



APPROVED 3/21/2012

GEORGIA CONNECTIONS ACADEMY
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Wednesday, January 18, 2012 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 6:10 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); Rich Thompson, Board member candidate; Terence Washington, GA DOE representative; Peter Robertson, Barrie Drum, Shawn Soltz and Megann Arthur, Connections Education Staff (via phone).

III. Acceptance of Resignation of Board Member, Oney Temple

Ms. Hug reviewed the letter of resignation sent by Board member, Oney Temple, and included in the Board materials. The Board discussed Mr. Temple's service on the Board, and expressed their appreciation for his time and efforts. There being no additional discussion, Dr. Berry made the following motion and it was seconded by Ms. Collins as follows:

RESOLVED, that the resignation of Board member, Oney Temple, is hereby accepted.

The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Interview with Board Member Candidate, Rich Thompson

Ms. Hug introduced Mr. Thompson and provided the Board with some background information on him, and his candidacy for the Board. She referred Board members to the Potential Board Member Questionnaire, completed by Mr. Thompson and included in the Board materials, along with his resume. Mr. Thompson answered Board members' questions, and addressed the Board regarding his interest in serving on the Board. Board members thanked Mr. Thompson for his time and interest in serving on the Board, and Ms. Hug asked Board members to provide her with feedback prior to the next meeting.

V. Public Comment

There were no public comments at this time.

VI. 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 Mr. Julal as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Agenda for the January 18, 2012 Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Georgia Connections Academy, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Oral Reports

a. Principal's Report

Ms. Robinson provided the Board with an update on recent activities at the school. She reviewed the Monthly School Report with Board members, and discussed student performance with them. Ms. Robinson further reviewed recent enrollment numbers with the Board, as well as state testing procedures and planning.

- i. Staffing Update – Ms. Robinson provided the Board with an update on current staffing levels at the school.

b. Financial Report

Mr. Soltz reviewed the financial information included in the Board materials with the Board. He reviewed the balance sheet, and the school's revenue and expense statements with the Board. Mr. Soltz also discussed the school's deficit protection credits from CE and the resulting zero balance CE invoice for the previous month, per the Educational Services Agreement that the school has with Connections.

Mr. Julal provided the Board with an update on the search for an audit firm. He advised the Board that there were three (3) audit firms currently being considered, all of which will be interviewed in the next month. Mr. Julal further advised the Board that an audit firm would be presented for consideration at the March Board meeting.

VIII. 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. There being no items moved, Ms. Collins made the following motion and it was seconded by Dr. Berry as follows:

RESOLVED, the Consent Items:

- a. Approval of Minutes from the November 16, 2011 Meeting;

- b. Approval of Staffing Report;
- c. Approval of Revisions to Employee Handbook: Employee Benefits for 2012;
- d. Approval for Opening Enrollment for the 2012-2013 School Year;
- e. Approval of Agreements for Student Enrollment for 2012-2013 School Year: Regulatory Program Description, Parent /Legal Guardian (Caretaker) Acknowledgement, Designated Learning Coach Agreement and Eligible Student Agreement;
- f. Approval of the 2012-2013 School Year General School Handbook;
- g. Approval of the 2012-2013 School Year State Specific School Handbook; and
- h. Approval of Offering Summer School to Students; are hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Action Items

- a. Approval of the Connections Academy of Georgia, LLC Invoices for November and December

Mr. Julal reviewed in detail the CA invoices for the months of November and December 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 invoices or required any further explanation. 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 November, in the amount of \$286,587.76, and Invoice for the month of December, in the amount of \$0.00 are hereby approved for payment upon the availability of funds.

The motion passed unanimously.

- b. Approval Authorizing Board President as Board Designee to work with the School Principal on High School Expansion Process for the 2012-2013 School Year and Execute All Necessary Documentation on Behalf of the School

Ms. Robinson discussed with the Board the school's expansion from grades K-8 to K-12 in the 2012-2013 school year as part of the school's charter agreement with the Georgia Board of Education. She further discussed the school's desire to move forward with the process for adding grades 9-12. Ms. Robinson reminded Board members that, as part of the high school expansion process, the Board is being asked to approve this expansion and to authorize the Board President as the Board Designee to work with the School Principal on the process, and execute all necessary documentation on behalf of the school and the Board. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Dr. Berry and seconded by Ms. Collins as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Board President as Board designee to work with the school principal on high school expansion process for the 2012-2013 school year and execute all necessary documentation on behalf of the school and Board, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

c. Approval of Funded Enrollment Target for the 2012-2013 School Year

Ms. Robinson presented this item to the Board. She reviewed the proposed enrollment target for the 2012-2013 school year of 1,500 students and sought Board input in regards to the number. The Board had a discussion and agreed that this was a good target to set for the upcoming school year. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Dr. Berry and seconded by Ms. Collins as follows:

RESOLVED, that establishing 1,500 students as the funded enrollment target for the 2012-2013 school year, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

X. Information Items

a. Legislative Update

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

[Ms. Robinson, Mr. Washington, Mr. Thompson, Ms. Drum and Mr. Soltz left the meeting at 6:50 p.m.]

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION - Employee Matter - O.C.G.A § 50-14-2 – Mid-year Principal Evaluation

The Board entered into closed session at 6:51 p.m. via a roll call vote of the Board pursuant to O.C.G.A § 50-14-2 to conduct a mid-year performance evaluation of the school principal. Board members in attendance were Alisa Hug, Steve Julal, Charlotte Collins and Joy Berry. Guests in attendance were Peter Robertson and Megann Arthur. After the Board concluded their discussion, the Board resumed their open session at 7:22 p.m. No action was taken during closed session.

XII. Adjournment and Confirmation of Next Meeting Date of March 21, 2012 at 6:00 pm ET.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 21, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. A motion was made by Dr. Berry and seconded by Mr. Julal to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 p.m.