



APPROVED 9/21/11

GEORGIA CONNECTIONS ACADEMY
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Wednesday, August 17, 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 6:04 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, Oney Temple, Charlotte Collins and Joy Berry (via phone);

Guests Present: Heather Robinson, School Principal (in person); Shawn Soltz, Peter Robertson, Barrie Drum 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, Mr. Temple made the following motion and it was seconded by Dr. Berry as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Agenda for the August 17, 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 overview of activities at the school in preparation for the state of the school year, including welcome calls to families. She reviewed the recent staffing changes, as well as student enrollment information by grade distribution.

- i. Update on Enrollment – Ms. Robinson discussed recent events for enrolled and interested families throughout the month. She also provided the Board with the most up-to-date enrollment numbers.
- ii. Update on Back to School Activities, Staffing and Training – Ms. Robinson provided the Board with an update on the school facility preparations for the start of the school year, including the move to the permanent facility this week. She further advised the Board on training and meetings with staff scheduled for the start of the school year.

b. Financial Report

Mr. Soltz reviewed the recent school expense summary with the Board, as included in the Board materials. He further detailed the expected start-up process for financial reporting once the school opens. Board members discussed the expense summary, as well as the contents of the prospective financial statements.

- i. Update on Implementation Grant Application Re-submission- Mr. Soltz provided the Board with an update on the progress of the review of the implementation grant re-submission.

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. Board members asked to move Consent Item (d)_Approval of Legal Invoice(s) to Action Items for discussion. There being no additional items requiring removal or further discussion, Dr. Berry made the following motion and it was seconded by Mr. Julal as follows:

RESOLVED, the Consent Items:

- a. Approval of Minutes from the June 23, 2011 Meeting;
- b. Approval of Minutes from the July 20, 2011 Meeting;
- c. Approval of Staffing Report;
- e. Approval of School Employee Handbook;
- f. Approval of Federal Title Funding Plans for the 2011-2012 School Year; and
- g. Confirmation of Board Designee on Connections Education Curriculum Advisory Panel; are hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Action Items

Approval of Legal Invoice(s)

Board members held discussion on the legal invoice, and inquired about specific charges. The Board determined ways to lower Board Counsel fees in the future. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Dr. Berry and seconded by Ms. Collins as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Legal Invoice(s), as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

[Mr. Robertson joined the meeting at 6:17 p.m.]

a. Approval of Connections Academy Professional Development Plan for the 2011-2012 School Year

Mr. Robertson reviewed in detail the Connections Academy Professional Development Plan for the 2011-2012 school year that was provided in the Board materials for Board review and consideration. He referenced the school's Educational Products and Services Agreement with Connections Academy that includes an annual outline of teacher and staff training and professional development programs and opportunities offered by Connections Academy. Mr. Robertson outlined the key components of the teacher and staff training and professional development program planned for the upcoming school year, and Ms. Robinson provided the Board with information on supplemental training opportunities the school plans to provide. Mr. Robertson further advised the Board that the progress for each staff member was logged and records were maintained. The Board discussed the plan, and how the plan worked in cooperation with first year teacher requirements in the state. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Collins and seconded by Dr. Berry as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Connections Academy Professional Development Plan for the 2011-2012 school year, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

[Mr. Temple joined the meeting and Mr. Robertson left the meeting at 6:25 p.m.]

b. Approval of 2011-2012 School Year Budget

Mr. Soltz reviewed this item with the Board. He noted that Mr. Ochs and Ms. Robinson had reviewed the preliminary budget as presented here with the Board Treasurer and Board President. He reviewed in detail with the Board the 2011-2012 Budget Notes document and Budget Outline that were included with the Board package, noting recent changes in the budget due to the change in school authorizer. The Board discussed the budget specifics, including student-teacher ratios, technology offerings and staff compensation and benefits. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Temple and seconded by Dr. Berry as follows:

RESOLVED, that the 2011-2012 School Year Budget, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion was approved unanimously.

c. Approval of 2011-2012 School Year Fee Schedule

Mr. Soltz reminded the Board that the 2011-2012 Fee Schedule being presented reflects fees and services discussed by the Board at their meetings since the school's charter approval, and summarizes the basis for all charges from CA to the school under the Educational Products and Services Agreement. Mr. Soltz advised the Board that the basis for the charges is drawn directly from the Budget. There being no further discussion, the following motion was made by Dr. Berry and seconded by Ms. Collins as follows:

RESOLVED, that the 2011-2012 School Year Fee Schedule, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion was approved unanimously.

VI. Information Items

a. Legislative Update

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

b. Audit Firm Selection Status

Mr. Julal provided the Board with an update on the selection of an audit firm for the school. He advised Board members that there was no need to engage an audit firm for the 2010-2011 school year, but there would be a need to engage one in the coming months for the 2011-2012 school year financial audit. Mr. Julal further advised the Board that the search for an audit firm was ongoing, and a firm would be presented for consideration at a future meeting.

c. Potential Board Member Questionnaire

Dr. Berry reviewed the potential Board member questionnaire, as included with the Board materials. She advised Board members that she and Mr. Michell had contributed to the questionnaire, and asked Board members if any of them wished to make changes to the document. Board members had discussion on the questionnaire, and briefly discussed potential Board member candidates.

d. Contact List of Connections Education Support Team

Ms. Wisley reviewed the contact list of Connections Education support team and Board members, as included in the Board materials, and requested that Board members send any changes for re-distribution.

VIII. Adjournment and Confirmation of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for September 21, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. A motion was made by Mr. Temple and seconded by Mr. Julal to adjourn the meeting at 6:56 p.m.