



APPROVED 5/16/2012

**GEORGIA CONNECTIONS ACADEMY**  
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
**Wednesday, April 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

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**I. Call to Order**

Ms. Hug called the meeting to order at 6:05 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), Charlotte Collins and Richard Thompson (via phone);  
Board Members Joined Later in Meeting: Steve Julal;  
Board Members Absent: Greg Michell;

Guests Present: Heather Robinson, School Principal (in person); Peter Robertson, Barrie Drum, Shawn Soltz and Megann Arthur, Connections Education Staff (via phone).

**III. Public Comment**

There were no public comments at this time.

**IV. Acceptance of Resignation of Board Member, Greg Michell**

Ms. Hug referred the Board members to the letter of resignation from Mr. Greg Michell, as included in the Board materials. Board members acknowledged that they had received and reviewed the letter of resignation, and expressed their gratitude to Mr. Michell for his service to the school and the Board. There being no additional discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Collins and seconded by Mr. Thompson as follows:

RESOLVED, that the resignation of Board member, Greg Michell, to be effective at the close of this meeting, is hereby accepted.

The motion passed unanimously.

## V. Audit Committee, Committee of the Entire Board

### a. Approval of Audit Firm Engagement for the 2011-2012 School Year

Mr. Soltz advised the Board that he and Mr. Julal were currently working on the search for an audit firm for Board consideration. He reviewed the four (4) firms who had been interviewed, the process for narrowing down the preferred firms for Board consideration, and the requests made for firms to supply Mr. Julal as Board Treasurer with an audit firm engagement letter prior to the next Board meeting. Board members briefly discussed the timing of the engagement with Mr. Soltz.

This item was tabled to the next meeting.

## 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, Ms. Collins made the following motion and it was seconded by Mr. Thompson as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Agenda for the April 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 school activities. She reviewed the Monthly School Report with Board members, as well as student field trips and recent enrollment numbers.

- i. Enrollment Update – Ms. Robinson provided the Board with an update on current enrollment numbers, reminding Board members that enrollment for the 2012-2013 school year began on April 1. She also advised Board members on the number of students who had filed their intent to return to the school for the upcoming year.

[Mr. Julal joined the meeting via phone at 6:14 p.m.]

- ii. High School Expansion Update – Ms. Robinson provided the Board with an update on the school's ongoing preparations for expansion to high school next school year.
- iii. End of Year school Event – May 23, 2012 – Ms. Robinson reviewed with the Board the upcoming end of school year event being held at a local sports field. She described the activities being planned for the event, and invited Board members to attend.

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 discussed state and federal funding with the Board. Mr. Julal added that he had also reviewed the financial statements and all appeared to be in order.

**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 Mr. Julal as follows:

RESOLVED, the Consent Items:

- a. Approval of Minutes from the March 21, 2012 Meeting;
- b. Approval of Staffing Report;
- c. Approval of Revision(s) to the 2012-2013 School Year General School Handbook: Alternative Communications for Deaf Families;
- d. Approval of Employee Alert Hotline; and
- e. Approval of School Compensation Plan for the 2012-2013 School Year; are hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

**IX. Action Items**

a. Approval of the Connections Academy of Georgia, LLC Invoice for March

Mr. Julal reviewed in detail the CA invoice for the month of March 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 confirmed his review of this month's invoice detail, as well as the detail from the previous month, per Board request, and noted his support of payment of the invoice(s). There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Julal and seconded by Ms. Collins as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Connections Academy of Georgia, LLC Invoice for the month of March, in the amount of \$404,257.58, as presented, is hereby approved for payment upon the availability of funds.

The motion passed unanimously.

b. Approval of Revised Fee Schedule for the 2011-2012 School Year

Mr. Soltz reviewed with the Board the proposed revisions to the fee schedule from Connections Academy of Georgia, LLC, as outlined in the Board materials. He further advised the Board regarding the background to the proposed revisions. The Board discussed the revised fee schedule briefly. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Julal and seconded by Ms. Collins as follows:

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

The motion passed unanimously.

c. Approval of Revised Implementation Grant Budget

Mr. Soltz reviewed the revised implementation grant budget, as included in the Board materials. He advised the Board that the revisions reflect additional allocations allowable by the school, as advised by the state's implementation grant specialist. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Collins and seconded by Mr. Julal as follows:

RESOLVED, that the revised implementation grant budget, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

d. Approval of Board Training and Conference Attendance for the 2011-2012 School Year

Ms. Arthur advised the Board that, as a result of the revised implementation grant budget discussed earlier in the meeting, and the additional allocations that can be made per the state's recommendations, that there were funds now available to send school administration and Board members to this year's National Charter Schools Conference in Minneapolis, MN. The Board had extensive discussion on the training opportunity, and their support of school administration and Board members attending the conference. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Collins and seconded by Mr. Thompson as follows:

RESOLVED, that Board training and conference attendance for the 2011-2012 school year and reimbursement of related expenses incurred by Board members, 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.

b. Board Planning for the 2012-2013 School Year

Ms. Arthur discussed the planning for the 2012-2013 school year that Connections Academy has been working on with the school.

i. Proposed Board Meeting Schedule

The Board confirmed their support of maintaining the current meeting schedule for the upcoming school year. Ms. Arthur advised that the consideration of the Board meeting schedule for the 2012-2013 school year will be included on the June Annual Meeting agenda.

ii. Board Composition

Board members discussed the current Board composition, and Board member candidate recruitment.

## **XI. Adjournment and Confirmation of Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting is scheduled for May 16, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. A motion was made by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Julal to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m.