



APPROVED 10/17/13

**Georgia Connections Academy (GACA)
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Thursday, September 19, 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 6:16 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, Rich Thompson and Steve Julal (via phone);

Guests Present: Heather Robinson, School Principal (in person at the school, which was open to the public); Rachel Bailey, Pat Laystrom, JW Ragley, Tanya Lee, Brooke Hurst 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. 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 September 19, 2013 Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Georgia Connections Academy, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Julal updated the Board on the status of the audit materials. The Board requested to table this item to a future meeting.

VI. Oral Reports

a. Principal's Report

i. Update on Enrollment and Staffing

Ms. Robinson reviewed the Monthly School Report with Board members. She further reviewed the current enrollment with the Board. She reviewed the recent staffing changes, finalization of principal and assistant principal candidates, details of open positions at the school, as well as ongoing training.

ii. 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 outcome 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 how the goals would be met.

iii. Update on Facility Grant

Ms. Robinson provided the Board with an update on the status of the Facility Grant.

iv. Update on Title I Training

Ms. Robinson provided the Board with an update on the status of the Title I training, noting more information would be provided at a later meeting.

v. Dashboard/ Media Clips and Marketing

Ms. Robinson reviewed the dashboard framework included in the Board materials. She discussed the reports and data also included in the materials detailing marketing efforts. Ms. Robinson further discussed recent Welcome Events well attended by students, families and staff.

b. Financial Report

Ms. Lee reviewed the financial information included in the Board materials with the Board. She reviewed the balance sheet, and the school's revenue and expense statements with the Board.

VII. Board Strategic Development

a. Consideration and Appointment of Board Member Candidates

Ms. Hug reviewed the resume of Board member candidate, JoAnn Brown, as included in the Board materials. She reminded Board members of Dr. Brown's completion of the Potential Board Member Questionnaire, as per Board policy. Ms. Hug also reminded the Board of Dr. Brown's attendance at the Board Social. Board members indicated their support of Dr. Brown's candidacy for the Board. There being no additional discussion, Mr. Julal made the following motion and it was seconded by Mr. Thompson as follows:

RESOLVED, that the appointment of Board Member, Dr. JoAnn Brown, to be effective at the close of this meeting and for a term to the Annual Meeting 2015, is hereby accepted.

The motion passed unanimously.

b. Board Training Series

Ms. Hug discussed with the Board training options for January 2014. She presented to the Board ideas for additional training as new Board members joined the Board.

[Ms. Woodward left the meeting at 6:32 p.m.]

c. EMO Evaluation

Mr. Julal noted that the draft EMO Evaluation has been completed. He thanked Board Members and Ms. Robinson for their help and input in drafting the evaluation. The Board discussed a desired timeline to complete the EMO evaluation process. Mr. Julal noted the next steps in the timeline included review of the evaluation from Board Counsel and other key stakeholders.

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. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Julal as follows:

RESOLVED, the Consent Items:

- a. Approval of Minutes from the August 15, 2013 Meeting;
- b. Approval of Staffing Report;
- c. Approval of Supplemental Technology and Instruction Policy;
- d. Approval of Section 504 Policy; and
- e. Approval of Revised Employee Handbook; are hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Action Items

a. Approval of Connections Academy of Georgia, LLC Invoices for July and August

Mr. Julal reviewed in detail the CA invoices for the months of July and August 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 Mr. Thompson as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Connections Academy of Georgia, LLC invoice for the months of July in the amount of \$1,282,088.25, and August, in the amount of \$1,584,746.50, as presented, are hereby approved for payment upon the availability of funds.

The motion passed unanimously.

X. Information Items

a. State Relations Update

Ms. Laystrom introduced Mr. Jay W. Ragley to the Board, and advised them that he would soon begin working with the Board as the Connections' State Relations department representative. Ms. Laystrom further provided the Board with an update on recent legislative activities that may impact the school.

b. 2013-2014 Items for Board Consideration

In Ms. Woodward's absence, Ms. Hurst reviewed the outline of items planned to be presented for Board consideration throughout the current school year. She further advised the Board that the document was fluid, and items may be included, omitted, or considered on a varied timeline based on a number of factors, including state submission and enrollment deadlines, as well as school need for student support.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - O.C.G.A § 50-14-3 - to discuss 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 6:56 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 and Rich Thompson. Guest(s) in attendance were Heather Robinson, Pat Laystrom, Jay W. Ragley and Rachel Bailey. All other attendees left the meeting.

After the Board concluded their discussion, the Board resumed their open session at 7:06 p.m. No action was taken during Executive Session.

XI. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date – October 17, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. via teleconference

The next meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. ET via teleconference. A motion was made by Mr. Julal and seconded by Mr. Thompson to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 p.m.