



APPROVED 01/09/2019
Georgia Connections Academy (GACA)
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Thursday, November 15, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. ET

Held at the following location:
Georgia Connections Academy
2763 Meadow Church Road, Suite 208
Duluth, GA 30097

I. Call to Order

Mr. Thompson called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. when all participants were present. The meeting and school location were open for the public to attend.

II. Roll Call

Board Members Present at Roll Call: Rich Thompson, JoAnn Brown, Susanne Watts, Tiarra Felix (via phone);

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

Guests Present: Heather Robinson, School Leader; Brazilla Page, School staff (in person); Karen Duquette, Allison Solesby, Tanya Lee, Emily Lee, Laura Coleman and Megann Arthur, Pearson Online & Blended Learning (POBL) staff (via phone).

III. Mission Statement

Mr. Thompson read the school's Mission Statement to begin the meeting.

IV. Public Comment

There were no comments at this time.

V. Routine Business

a. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Thompson asked the Board to review the Agenda distributed prior to the meeting. There being no changes noted, a motion was made by Dr. Brown and seconded by Ms. Watts as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Agenda for the November 15, 2018 Board Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Georgia Connections Academy, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

[Mr. Julal joined at 5:05 p.m.]

VI. Oral Reports

a. School Leader's Report

i. Data Dashboard/ Strategic Plan Update

Ms. Robinson reviewed the school data dashboard information as included in the Board materials with the Board, highlighting the progress made on the school's strategic plan goals. She further discussed enrollment options with the Board in detail, including the possibility of requesting a charter amendment to re-open grades 4 and 5. The Board requested a half-day strategic planning session in the near future to further discuss the options for the school following recent testing results.

ii. Update on Student Intervention Efforts – Tier 1 and Tier 2

Ms. Robinson advised the Board of school staff members' increased awareness of critical educational components and benchmarks, as well as Pearson Online & Blended Learning (POBL) useful tools for tracking student progress. Ms. Robinson further discussed the relation these efforts have to the school's annual success in goals completion.

b. Financial Report

Ms. Lee reviewed the financial materials included in the Board materials in detail, highlighting the budget and forecasting areas of the financial statements. She reviewed the changes in the financials and forecasted expenses since last month's statements, including the balance sheet and school's revenue and expense statements. Ms. Lee further reviewed the revenue statement formatting options with the Board. The Board expressed their revenue schedule preference.

c. School Leader Review Process Update

Ms. Solesby reviewed the annual school leader review process with the Board. She reminded Board members that the process is managed by Dr. Brown, and includes collaboration with POBL, as well as the Board member survey. Ms. Solesby further reminded the Board that Ms. Robinson's mid-year review will be discussed during the January meeting and the final review will take place during the Board's Annual Meeting in June.

VII. Board Strategic Development

a. CCRPI Results Update

Ms. Robinson reminded the Board of the discussion held during her oral report earlier in the Board meeting.

b. EMO Evaluation Update

Mr. Julal provided the Board with an update on the Education Management Organization (EMO) responses and timeline for Board review during a future Board meeting.

c. SCSC Annual Training Reminder

Ms. Arthur reminded the Board of the upcoming State Charter Schools Commission (SCSC) training opportunities in November and February. The Board discussed their ongoing commitment to governance training and professional development.

VIII. Consent Items

Mr. Thompson 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 changes noted, a motion was made by Dr. Brown and seconded by Ms. Watts as follows:

RESOLVED, the Consent Items:

- a. Approval of Minutes from the October 25, 2018 Board Meeting;
- b. Approval of Staffing Report; and
- c. Approval of Connections Academy of Georgia, LLC Invoices for October; are hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Action Items

- a. Approval of Subscription to ParentSquare

Ms. Robinson reviewed the ParentSquare communication tool proposal, included in the Board package with the Board. She further reviewed the financial considerations associated with the proposal.

[Mr. Julal left at 6:02 p.m.]

There being no further discussion, Dr. Brown made the following motion and it was seconded by Ms. Watts as follows:

RESOLVED, that the subscription to ParentSquare, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

[Mr. Julal rejoined at 6:03 p.m.]

X. Information Items

- a. State and Strategic Client Relations (SCCR) Update

Ms. Duquette provided the Board with an update on legislative activities which may impact the school.

- b. School Leadership Team (PSLT) Update

There was no update at this time.

- c. Future Funded Enrollment Update

Ms. Robinson reviewed with the Board a proposed Funded Enrollment Target for the 2019-2020 school year of 5,000 students, the school's enrollment cap. Ms. Robinson reminded Board members that the target is a major driver for school budget planning, including outreach, staffing and many other initiatives. She further advised that the proposed enrollment target will be presented for approval during the upcoming January Board meeting. The Board did not express any concerns with the proposed funded enrollment target.

XI. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date – Thursday, January 17, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. ET

Mr. Thompson noted that the Board was at the end of its agenda. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m. The next regular meeting is to be held on Thursday, January 17, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. with a strategic planning session to be held in the interim at a date and time to be determined.