



APPROVED 6/19/14

**Georgia Connections Academy (GACA)
MINUTES OF THE BOARD STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Friday, May 9, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. ET**

Held at the following location and via teleconference:

Hotel Indigo – Atlanta Airport
1776 Harvard Avenue
College Park, GA 30337

I. Call to Order

Ms. Hug called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.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, Steve Julal, Rich Thompson and Charlotte Collins (in person);

Board Members Absent: JoAnn Brown;

Guests Present: Heather Robinson, School Principal; Bryan Tyson, Board Counsel (in person); Shawn Soltz, Jay W. Ragley, Rachel Bailey and Heather Woodward, Connections staff (all via phone).

III. Public Comment

There were no public comments at this time.

IV. 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, Mr. Thompson made the following motion and it was seconded by Mr. Julal as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Agenda for the May 9, 2014 Board Strategic Planning Session and Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Georgia Connections Academy, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

V. Oral Reports

a. Principal's Report

Ms. Robinson reviewed the Monthly School Report with Board members. She also reviewed recent school activities.

i. State Testing Updates

Ms. Robinson provided the Board with the most current update on state testing. She noted that she expected to receive results before the next Board meeting and she will provide further updates to the Board at the next meeting.

ii. Update on End of Year Activities

Ms. Robinson updated the Board on end of year activities including the upcoming graduation. Ms. Robinson invited all Board members to attend. She also reviewed the end of year activities currently planned.

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 noted that he will review the proposed budget with the Board later in the meeting.

[Ms. Collins joined at 10:11 a.m.]

VI. Consent Items

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, a motion was made by Mr. Julal and seconded by Mr. Thompson as follows:

RESOLVED, the Consent Items:

- a. Approval of Minutes from the April 24, 2014 Meeting;
- b. Approval of Staffing Report; and
- c. Approval of Board President as Board Designee to Approve Summer Staffing Decisions for the 2014-2015 School Year; are hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Action Items

a. Approval of Connections Academy of Georgia, LLC Invoice for April

Mr. Julal reviewed in detail the CA invoice for the month of April 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. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Collins and seconded by Mr. Thompson as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Connections Academy of Georgia, LLC invoice for the month of April, in the amount of \$1,059,948.79, as presented, is hereby approved for payment upon the availability of funds.

The motion passed unanimously.

b. Approval of 2014-2015 School Year Budget

Mr. Soltz presented this item to the Board, noting that he had reviewed the preliminary budget with the representatives of school leadership. He reviewed the 2014-2015 Budget Notes document and proposed annual budget in detail, a copy of which was included in the Board materials. The Board discussed the staffing and salary allocations, as well as proposed merit increase projections for staff. The Board discussed the option for revisions at a future meeting, if the need arises. The Board reviewed the projected legal fees and office lease in detail. The Board made corrections to those two line items and a revised 2014-2015 school year budget was sent to the Board. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Collins and seconded by Mr. Thomson as follows:

RESOLVED, that the 2014-2015 school year Budget and all assumptions contained therein, as amended, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

c. Approval of 2014-2015 School Year Fee Schedule from Connections Academy of Georgia, LLC

Mr. Soltz advised the Board that the 2014-2015 Fee Schedule being presented summarizes the basis for all charges from CA to the school under the Educational Products and Services Agreement. He further advised the Board that the basis for the charges is drawn directly from the Budget. The Board had questions about the marketing and outreach costs included on the draft Fee Schedule. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Ms. Collins as follows:

RESOLVED, that the 2014-2015 school year Fee Schedule from Connections Academy of Georgia, LLC, as presented, is hereby deferred until a future meeting.

The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Information Items

a. State Relations Update

Mr. Ragley provided the Board with an update on recent legislative activities that may impact the school.

IX. Executive Session – Board pursuant to O.C.G.A § 50-14-3 - to discuss any records that are exempt from public inspection (O.C.G.A 50-14-3)

[Mr. Ragley and Mr. Soltz left the meeting at 11:13 a.m.]

A motion was made by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Julal, to enter into Executive Session at 11:14 a.m. via a roll call vote of the Board pursuant to O.C.G.A § 50-14-3, to discuss any records that are exempt from public inspection. At the invitation of the Board, Mr. Tyson, Ms. Robinson, Ms. Graver and Ms. Woodward remained in the Executive Session.

After the Board concluded their discussion, the Board resumed their open session at 11:29 p.m. upon a motion being made by Mr. Julal and seconded by Mr. Thompson.

No action was taken during Executive Session.

X. Consideration of Action Items Resulting from Executive Session

No action was needed at this time.

XI. Update on Board Strategic Development

Ms. Hug reviewed upcoming Board training opportunities, including the National Charter Schools Conference.

XII. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date - June 19, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 19, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. ET via teleconference. A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 11:31 a.m. The motion passed unanimously.