



APPROVED 11/19/2019

**New Mexico Connections Academy (NMCA)
MINUTES OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING**

Tuesday, October 22, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. MT

Held at the following locations and via teleconference:

4001 Office Court, Suite 201-204

Santa Fe, NM 87507

and

4801 Hardware Dr. NE

Albuquerque, NM 87109

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Mr. Boitano called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. when all participants were present and able to hear each other. The school location was open to the public. Mr. Boitano conducted a Roll Call.

Governing Council Members Present: Mark Boitano and Jerry Schalow (in person at the Albuquerque location); Patrick Chavez (via phone);

Governing Council Members Absent: Paul Gessing and Jeanie Armstrong;

Guests Present: Sandy Beery, School Leader (in person at the Albuquerque location); Jolene Ortiz, Virginia Romero, Sonya Martinez, Lynnette Trujillo, Karen Ismari, and Chris Eisenberg, School Staff (in person at the Santa Fe location); Alyssa Lucero, The Vigil Group; Megan Holston, Jenny Dukek, Bryce Adams, Gary Corkran, Hussa Blake, and Kristin DeGroff, POBL staff (via phone).

II. Routine Business

a. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Boitano asked the Governing Council to review the Agenda distributed prior to the meeting. There being no changes, a motion was made by Mr. Schalow and seconded by Mr. Chavez as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Agenda for the October 22, 2019 New Mexico Connections Academy Governing Council Meeting, as presented, is hereby approved.

A roll call vote was conducted; the motion passed unanimously.

III. Public Comment

There were no public comments at this time.

IV. Oral Reports

a. School Leader's Report

i. Charter Renewal Update

Ms. Beery informed the Governing Council that the Charter has been renewed for five (5) years. The Governing Council congratulated Ms. Beery and the school on the accomplishment.

ii. State of the School Report and Final Results on 2018-2019 Goals and State Testing Results

Ms. Beery provided the Governing Council with a state of the school report. She advised of the state testing data used to formulate the School Improvement Plan, as well as areas of focus for the 2019-2020 school year. Ms. Beery further discussed last year's target enrollment goals as well as final enrollment numbers by grade level with the Governing Council, and reviewed the current enrollment and school goals, including increasing math proficiency. Additionally, Ms. Beery provided an update on student intervention efforts, including the school's Response to Intervention (RTI) measures, and advised of the interventions taking place at the Tier 1, 2, and 3 levels for students at the school. The Governing Council thanked Ms. Beery for her thoroughness and partnership in the educational process.

iii. School Operations Metrics

This item was not discussed at this time.

iv. Update on Staffing

Ms. Beery reviewed the Staffing Report, as included in the meeting materials, and informed the Council that she and Ms. Lucero are working on a staffing sustainability plan.

v. Update on Employee Handbook

Ms. Beery informed the Council that several policies are slated to be updated and included within the Employee Handbook, in consultation with the Governing Council's Legal Counsel and POBL.

b. Financial Report

Ms. Lucero reviewed the school's financial statements in detail, including the check register, revenue and expense statements, as well as the school's forecast for the school year based on enrollment trends.

i. Update on 2018-2019 School Year Funding

This item was not discussed at this time.

ii. Finance Committee Updates and Recommendations for Approval

a. Approval of Connections Academy of New Mexico, LLC Invoices for August and September

Ms. Lucero reviewed the August and September invoices as drawn from the financial report, provided in the meeting materials, and reviewed earlier in the meeting. She advised that she reviewed the invoices and found them to be in order and asked the Governing Council whether they had any questions on the invoices or if any items required further explanation. There being no further discussion, Mr. Schalow made the following motion and it was seconded by Mr. Chavez as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Connections Academy of New Mexico, LLC invoice for September in the amount of \$394,600.36, and the LiveSpeech invoice for August in the amount of \$15,315.39, as presented, are hereby approved.

A roll call vote was conducted; the motion passed unanimously.

b. Approval of Budget Adjustment Report (BAR) 554-000-1920-0002-T

Ms. Lucero reviewed in detail the Budget Adjustment Report (BAR) 554-000-1920-0002-T. There being no further discussion, Mr. Schalow made the following motion and it was seconded by Mr. Chavez as follows:

RESOLVED, the Budget Adjustment Report (BAR) 554-000-1920-0002-T, as presented, is hereby approved.

A roll call vote was conducted; the motion passed unanimously.

V. Consent Items

Mr. Boitano asked the Governing Council members whether there were any items from the Consent Items that they wished to have moved to Action Items for discussion or tabled. The Governing Council indicated their intent to consider the Consent Items separately. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Schalow and seconded by Mr. Chavez as follows:

RESOLVED, the minutes from the September 24, 2019 Meeting; as presented, are hereby approved.

A roll call vote was conducted; the motion passed unanimously.

The Governing Council further discussed the revisions to the 2019-2020 School Year State Specific School Handbook in detail. Ms. Beery provided an in-depth review of the legislation regarding the dispensation of medical cannabis, as well as the availability of dual credit for students at the school. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Schalow and seconded by Mr. Chavez as follows:

RESOLVED, the Revision(s) to 2019-2020 School Year State Specific School Handbook: Medical Cannabis and Dual Credit Policies; as presented, are hereby approved.

A roll call vote was conducted; the motion passed unanimously.

VI. Action Items

There were no action items to consider.

VII. Information Items

a. Legislative Update

Mr. Adams provided an update on the recent legislative activities in New Mexico, which may impact the school.

b. Partner School Leadership Team (PSLT) Update

Ms. Duke presented to the Governing Council on behalf of Pearson Online & Blended Learning's (POBL), School Leadership Team. The Governing Council requested a review of the School Operations Metrics, as included in the meeting materials.

School Operations Metrics

Ms. Dukek reviewed the first quarter school operations metrics included in the Governing Council materials, highlighting the school's performance as compared with other POBL partnering schools of similar size and years in operation.

Update on 2018-2019 School Year Funding

Mr. Schalow advised of the potential options available for use of carryover funding from the 2018-2019 school year. Ms. Beery discussed the options in detail with the Governing Council, as well as future considerations for the school's annual budget building process. The Governing Council requested additional information regarding the anticipated costs related to exam proctoring and professional development opportunities across the state.

c. Board Relations Update

i. Virtual Attendance Meeting Discussion

Ms. DeGross informed the Governing Council that she was working with Ms. Beery to ensure that the appropriate technology was available to host the Governing Council meetings through a virtual platform at an upcoming meeting.

d. Governing Council Recruitment Update

Mr. Boitano provided the Governing Council with an update on ongoing recruitment efforts. Ms. DeGross advised that additional Governing Council Recruitment materials would be provided to Ms. Beery in the coming weeks.

VIII. Adjournment and Confirmation of Next Meeting - Tuesday, November 19, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. MT

Mr. Boitano noted that the Governing Council was at the end of its agenda and that the next meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, November 19, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. MT. At 10:19 a.m., a motion was made by Mr. Schalow and seconded by Mr. Chavez as follows:

RESOLVED, that the adjournment of the New Mexico Connections Academy, Inc. October 22, 2019 Governing Council Meeting, as discussed, is hereby approved.

A roll call vote was conducted; the motion passed unanimously.