Board Questionnaire Policy

Dr. Berry discussed the Board Questionnaire Policy development with the Board, and advised that she would be sending to Ms. Hug for distribution to the Board for review before the next meeting.

VIII. Adjournment and Confirmation of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for November 16, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. A motion was made by Dr. Berry and seconded by Mr. Julal to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m.