



APPROVED 05/20/2021

**Georgia Connections Academy (GACA)
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

Thursday, March 18, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. ET

Held at the following location:

Via Teleconference due to State Precautions regarding Public Health and Safety
During COVID-19 Pandemic

1(800) 747-5150; Code 160-9140#

I. Call to Order

At Mr. Julal's request, Mr. Grant called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. when all participants were present.

II. Roll Call

Board Members Present at Roll Call: Steve Julal, Susan Collins, Rich Thompson, Darrell Grant and Rasheed Mustakeem (all via phone);

Board Members Absent: Susanne Watts and Tiarra Felix,

Guests Present: Brazilia Bilal-Page, School Leader; Caroline Fernandez and Sabine Claster, School Staff; Karen Duquette, Melissa Brown, Megan Holston, Gary Corkran, Stacy Husk, Laura Coleman and Megann Arthur, Online & Blended Learning (OBL) staff (all via phone).

III. Mission Statement

Mr. Grant read the school's Mission Statement to all participants.

IV. Review and Acceptance of Resignation of Board Member, Tiarra Felix

Mr. Grant reviewed the resignation of Ms. Tiarra Felix with the Board, as included in the Board materials. The Board expressed their gratitude to Ms. Felix for her years of dedicated service on the Board. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Mustakeem and seconded by Mr. Julal as follows:

RESOLVED, that the resignation of Tiarra Felix, effective immediately, as discussed, is hereby accepted.

The motion was approved unanimously.

V. Public Comment

There were no public comments at this time.

VI. Routine Business

a. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Grant asked the Board to review the Agenda distributed prior to the meeting. There being no further changes noted, a motion was made by Mr. Mustakeem and seconded by Mr. Julal as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Agenda for the March 18, 2021 Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Georgia Connections Academy, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Oral Reports

a. School Leader's Report

i. Data Dashboard/ Strategic Plan Update

Ms. Bilal-Page reviewed with the Board the school data dashboard information as included in the Board materials. She also shared with the Board the current status of items contained within their Strategic Plan. She further reviewed with the Board recent school events and initiatives including culturally responsive pedagogy, staff celebrations, Covid-19 vaccination and task force information, state testing and advisory council updates.

ii. Enrollment and Staffing Update

Ms. Bilal-Page provided the Board with an update on enrollment levels at the school, detailing the number of returning students and newly enrolled students.

iii. Graduation Planning

Ms. Bilal-Page advised the Board that the high school graduation ceremony is planned for June 2, 2021 and encouraged Board members to attend.

[Mr. Julal began chairing the Board meeting.]

b. Financial Report

Mr. Corkran reviewed the financial materials included in the Board materials in detail, highlighting the budget and forecasting areas of the financial statements. He reviewed the changes in the financials and forecasted expenses since the last meeting's statements, including the balance sheet and school's revenue and expense statements.

i. Budget Approval Process Reminder

Mr. Corkran reviewed the 2021-2022 budget development process with the Board. He advised the Board that the process starts with the outreach recruitment target as approved by the Board at the previous meeting and includes input from the Board and school leader. Mr. Corkran further reviewed the anticipated budget development schedule.

VIII. Board Strategic Development

a. SCSC Required Training Update

Ms. Arthur provided the Board with a reminder regarding the annual authorizer training requirements for Board members and reviewed all options to maintain Board compliance and Comprehensive Framework points in this area.

b. Strategic Planning Retreat Update

Ms. Arthur provided the Board with an overview of the potential benefits to the school and Board for revisiting their strategic plan, and offered facilitation assistance to the Board, if they wished to pursue. The Board expressed an interest in a work session focused on their strategic plan and discussed potential dates and times. The Board confirmed availability for Thursday, May 20, 2021 and Ms. Arthur advised additional details will be confirmed via email.

IX. Consent Items

Mr. Julal 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 Mr. Grant and seconded by Ms. Collins as follows:

RESOLVED, the Consent Items:

- a. Approval of Minutes from the January 21, 2021 Board Meeting;
- b. Approval of OBL Invoices for January (# 91000007174) and February (# 91000007311);
- c. Approval of Board President or Treasurer as Board Designee(s) to Approve OBL March Invoice(s);
- d. Approval of Revision(s) to the 2020-2021 School Year State Specific School Handbook: State Testing Update(s) for Current School Year Only;
- e. Approval of School Calendar for the 2020-2021 School Year;
- f. Approval of Revision(s) to Employee Handbook: Term of Project (TOP) Employee Update(s); and
- g. Approval of Staff Compensation Plan for the 2021-2022 School Year; are hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

X. Action Items

a. Review and Approval of Staffing Report

Ms. Bilal-Page provided the Board with an update on staffing levels and hiring efforts for the next school year. She further reviewed specific staffing needs for the school, and recently hired staff members and the positions each filled. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Grant and seconded by Mr. Julal follows:

RESOLVED, that the Staffing Report, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

b. Approval of Lease Renewal Documentation and Authorization for Board President to Finalize and Execute all Associated Documentation on Behalf of the Board

Ms. Bilal-Page reviewed with the Board the Fourth Amendment to the Lease, as included in the Board meeting materials. She further reviewed the length of the lease and termination terms depending upon the school's charter renewal outcome. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Mustakeem and seconded by Ms. Collins as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Lease Renewal Documentation and Authorization for Board President to Finalize and Execute all Associated Documentation on Behalf of the Board, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

c. Approval of Interim Board Treasurer

Ms. Arthur reminded Board members that the position of Board Treasurer was now vacate with the resignation of Ms. Felix. She discussed the length of the position until the June Annual Board Meeting and relayed Mr. Mustakeem's expressed willingness to serve in this capacity. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Grant as follows:

RESOLVED, that Rasheed Mustakeem as Interim Board Treasurer, as discussed, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

[Ms. Coleman left the meeting at 5:48 p.m.]

XI. Information Items

a. Outreach Plan for the 2021-2022 School Year

Ms. Husk reviewed the school's proposed Outreach Plan for the 2021-2022 school year, as included in the Board materials. She discussed the effects of COVID-19 on virtual schooling across the nation. Additionally, Ms. Husk highlighted current and projected enrollment numbers, as well as planned activities for student recruitment.

b. State Account Relations (STAR) Update

Ms. Duquette reviewed legislative activities in the state, which may impact the school

i. Services Overview: SFS- What We Do

Ms. Holston provided an overview of services delivered by School Financial Services (SFS) regarding financial support, including budget planning, audit assistance, and accurate financial reporting to ensure compliance with legal and regulatory requirements.

c. School Leadership Team (PSLT) Update

Ms. Brown presented to the Board on behalf of Online & Blended Learning's (OBL) Partner School Leadership Team.

i. Services Overview- What We Do

Ms. Brown provided an overview of services delivered by the Partner School Leadership Team (PSLT) regarding school leader support, including school improvement planning, coaching, professional development, audit and accreditation assistance, and analyzing of school academic data to ensure student success.

XII. Adjournment and Confirmation of Next Meeting Date – Thursday May 20, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Julal noted that the Board was at the end of its agenda. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m. The Board's next meeting is to be held on Thursday, May 20, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.