



APPROVED 2/20/14

**Georgia Connections Academy (GACA)
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Thursday, January 16, 2014 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 6:06 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, Charlotte Collins, Steve Julal and Rich Thompson (via phone);

Board Members Absent: JoAnn Brown;

Guests Present: Heather Robinson, School Principal; Bryan Tyson, Board Counsel; Sylvia Pryor, Rachel Bailey, Jay W Ragley, Shawn Soltz 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. The Board asked to add an Executive Session pursuant to O.C.G.A § 50-14-3 - to discuss pending litigation and any records that are exempt from public inspection, immediately following the Approval of the Agenda. There being no further changes noted, Mr. Thompson made the following motion and it was seconded by Mr. Julal as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Agenda for the January 16, 2014 Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Georgia Connections Academy, as amended, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - O.C.G.A § 50-14-3 - to discuss pending litigation and any records that are exempt from public inspection

A motion was made by Mr. Julal and seconded by Mr. Thompson, to enter into Executive Session at 6:07 p.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.

Board members in attendance were Alisa Hug, Steve Julal, Charlotte Collins, and Rich Thompson. Guest(s) in attendance were Bryan Tyson, Heather Robinson, Rachel Bailey and Heather Woodward. All other attendees left the meeting at this time.

[Ms. Collins joined the meeting at 6:08 p.m.]

After the Board concluded their discussion, the Board resumed their open session at 6:26 p.m. No action was taken during Executive Session.

[Mr. Tyson left the meeting and Ms. Pryor, Mr. Soltz and Mr. Ragley rejoined the meeting at 6:27 p.m.]

V. Oral Reports

a. Principal's Report

Ms. Robinson provided the Board with a detailed Principal's Report.

i. Dashboard/Media Clips and Marketing

Ms. Robinson reviewed the school dashboard/media clips and marketing information included in the Board materials with the Board.

ii. Update on Facility

Ms. Robinson provided the Board with an update on the facility progress made since the last Board meeting.

b. Club Orange Presentation

Ms. Pryor reviewed the Club Orange presentation that was included in the Board materials with the Board. She reviewed the program and the benefits of the program to Georgia Connections Academy.

[Ms. Pryor left the meeting at 6:42 p.m.]

c. 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, and fund balance projections with the Board.

VI. Board Strategic Development

a. Update on Georgia Charter School Commission – Mandatory Governance Training

Ms. Hug thanked the Board members for attending the conference. Board members discussed their individual takeaways from the training.

b. Upcoming GCSA Leadership Conference

Ms. Hug reminded the Board of the upcoming leadership conference.

c. Update on EMO Evaluation

Mr. Julal updated the Board on the progress made on the EMO evaluation since the last Board meeting. He reviewed the implementation timeline and next steps in the process.

d. Review of Bylaws

Ms. Hug reviewed the recent review of the Bylaws, as included in the Board materials, with the Board. She asked the Board to review the Bylaws and noted that a work session will be scheduled to work through other possible amendments to the document.

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

RESOLVED, the Consent Items:

- a. Approval of Minutes from the November 21, 2013 Meeting;
- b. Approval of Minutes from the December 9, 2013 Special Meeting;
- c. Approval of Staffing Report;
- d. Approval for Opening Enrollment for the 2014-2015 School Year;
- e. Approval of Agreements for Student Enrollment for 2014-2015 School Year: Regulatory Program Description, Parent /Legal Guardian (Caretaker) Acknowledgement, Designated Learning Coach Agreement and Eligible Student Agreement;
- f. Approval of the 2014-2015 School Year General School Handbook; and
- g. Approval of the 2014-2015 School Year State Specific School Handbook; are hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Action Items

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

Mr. Soltz 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 Mr. Julal 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 \$1,009,598.23, and December, in the amount of \$1,087,980.01, as presented, are hereby approved for payment upon the availability of funds and final review by the Board Treasurer.

The motion passed unanimously.

b. Approval of Funded Enrollment Target for the 2014-2015 School Year

Ms. Robinson reviewed the proposed enrollment target for the 2014-2015 school year of 4,000 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 based on staffing and budget. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Collins and seconded by Mr. Julal as follows:

RESOLVED, that funded enrollment target of 4,000 students for the 2014-2015 school year, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Information Items

a. State Relations Update

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

b. Upcoming LiveLesson® Sessions

Ms. Woodward presented this item to the Board. She reminded the Board they will be receiving links soon for LiveLesson® sessions for the upcoming Board consideration of the Curriculum and Outreach Plans for the 2014-2015 School Year. Ms. Woodward advised the Board that these recorded presentations are a more in-depth look at the plans prior to the Board meeting presentations and documentation.

X. Executive Session – Employee Matter - O.C.G.A. §§ 50-14-2, 50-14-3(b) – Mid-year Principal Evaluation

A motion was made by Ms. Collins and seconded by Mr. Julal, to enter into Executive Session at 7:11 p.m. via a roll call vote of the Board pursuant to O.C.G.A § 50-14-2, 50-14-3(b), to conduct a mid-year performance evaluation of the school principal. Board members in attendance were Alisa Hug, Steve Julal, Charlotte Collins and Rich Thompson. Guests in attendance were Missy Nelson and Heather Woodward. All others left the meeting at this time.

After the Board concluded their discussion, the Board resumed their open session at 7:19 p.m.

No action was taken during Executive Session.

XI. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date – February 20, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. via teleconference

The next meeting is scheduled for February 20, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. ET via teleconference. A motion was made by Mr. Julal and seconded by Ms. Collins to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m.