



**APPROVED 10/27/2020**

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

Tuesday, September 22, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. MT

**Held via teleconference due to State Precautions regarding Public Health and Safety  
During COVID-19 Pandemic:**

1-866-899-4679; Access Code 467-566-653

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**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. Mr. Boitano conducted a Roll Call.

Governing Council Members Present: Mark Boitano, Letha Oman, and Jerry Schalow (via video and teleconference);

Governing Council Members Absent: Paul Gessing and Patrick Chavez;

Guests Present: Sandy Beery, School Leader; Michael Vigil and Ashley Woodard, The Vigil Group; Gary Corkran, Brian Rosta, Bryce Adams, Kristin DeGross, and Emily Lee, 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 Ms. Oman as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Agenda for the September 22, 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 Enrollment

Ms. Beery provided the Governing Council with an update on enrollment numbers, including students in all stages of the enrollment process. She further reviewed the recent professional development sessions completed by school staff, as well as provided details on the state's teacher evaluation process. The Governing Council discussed Professional Development Plan (PDP) goals in detail.

ii. School Improvement Plan Overview

This item was not discussed.

iii. Multilayered System of Support (MLSS) Update

Ms. Beery discussed the school's Star 360 benchmark assessments, including the use of data to ascertain student intervention efforts. The Governing Council discussed student support in detail.

b. Partner School Leadership Team (PSLT) Update

Dr. Rosta presented to the Governing Council on behalf of Online & Blended Learning's (OBL), Partner School Leadership Team.

i. Teacher Professional Development Products and Services for the 2020- 2021 School Year

Dr. Rosta reviewed the professional development products and services for school staff, as offered by OBL for the 2020-2021 school year. He discussed the various levels of professional learning opportunities available to staff members, and advised of the curated catalog of content to allow for a more personalized professional development experience. He also highlighted the additional training and development opportunities offered by school leadership. Ms. Beery thanked OBL for the training sessions available to staff, and noted the value of the information presented.

c. Financial Report

Ms. Woodard 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. Mr. Vigil further provided an update on the school's annual processes for the financial audit, and advised of the timeline for review. The Governing Council discussed the school's use of Nusenda Bank for all school banking services, and requested a representative join a future meeting to review the services offered.

i. Finance Committee Updates and Recommendations for Approval

a. Approval of Connections Academy of New Mexico, LLC Invoice for August

Mr. Vigil reviewed the June invoice, as drawn from the financial report provided in the meeting materials. He advised that he reviewed the invoice and found all 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 Ms. Oman as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Connections Academy of New Mexico, LLC invoice for August in the amount of \$449,861.78, 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. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Schalow and seconded by Ms. Oman as follows:

RESOLVED, the Consent Item:

- a. Approval of Minutes from the August 25, 2020 Meeting; is hereby approved.

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

[Mr. Vigil left the meeting at 9:59 a.m.]

## **VI. Action Items**

- a. Approval of Revision(s) to 2020-2021 School Year State Specific Handbook: Title IX Updates

Ms. Beery presented this item to the Governing Council. She reviewed the federally mandated updates made to the school's Title IX policy, and advised that all procedural updates would be included as appendices within the School and Employee Handbooks. The Governing Council discussed their intent to table the item to allow for additional review by all Governing Council members.

This item was tabled.

## **VII. Information Items**

- a. Legislative Update

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

- i. Back to School Update

Mr. Adams reviewed with the Governing Council some unanticipated challenges at the start of the new school year, including Covid-19 related delays, enrollment process wait times, as well as issues with the new Polaris curriculum. He further provided the Governing Council with the efforts from the product, technology, and curriculum teams at OBL to work with partnering schools in addressing their needs, and elicited feedback from all stakeholders to allow OBL to continue improvements. Ms. Beery advised that most challenges on the school's end had been resolved quickly, and thanked the OBL team for their quick responses and communication regarding all of the school's needs.

- b. Facility Update

Mr. Boitano presented this item to the Governing Council, and reviewed next steps regarding the recent purchase of a new school facility. Ms. Beery reviewed the timeline to receive updated draft layouts from the building architect, as well as the potential for renovation of the building in phases. The Governing Council discussed the existing tenant leases, as well as the timeline to provide notice for the non-renewal of lease terms.

[Mr. Vigil rejoined the meeting at 10:18 a.m.]

Mr. Adams discussed the services offered by OBL to provide assistance regarding the school's facility renovation, and advised that additional information would be provided to Mr. Boitano and Mr. Schalow. The Governing Council also discussed the school's tax-exempt status, and requested the assistance of The Vigil Group in reaching out to the local property tax assessor to ensure the school's tax status is properly aligned with the facility purchase.

[Mr. Adams left the meeting at 10:27 a.m.]

c. Governing Council Recruitment Update

Mr. Boitano presented this item to the Governing Council and advised of ongoing recruitment efforts. The Governing Council discussed intended areas of focus, including the recruitment of additional educators and parents. Ms. Beery shared her recent dissemination of information to families at the school regarding Governing Council recruitment.

d. Board Experience Survey Results

Ms. DeGross discussed the Board Experience Survey results with the Governing Council. She reviewed the results of the survey, and thanked Board members for their participation and partnership in the educational process.

e. Board Relations Update

Ms. DeGross presented this item to the Governing Council.

i. Overview of 2020- 2021 Items for Board Consideration

Ms. DeGross reviewed the outline of items planned to be presented for Governing Council consideration throughout the current school year. She further advised the Governing Council that the document was fluid, and items may be included, omitted, or considered on a varied timeline based on a number of factors, including state submission and enrollment deadlines, as well as school need for student support.

**VIII. Adjournment and Confirmation of Next Meeting - Tuesday, October 27, 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, October 27, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. MT. At 10:51 a.m., a motion was made by Mr. Schalow and seconded by Ms. Oman as follows:

RESOLVED, that the adjournment of the New Mexico Connections Academy, Inc. September 22, 2020 Governing Council Meeting, as discussed, is hereby approved.

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