



**APPROVED 09/18/2018**

**NEVADA CONNECTIONS ACADEMY (NCA)  
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
Tuesday, August 21, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. PT

**Held at the following location and via teleconference:**

Nevada Connections Academy  
555 Double Eagle Court, Suite 2000  
Reno, NV 89521

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**I. Call to Order**

Dr. Harrington called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. when all participants were present and able to hear each other. The school was open for the public to attend the meeting.

**II. Roll Call**

Board Members Present: Scott Harrington, Amy Cook, Kelly McGlynn, Mindi Dagerman, Morgan Jackson and Kevin Arnold (via phone);

Board Members Absent: Naima Benjelloun;

Guests Present: Chris McBride, School Leader and Reva Rindy, School staff (in person); Brian Rosta, Josh Daniels, Brenda Little and Laura Coleman, Pearson Online & Blended Learning (POBL) staff (via phone).

**III. Public Comment**

There were no public comments at this time.

**IV. Routine Business**

a. Approval of Agenda

Dr. Harrington asked the Board to review the Agenda distributed prior to the meeting. There being no changes noted, Mr. Arnold made the following motion and it was seconded by Dr. Cook as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Agenda for the August 21, 2018 Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Nevada Connections Academy, as discussed, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

## V. Oral Reports

### a. School Leader's Report

#### i. What is the Monthly School Report? What does it mean?

Dr. McBride reviewed thoroughly the Monthly School Report (MSR) with those in attendance, specifically discussing its usefulness for tracking data trends, developing school goals and measuring outcomes.

#### ii. Back to School Activities, Staff and Training Update

Dr. McBride discussed with the Board recent back to school activities, including successful orientations with students, families and teachers. He also updated the Board on staffing and training efforts.

#### iii. Enrollment Update

Dr. McBride provided the Board with the most up-to-date enrollment number, including those who have applied and are currently in the enrollment process.

#### iv. Summer School Update

Dr. McBride updated the Board on NCA's successful summer school sessions and improvements to the graduation rate.

#### v. Connections Academy Summer Leadership Conference Update

Dr. McBride discussed the recent Connections Academy Summer Leadership Conference, held annually in Baltimore. He reviewed many of the topics covered at the retreat, as well as mentoring and networking opportunities for him and other school leadership team members.

#### vi. Nevada Charter Authority Update

Dr. McBride provided the Board with an update on the Nevada Charter School Authority's most recent meeting, in which they accepted the school's proposed Elementary Improvement Plan with a few conditions. The Board thanked Dr. McBride for his leadership of the school.

### b. Financial Report

Ms. Little reviewed the revenue and expense statements included in the Board materials. She highlighted key aspects in the school's revenue and expense reports, as well as the school's forecast for the school year.

#### i. Unaudited 2017-2018 Financial Results

Ms. Little reviewed the unaudited financial results from the previous school year with the Board, including summer school expenses.

## VI. Consent Agenda

Dr. Harrington 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, Ms. McGlynn made the following motion and it was seconded by Mr. Arnold as follows:

RESOLVED, the Consent Items:

- a. Approval of Minutes from the June 19, 2018 Annual Board Meeting;
- b. Approval of Staffing Report;
- c. Approval of Connections Education Invoice for June;
- d. Ratification of Dual Enrollment Courses with Truckee Meadows Community College;
- e. Approval of Revision(s) to the 2018-2019 School Year State Specific Handbook: Required Instructional Hours and Kindergarten and First Grade Admissions Policies Updates; and
- f. Approval of 2018-2019 Base Salaries and Incentive Percentage and Career Ladder Positions; are hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

## VII. Action Items

### a. Approval of Designation of Special Education Teacher as Critical Need Position

Dr. McBride reviewed the request for designating Special Education Teachers as a Critical Need Position and the related recruitment benefits, including the ability to hire retired teachers that are drawing pensions from Nevada's Public Employee Retirement System (PERS). Dr. McBride further reviewed the requirements in order for PERS to accept the designation of Critical Labor Shortage for positions according to NRS § 286.523(4-5), including the history of the turnover for the position, the length of time the position has been vacant, the difficulty in filling the position due to special circumstances and the history of all recruitment efforts previously made. Dr. McBride further noted that this option would only be utilized should all other efforts for recruitment be exhausted. The Board discussed the current staff composition with Dr. McBride. There being no further discussion, Mr. Arnold made the following motion and it was seconded by Ms. Jackson as follows:

RESOLVED, that the designation of Special Education Teacher as Critical Need Position, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

### b. Approval of Math Time to Talk Proposal and Contract

Dr. Rosta reviewed with the Board the Math Time to Talk proposed contract. Dr. Rosta discussed the proposed use of trained math specialists to engage in small group discourse with students needing additional assistance in mathematics. He further reviewed the success other Connections Academy partnering schools have seen with the pilot program. The Board discussed the budget implications, staff endorsement, program participation incentives, and applicable grades with Dr. Rosta and Dr. McBride. Dr. McBride further reviewed the inclusion of the Math Time to Talk proposal within the improvement plan. The Board expressed their support of the proposal but requested the program be applied to grades 3-5 only and that they be provided monthly updates on the program. There being no further discussion, Ms. Dagerman made the following motion and it was seconded by Ms. Jackson as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Math Time to Talk Proposal and Contract, as amended, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

c. Approval of Board Training and Conference Attendance for the 2018-2019 School Year

Ms. Coleman reviewed the upcoming trainings and conferences that have been identified that may interest members of the Board, and reminded Board members of the previously approved budget for Board trainings and member activities. The Board reviewed the upcoming training offerings, as well as the advantages and specific agenda topics of each conference, and their support of Board members making an effort to attend the training opportunities. There being no further discussion, Ms. Jackson made the following motion and it was seconded by Dr. Cook as follows:

[Ms. McGlynn left at 7:25 p.m.]

RESOLVED, that the Board training and conference attendance for the 2018-2019 school year, including in person, National and State Conferences, as discussed, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

[Ms. McGlynn rejoined at 7:26 p.m.]

**VIII. Information Items**

a. State & Strategic Client Relations Update

Mr. Daniels updated the Board on the recent legislative activities in Nevada, which may impact the school.

b. Partner School Leadership Team (PSLT) Update

Dr. Rosta presented an update to the Board on behalf of POBL's School Leadership Team.

i. School Operations Metrics

Dr. Rosta reviewed the data included in the Board materials, highlighting the school's performance as compared with other POBL partnering schools of similar size and years in operation.

ii. Teacher Professional Development Products and Services for the 2018-2019 School Year

Dr. Rosta reviewed the professional development products and services for school staff, as offered by POBL for the 2018-2019 school year. He discussed the various levels and delivery models of professional learning opportunities available to staff members based on years of service and experience. Dr. Rosta further advised of the training and resource opportunities available for Learning Coaches at the school.

c. Conflict of Interest Statement and Background Check Reminder

Ms. Coleman thanked the Board for their prompt completion of the required Conflict of Interest statements for the 2017-2018 school year. She further reminded Board Members to complete their background check process for those members which it is required.

d. Board Recruitment Update

Dr. Harrington reminded the Board of the continued search for potential new Board members. Board members discussed Board composition, as well as preferred background and credentials for the next candidate for the Board.

e. Education Management Organization (EMO) Evaluation Reminder

Dr. Harrington reminded the Board of the upcoming annual Education Management Organization (EMO) Evaluation.

f. National Charter School Conference (NCSC) Update

Mr. Arnold discussed his attendance at the National Charter School Conference (NCSC) in Austin, Texas. Mr. Arnold thanked the Board for the opportunity to attend the conference, and noted the value of the information that was presented and encouraged the Board to consider participation at future conferences.

**XI. Public Comment (as detailed previously in agenda)**

There were no public comments.

**XI. Adjournment and Confirmation of Next Meeting and Training – Tuesday, September 18, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. PT**

Dr. Harrington noted that the Board was at the end of its agenda and that the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 18, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.