



APPROVED 04/28/2020

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

Tuesday, March 10, 2020 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 9:09 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 Paul Gessing (via video and teleconference); Jerry Schalow (in person at the Albuquerque location);

Governing Council Members Absent: Jeanie Armstrong and Patrick Chavez;

Guests Present: Sandy Beery, School Leader (in person at the Albuquerque location); Shawna Sanchez, Virginia Romero, Sonya Martinez, Amy Earle, Chris Eisenberg, Sarah Wilson, and Karen Ismari; School Staff (in person at the Santa Fe location); Michael Vigil and Ashley Woodard, The Vigil Group, Gary Corkran, Allison Solesby, Bryce Adams, Megan Holston, Emily Lee, and Kristin DeGroff, Pearson Online & Blended Learning (OBL) 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. Schalow and seconded by Mr. Gessing as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Agenda for the March 10, 2020 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 School Improvement Plan

Ms. Beery provided the Governing Council with an update on this item. She reviewed the mid-year LEAP exam participation rates and advised that the school was making progress towards its goals. Ms. Beery further discussed the on-track graduation cohort, as well as staff plans to address students scheduled to graduate later in the summer.

ii. Update on Graduation

Ms. Beery advised the Governing Council that the high school graduation ceremony is planned for May 22, 2020 and encouraged Governing Council members to attend.

iii. Update on Winter Leadership Retreat

Ms. Beery reported to the Governing Council on the Winter Leadership Retreat that she recently attended, including professional development initiatives and networking opportunities. She also highlighted the mentoring opportunities available with veteran virtual school leaders.

Partner School Leadership Team (PSLT) Update

At the Governing Council's request, this item was moved up on the agenda. Ms. Solesby provided a brief review on the school's processes for assisting students with graduation requirements prior to graduation.

b. Financial Report

Mr. Vigil 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 with the Governing Council. Additionally, Mr. Schalow provided an update on the payment processing timeline for outstanding Connections invoices.

i. Desktop to Laptop Conversion for the 2020-2021 School Year

This item was not discussed at this time.

ii. Finance Committee Updates and Recommendations for Approval

a. Approval of Budget Adjustment Report (BAR) 554-000-1920-0007-I

Mr. Vigil provided an update on the budget adjustment report, as included in the Governing Council materials. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Gessing and seconded by Mr. Schalow as follows:

RESOLVED, the Budget Adjustment Report (BAR) 554-000-1920-0007-I, as presented, is hereby approved.

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

b. Approval of Livespeech Invoice for December

Mr. Schalow reviewed the Livespeech Invoice for December as drawn from the financial report provided in the meeting materials. He advised that he reviewed the invoice and found them to

be in order and asked the Governing Council whether they had any questions on the invoice or if any items required further explanation. There being no further discussion, Mr. Schalow made the following motion and it was seconded by Mr. Gessing as follows:

RESOLVED, that the December LiveSpeech invoice in the amount of \$13,893.32, as presented, is hereby approved.

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

c. Approval of Connections Academy of New Mexico, LLC Invoice for January

Mr. Schalow reviewed the January invoice as drawn from the financial report provided in the meeting materials. He advised that he reviewed the invoice and found it to be in order and asked the Governing Council whether they had any questions on the invoice or if any items required further explanation. There being no further discussion, Mr. Schalow made the following motion and it was seconded by Mr. Gessing as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Connections Academy of New Mexico, LLC invoice for January in the amount of \$425,002.64, as presented, are hereby approved.

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

Mr. Vigil provided additional information regarding upcoming legislative activities, which may impact the school.

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. There being no items removed from the Consent Items, a motion was made by Mr. Schalow and seconded by Mr. Gessing as follows:

RESOLVED, the Consent Item:

- a. Approval of Minutes from the February 7, 2020 Meeting; are hereby approved.

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

VI. **Action Items**

- a. Approval of School-Funded Summer School Offering to Students

Ms. Beery presented this item to the Governing Council. She reviewed the school's intent to use iNaCA programming for summer school courses, and advised that the school would fund courses for up to fifty students, based on credit recovery needs and other factors. Governing Council members indicated their support of the summer school offering. There being no further discussion, Mr. Schalow made the following motion and it was seconded by Mr. Gessing as follows:

RESOLVED, that the School-Funded Summer School Offering to Students, as discussed, is hereby approved.

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

- b. Approval of Agreement for Technology Equipment Lease and Services

Mr. Adams reviewed the agreement for Technology Equipment Lease and Services with the Governing Council. He advised of the school's intent to switch student technology use from desktops to laptops, and reviewed the pricing structure for the change. Ms. Beery reviewed the desktop to laptop conversion, as detailed in the Governing Council materials. There being no further discussion, Mr. Gessing made the following motion and it was seconded by Mr. Schalow as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Technology Equipment Lease and Services Agreement, as discussed, is hereby approved.

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

c. Approval of Agreement for Speech Services

Mr. Adams reviewed the agreement for Speech Services with the Governing Council, and advised that the terms of the agreement had not changed from the current school year's agreement. There being no further discussion, Mr. Gessing made the following motion and it was seconded by Mr. Schalow as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Speech Services Agreement, as discussed, is hereby approved.

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

d. Approval of Agreement for Special Education Services

Mr. Adams reviewed the agreement for Special Education Services with the Governing Council, and advised that the terms of the agreement had not changed from the current school year's agreement. There being no further discussion, Mr. Schalow made the following motion and it was seconded by Mr. Gessing as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Special Education Services Agreement, as discussed, is hereby approved.

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

VII. Information Items

a. Legislative Update

Mr. Adams updated the Governing Council on recent legislative activities which may impact the school.

b. Partner School Leadership Team (PSLT) Update

This item was previously discussed.

c. Governing Council Recruitment Update

Mr. Boitano provided the Governing Council with an update on ongoing recruitment efforts. Governing Council members discussed the preferred qualifications for future Council members.

Ms. Beery advised the Governing Council of a recent Golden Apple award granted to a school staff member. She encouraged Governing Council members to attend the upcoming ceremony.

d. Governing Council Training Requirements Update

Ms. DeGroff provided the Governing Council with an update on training requirements for all Governing Council members, to be completed prior to June 30, 2020.

e. Annual Meeting Update

Ms. DeGroff reviewed the timing of the Governing Council's June meeting date, currently scheduled for June 23, 2020. Governing Council members advised of their intent to reschedule the meeting to June 16, 2020, to allow for maximum participation at the meeting. There being no further discussion, Mr. Schalow made the following motion and it was seconded by Mr. Gessing as follows:

RESOLVED, the revision to the Governing Council Meeting Schedule for the 2019-2020 School Year, as discussed, is hereby approved.

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

VIII. Adjournment and Confirmation of Next Meeting - Tuesday, April 28, 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 Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. MT. At 10:21 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. March 10, 2020 Governing Council Meeting, as discussed, is hereby approved.

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