



APPROVED 05/21/2019

**NEVADA CONNECTIONS ACADEMY (NCA)
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**
Tuesday, April 9, 2019 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

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, Naima Benjelloun, Morgan Jackson and Kevin Arnold (via phone);

Board Members Absent: Kelly McGlynn and Mindi Dagerman;

Guests Present: Chris McBride, School Leader (in person); Heather Engelhardt, School staff; Brian Rosta, Jay W. Ragley, Tracey Gianoni, Megan Holston 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. The Board requested to table Consent Item (i) Approval of Employee Handbook as the document was not yet available for consideration. There being no further changes noted, Mr. Arnold made the following motion and it was seconded by Dr. Cook as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Agenda for the April 9, 2019 Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Nevada Connections Academy, as amended, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

V. Oral Reports

a. School Leader's Report

i. School Updates

Dr. McBride introduced Ms. Engelhardt to provide the Board with an update on grades K-8. Ms. Engelhardt reviewed with the Board the recent state testing preparations, academic plans and the upcoming promotion ceremonies.

[Ms. Engelhardt left the meeting at 6:41 p.m.]

Dr. McBride provided the Board with an update on behalf of Ms. Hunt for high school grades, including their state testing preparations.

ii. Learning Coach Survey Data Update

Dr. McBride reviewed the results of the Learning Coach Survey with the Board, including the positive responses regarding Learning Coach training. The Board discussed the survey in detail with Dr. McBride.

iii. State Testing Update

Dr. McBride reviewed with the Board the ongoing state testing preparations by school staff members and participation rates.

iv. Graduation Plans and End of Year Activities Update

Dr. McBride advised the Board of the school's planning for the upcoming high school graduation ceremonies and encouraged Board members to attend.

v. Nevada Charter Authority Update

Dr. McBride provided the Board with an update on the upcoming meeting with the Nevada Charter Authority relating to the upcoming charter renewal process.

1. Site Evaluation Update

Dr. McBride provided the Board with an update on the recent Site Evaluation and the school's response.

b. Financial Report

Ms. Gianoni reviewed the financial materials included in the Board materials. She reviewed the changes in the financial and forecasted expenses since the last meeting's statements in detail. She further reviewed the balance sheet and the school's revenue statements with the Board.

i. Cash Deposits Update

Ms. Gianoni reviewed with the Board the cash deposits to date for the current school year, as included in the meeting materials.

[Ms. Jackson left the meeting at 7:00 p.m.]

[Ms. Jackson rejoined the meeting at 7:01 p.m.]

c. POBL Products, Services and Initiatives Update

Dr. Rosta reviewed details within the Pearson Online & Blended Learning's (POBL) 2019-2020 Products, Services and Initiatives memo, as included in the Board materials. Dr. Rosta advised the Board on upcoming enhancements planned for the curriculum, and continued focus on academic outcomes.

VI. Consent Agenda

Dr. Harrington noted the earlier tabling of Consent Item (i) and asked the Board members whether there were any additional Consent Items they wished to have moved to Action Items for discussion, or tabled. There being no changes, Dr. Cook made the following motion and it was seconded by Ms. Jackson as follows:

RESOLVED, the Consent Items:

- a. Approval of Minutes from the March 5, 2019 Special Board Meeting;
- b. Approval of Staffing Report;
- c. Approval of Connections Education Invoices for February and March;
- d. Approval of LiveSpeech Invoice(s);
- e. Approval of Board Meeting Schedule for the 2019-2020 School Year;
- f. Approval of School Calendar for the 2019-2020 School Year;
- g. Approval of Staff Compensation Plan for the 2019-2020 School Year; and
- h. Approval of Revision(s) to 2018-2019 School Year State Specific Handbook: Student and Employee Communications & Promotion Policy Updates; are hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Action Items

- a. Hearing on 2019-2020 Tentative Budget Prepared in accordance with NAC 387.720 and Submitted to the Department of Education and Adoption of the Tentative Budget for the 2019-2020 School Year

Dr. Harrington opened the hearing and reviewed this item with those in attendance. Ms. Gianoni reviewed the Tentative Budget in detail with the Board, including the state funding, legal expenses and other specific expenses. Ms. Gianoni further reviewed the statutory requirement for the Tentative Budget presentation and advised that she will give a more detailed presentation during their May meeting when they consider the final proposed budget. The Board discussed the implication of a recently discovered state funding error with Ms. Gianoni. There being no further discussion, Dr. Cook made the following motion and it was seconded by Mr. Arnold as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Tentative Budget prepared in accordance with NAC 387.720 and submitted to the Department of Education and adoption of the Tentative Budget for 2019-2020 school year, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Information Items

- a. State & Strategic Client Relations Update

Mr. Ragley and Dr. McBride updated the Board on the recent legislative activities in Nevada, which may impact the school. Mr. Ragley further provided the Board with an update on support services and personnel provided to the school and Board by POBL.

b. Partner School Leadership Team (PSLT) Update

Dr. Rosta presented an update to the Board on behalf of the Pearson Online & Blended Learning (POBL) Partner School Leadership Team.

i. School Operations Metrics

Dr. Rosta reviewed the quarterly School Operations Metrics to the Board. He reviewed the data included in the Board materials, highlighting the school's performance as compared with other Pearson Online and Blended Learning's (POBL) partnering schools of similar size and years in operation. Board members discussed the metrics data in detail with Dr. Rosta and Dr. McBride, specifically staff professional development metrics.

c. Board Recruitment Update

Dr. Harrington provided the Board with an update on ongoing Board member recruitment efforts and reminded the Board to please continue with their recruitment efforts.

d. NCSC and Strategic Planning Session Reminders

Ms. Coleman reminded the Board of the upcoming National Charter Schools Conference and Strategic Planning Session on Tuesday, July 2, 2019. She further advised that additional information would be sent as the events approach.

e. Board Planning for the 2019-2020 School Year

Ms. Coleman discussed the planning for the 2019-2020 school year that POBL has been working on with the school, including the Board's current composition and board member terms and officer positions that would be up for renewal at this year's Annual Meeting. She further encouraged Board members to discuss their intentions regarding terms and renewal with the Board Chair.

X. Public Comment (as detailed previously in agenda)

There were no public comments.

XI. Adjournment and Confirmation of the Next Meeting – Tuesday, May 21, 2019 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, May 21, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. There being no further business, Dr. Cook made a motion, seconded by Ms. Benjelloun and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.