



APPROVED 4/24/14

**Georgia Connections Academy (GACA)
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Thursday, February 20, 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 6:04 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 and JoAnn Brown (in person); Rich Thompson (via phone);

Board Members Joined During Meeting: Steve Julal (via phone);

Board Members Absent: Charlotte Collins;

Guests Present: Heather Robinson, School Principal; Kimberly Allen, Laura Berry, Jennifer Boyter, and Tricia Weatherspoon, School Staff (in person); Madison Tomlinson and Tyrus Wade, School Staff (via phone); Rachel Bailey, Shawn Soltz, Megann Arthur and Laura Karns, Connections Staff (via phone).

III. Public Comment

There were no public comments at this time.

IV. Audit Committee, Committee of Entire Board

a. Approval of Board Treasurer to Work with the School to Engage an Audit Firm for the 2013-2014 School Year Financial Audit

Mr. Soltz discussed with the Board the scope of the audit firm engagement letters and Mr. Julal's concerns. The Board discussed having Mr. Julal work with the school to negotiate, finalize and execute the audit firm engagement. There being no further discussion, Mr. Thompson made the following motion and it was seconded by Dr. Brown as follows:

RESOLVED, that the designation of the Board Treasurer to work with the school to engage an audit firm for the 2013-2014 school year financial audit, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

V. 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, Dr. Brown made the following motion and it was seconded by Mr. Thompson as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Agenda for the February 20, 2014 Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Georgia Connections Academy, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Oral Reports

a. Principal's Report

Ms. Robinson introduced the school staff present and 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.

[Mr. Julal joined the meeting at 6:12 p.m.]

ii. Update on Facility

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

iii. Update on Graduation Plans

Ms. Robinson advised the Board of the number of students expected to participate in the high school graduation ceremony scheduled for May 16, 2014. Mr. Thompson requested Ms. Robinson and school staff to investigate the feasibility of holding a high school prom this school year.

iv. Enrollment Stage Names Update

Ms. Robinson provided the Board with an update on upcoming changes to the naming convention for the various stages of enrollment for all Connections partnering school students. She advised the Board that the changes were being made to change the focus from what each stage is called to what the parent/caretaker needs to complete in each stage, e.g. Pre-Approved to Stage Two. Board members briefly discussed the changes, and expressed their support of the process.

v. Other Awards and Accolades

Ms. Robinson discussed the school's most recent achievements and awards with the Board.

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, and fund balance projections with the Board.

VII. Board Strategic Development

a. Update on Attendance at the GCSA Leadership Conference

Ms. Hug shared her recent experience attending the Georgia Charter School Association (GCSA) Leadership Conference. She noted the valuable information received from the conference and encouraged Board members to attend future conferences.

b. Spring Board Retreat

The Board discussed their interest in holding a Spring Board Retreat in early May. They asked for Ms. Woodward to assist with logistics of the meeting.

c. National Charter School Conference

Ms. Hug reminded the Board of the upcoming National Charter School Conference.

d. Board Member Recruitment

Ms. Hug suggested the creation of a Nominating Committee to review potential Board members. Mr. Thompson volunteered to serve on the Nominating Committee and Ms. Robinson offered the school's resources and assistance.

e. Update on Strategic Plan

Ms. Robinson provided the Board with an update on the school's strategic plan and requested Board designees to serve on the Strategic Planning Committee. Dr. Brown and Mr. Julal volunteered to work with the school on the Strategic Plan for further review by the Board.

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

RESOLVED, the Consent Items:

- a. Approval of Minutes from the January 16, 2014 Meeting;
- b. Approval of Minutes from the January 31, 2014 Special Meeting;
- c. Approval of Staffing Report;
- d. Approval of School Calendar for the 2014-2015 School Year;
- e. Approval of Outreach Plan for the 2014-2015 School Year; and
- f. Approval of Revisions to the 5th, 8th and 12th Grade Promotion Policies; are hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Action Items

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

Mr. Julal reviewed in detail the CA invoice for the month of January 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 Mr. Julal and seconded by Dr. Brown as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Connections Academy of Georgia, LLC invoice for the month of January in the amount of \$761,514.67, as presented, is hereby approved for payment upon the availability of funds.

The motion passed unanimously.

b. Approval of Board Designee to Work with the School Leader on the Strategic Plan

Ms. Robinson requested the Board appoint designees to work with the Strategic Planning Committee as discussed earlier in the meeting. There being no further discussion, Mr. Thompson made the following motion and it was seconded by Dr. Brown as follows:

RESOLVED, that the designation of Dr. Brown and Mr. Julal as the Board Designees to work with the school leader on the Strategic Plan, as discussed, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

c. Approval of Board Meeting Schedule Change

Ms. Arthur advised the Board of a regular meeting conflict in April. The Board discussed rescheduling the next meeting for Thursday, April 24, 2014. There being no further discussion, Mr. Julal made the following motion and it was seconded by Mr. Thompson as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Board Meeting Schedule change to hold the next meeting on April 24, 2014, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously

X. Information Items

a. State Relations Update

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

XI. 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)

A motion was made by Dr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Thompson, to enter into Executive Session at 6:50 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, Rich Thompson and Joann Brown. Guest(s) in attendance were Heather Robinson, Rachel Bailey, Laura Karns and Megann Arthur. All other attendees left the meeting at this time.

After the Board concluded their discussion, the Board resumed their open session at 6:53 p.m. No action was taken during Executive Session.

XII. Consideration of Action Items Resulting from Executive Session

No action was required from Executive Session.

XIII. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date – April 17, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. via teleconference

The Board confirmed that their next meeting was rescheduled for Thursday, April 24, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. ET via teleconference. A motion was made by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Julal to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m.