



APPROVED 02/07/2020

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

Tuesday, November 19, 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 (in person at the Albuquerque location); Paul Gessing and Patrick Chavez (via video and teleconference);

Governing Council Members Joined During Meeting: Jerry Schalow (in person at the Albuquerque location);

Governing Council Members Absent: Jeanie Armstrong;

Guests Present: Sandy Beery, School Leader; David Young, JSY Coaching representative; Alyssa Lucero, The Vigil Group (in person at the Albuquerque location); Jolene Ortiz, Virginia Romero, Sonya Martinez, Amy Earle, Shawwna Sanchez, and Chris Eisenberg, School Staff (in person at the Santa Fe location); Megan Holston, Gary Corkran, Jenny Dukek, Bryce Adams, Hussa Blake, and Kristin DeGross, POBL staff (via video and teleconference).

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. Gessing and seconded by Mr. Chavez as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Agenda for the November 19, 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. Update on Staffing

Ms. Beery reviewed the Staffing Report, as included in the meeting materials. She further reviewed upcoming professional development sessions to be held for school staff. Ms. Dukek discussed recent results from a school survey, and advised that the positive results indicate all of the hard work Ms. Beery is doing for the school. The Governing Council thanked Ms. Beery for her dedication to the school.

The Governing Council indicated their intent to discuss the Financial Report later in the meeting when Mr. Schalow was able to join.

b. Financial Report

This item was not discussed.

i. Foundation Discussion

This item was not discussed.

ii. Finance Committee Updates and Recommendations for Approval

a. Approval of Connections Academy of New Mexico, LLC Invoices for October

This item was not discussed.

b. Approval of Annual Employee Technology Invoice

This item was not discussed.

c. Approval of Budget Adjustment Report (BAR) 554-000-1920-0003-IB

This item was not discussed.

d. Approval of LiveSpeech Invoice for September

This item was not discussed.

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 tabled Consent Item (b) Approval of Revision(s) to 2019-2020 School Year State Specific School Handbook: McKinney Vento Homeless Student Policy and Complaint Policy, as Ms. Beery advised that the policy had been previously approved as a standalone policy that will be submitted to the PED for verification. There being no further items removed from the Consent Items, a motion was made by Mr. Gessing and seconded by Mr. Chavez as follows:

RESOLVED, the Consent Item:

- a. Approval of Minutes from the October 22, 2019 Meeting; is hereby approved.

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

VI. Action Items

There were no action items to consider.

[Ms. Ortiz, Ms. Romero, Ms. Martinez, Ms. Earle, Ms. Sanchez, and Mr. Eisenberg joined the meeting at 9:24 a.m.]

VII. Information Items

a. Legislative Update

Mr. Adams updated the Governing Council on recent legislative activities which may impact the school, including state regulations regarding new student orientations and on-boarding prior to enrollment. He further advised that New Mexico was an open enrollment state.

i. Benefits Program Update

Mr. Adams advised that no update was necessary at this time, as school employees do not partake in the Pearson benefits plan.

b. Partner School Leadership Team (PSLT) Update

Ms. Dukek presented to the Governing Council on behalf of Pearson Online & Blended Learning's (POBL), School Leadership Team.

i. School Leader Review Process

Ms. Dukek outlined the annual school leader review process with the Governing Council, including feedback from the Governing Council through a survey. Ms. Dukek further advised the Governing Council that Ms. Beery's mid-year review will be discussed during the January meeting and the final review will take place during the Governing Council's Annual Meeting in June. She also reiterated the importance of Governing Council member participation in the review process.

c. Future Facilities Plans

Ms. Beery presented this item to the Governing Council. The Governing Council discussed the current facility lease set to expire in 2020, as well as the potential to seek out alternate facility locations. Governing Council members discussed the timeline for providing notice to the current landlord, as well as the potential amendment to the school's Charter Contract, should a move be feasible.

The Governing Council further discussed a potential school Foundation for school funds. Ms. Lucero advised of the legal parameters surrounding foundations in the state.

[Mr. Schalow joined the meeting at 9:41 a.m.]

The Governing Council reviewed the ongoing facilities discussion with Mr. Schalow, and advised of their intent to provide updates at a future meeting. Ms. Beery advised that she would provide all leasing information to Mr. Boitano and Mr. Schalow.

d. Charter Renewal Update

Mr. Adams inquired as to whether the school had received an executed copy of the recent Charter Renewal, and requested a copy of the document to allow POBL to assist the school in tracking their annual goals. Ms. Beery advised that she would provide an executed copy as soon as it is made available.

e. Governing Council Recruitment Update

Mr. Boitano provided the Governing Council with an update on ongoing recruitment efforts. He advised of the recruitment language template provided by Ms. DeGross for posting with various organizations around the state, and noted that Ms. Armstrong will remain on the Governing Council until a replacement for her position has been found.

f. Governing Council Meeting Schedule Review

Ms. DeGross presented this item to the Governing Council, and advised of a potential scheduling conflict with the current January meeting date. The Governing Council discussed alternative dates, and advised that the January Governing Council meeting will be rescheduled for Thursday, January 23rd, 2020.

The Board indicated their intent to discuss the Financial Report at this time.

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.

Foundation Discussion

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

Finance Committee Updates and Recommendations for Approval

The Governing Council expressed their desire to discuss all BAR documentation prior to the invoices.

Approval of Budget Adjustment Report (BAR) 554-000-1920-0003-IB

Ms. Lucero reviewed in detail the Budget Adjustment Report (BAR) 554-000-1920-0003-IB. There being no further discussion, Mr. Schalow made the following motion and it was seconded by Mr. Gessing as follows:

RESOLVED, the Budget Adjustment Report (BAR) 554-000-1920-0003-IB, as presented, is hereby approved.

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

The Governing Council expressed their desire to consider all invoices together.

Approval of Connections Academy of New Mexico, LLC Invoices for October, Annual Employee Technology Invoice, and LiveSpeech Invoice for 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 further reviewed the Annual Employee Technology Invoice, as well as the LiveSpeech Invoice for September. Ms. Lucero 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. Gessing made the following motion and it was seconded by Mr. Schalow as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Connections Academy of New Mexico, LLC invoice for October in the amount of \$435,760.70, as presented, are hereby approved; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Annual Employee Technology Invoice, in the amount of \$33,000.00, as presented, is hereby approved; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the LiveSpeech invoice for September in the amount of \$12,481.16, as presented, is hereby approved.

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

VIII. Adjournment and Confirmation of Next Meeting - Thursday, January 23, 2020 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 Thursday, January 23, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. MT. At 10:31 a.m., a motion was made by Mr. Schalow and seconded by Mr. Gessing as follows:

RESOLVED, that the adjournment of the New Mexico Connections Academy, Inc. November 19, 2019 Governing Council Meeting, as discussed, is hereby approved.

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