



APPROVED 11/21/13

**Georgia Connections Academy (GACA)
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Thursday, October 17, 2013 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 (in person), Rich Thompson, Charlotte Collins, JoAnn Brown and Steve Julal (via phone);

Guests Present: Heather Robinson, School Principal (in person at the school, which was open to the public); Rachel Bailey, Shawn Soltz and Heather Woodward, Connections Education 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 school asked to add Action Item (d) Approval of Out of State Field Trip – Hunter Art Museum in Chattanooga, Tennessee. There being no further changes noted, Mr. Thompson made the following motion and it was seconded by Dr. Brown as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Agenda for the October 17, 2013 Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Georgia Connections Academy, as amended, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

V. Audit Committee – Review and Acceptance of 2012-2013 Audit Report

Mr. Julal reviewed the audit report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013, as included in the Board materials. Mr. Julal highlighted key aspects of the report, and related to the Board that the audit firm indicated no findings; he advised that the report was the best result the school can achieve. Board members discussed the audit report, and expressed their satisfaction with the school and Connections for the results. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Ms. Collins as follows:

RESOLVED, the Audit Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013, as presented, is hereby accepted.

The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Oral Reports

a. Principal's Report

i. Update on School Improvement Plan Goals and Action Plan

Ms. Robinson reviewed the school improvement plan goals and action plan with the Board. She reviewed areas of focus for staff training and development, to improve student outcomes as well as teacher ratings for the year. Ms. Robinson further discussed with the Board in detail each goal for the 2013-2014 school year, and how the school plans to achieve the goals.

ii. Update on Title I Training

Ms. Robinson provided the Board with an update on the status of the Title I training and briefly reviewed the training information contained in the Board materials.

iii. Dashboard/ Media Clips and Marketing

Ms. Robinson reviewed the dashboard framework included in the Board materials. She reviewed the new format of the report, as well as the information contained in the report.

iv. Update on Implementation of State Evaluation System

Ms. Robinson provided the Board with an update. She reviewed the implementation process of the evaluation system, and the certification process that a Board member will be required to complete. Dr. Brown advised the Board that she is certified and volunteered to help the Board with the system implementation.

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 reviewed the financial impact that the growth of the student population has had on the school's financials.

[Mr. Thompson left the meeting at 6:32 p.m.]

VII. Board Strategic Development

a. Board Member Recruitment

Ms. Hug reminded Board members to send additional candidates' information to Ms. Hug, as they become available, to allow her to begin the review process.

b. EMO Evaluation

Mr. Julal noted that the draft EMO Evaluation development is continuing. He noted that a further update would be provided in November.

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 Mr. Julal and seconded by Dr. Brown as follows:

RESOLVED, the Consent Items:

- a. Approval of Minutes from the September 19, 2013 Meeting;
- b. Approval of Minutes from the September 30, 2013 Special Meeting; and
- c. Approval of Staffing Report; are hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Action Items

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

Mr. Julal reviewed in detail the CA invoice for the month of September 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 Ms. Collins as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Connections Academy of Georgia, LLC invoice for the month of September in the amount of \$1,581,275.21, as presented, is hereby approved for payment upon the availability of funds.

The motion passed unanimously.

[Dr. Hoge joined the meeting at 6:38 p.m.]

b. Approval of Curriculum Strategy for the 2014-2015 School Year

Dr. Hoge reviewed the curriculum strategy memo that was included in the Board materials with the Board. She discussed the curriculum enhancements that were put into place for the current school year. Dr. Hoge further outlined the curriculum review and enhancement process that Connections Academy goes through and noted that a part of her staff are now focusing on the curriculum development for the 2014-2015 school year. She reviewed the major goals and curriculum initiatives that are being pursued based on feedback received from students, learning coaches, teachers, the Curriculum Panel made up of Board members,

school authorizers and other partners of Connections Academy. There being no further discussion, Ms. Collins made the following motion and it was seconded by Mr. Julal as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Curriculum Strategy for the 2014 - 2015 school year, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

[Dr. Hoge left the meeting at 6:54 p.m.]

c. Approval of a Board Designee to Work with GACA and Connections to Negotiate, Finalize and Execute an Expansion on the Lease of the Current GACA Location

Ms. Robinson requested the Board appoint a designee to negotiate, finalize and execute the lease expansion for the school. Ms. Hug volunteered to assist the school with this item. There being no further discussion, Dr. Brown made the following motion and it was seconded by Mr. Julal as follows:

RESOLVED, that Alisa Hug as the Board Designee to negotiate, finalize and execute a Lease for the school, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Out of State Field Trip – Hunter Museum of Art in Chattanooga Tennessee

Ms. Robinson reviewed the school's desire to host an out of state field trip to the Hunter Museum of Art in Chattanooga, Tennessee. She reviewed the proposed field trip opportunity. She reviewed the educational purpose of the field trip and noted that the field trip, if approved, would be offered at no cost to GACA students. There being no further discussion, Dr. Brown made the following motion and it was seconded by Mr. Julal as follows:

RESOLVED, that the out of state field trip to Hunter Museum of Art in Chattanooga, Tennessee, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

X. Information Items

a. State Relations Update

In Mr. Ragley's absence, Ms. Robinson provided the Board with an update on recent legislative activities that may impact the school.

b. Update on Board Academy

Dr. Brown provided the Board with an update on her recent trip to Board Academy in Baltimore, Maryland. She thanked the Board for the opportunity to attend the training and noted the value of the information that was presented.

XI. Executive/Closed Session - School Leader Performance Review - O.C.G.A. §§ 50-14-2, 50-14-3(b) to discuss job performance evaluation of individual employees

A motion was made by Dr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Julal, to enter into Executive Session at 7:10 p.m. via a roll call vote of the Board pursuant to O.C.G.A. §§ 50-14-2, 50-14-3(b) to discuss job performance evaluation of individual employees. Board members in attendance were Alisa Hug, Steve Julal, JoAnn Brown and Charlotte Collins, Guest(s) in attendance were Rachel Bailey and Heather Woodward. All other attendees left the meeting at this time.

After the Board concluded their discussion, the Board resumed their open session at 7:14 p.m. No action was taken during Executive Session.

XII. Action Resulting from Closed Session

a. Approval of School Principal Bonus Payout for 2012-2013

Ms. Hug reviewed the discussion held during Executive Session regarding the proposed Principal bonus payout. She reviewed the current model and asked the Board to consider the bonus payout of \$12,300.01 or 100% of the Principal's bonus potential for the 2012-2013 school year, based on school goals results. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Julal and seconded by Dr. Brown as follows:

RESOLVED, that the School Principal Bonus Payout for the 2012-2013 School Year, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

XIII. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date – November 21, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. via teleconference

The next meeting is scheduled for November 21, 2013 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 7:16 p.m.