



**APPROVED 02/23/2021**

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

Tuesday, January 26, 2021 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**

In Mr. Boitano's absence, Mr. Gessing called the meeting to order at 9:19 a.m. when all participants were present and able to hear each other. Mr. Gessing conducted a Roll Call.

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

Governing Council Members Absent: Mark Boitano and Patrick Chavez;

Guests Present: Sandy Beery, School Leader; Michael Vigil and Ashley Woodard, The Vigil Group; Gary Corkran, Jenny Dukek, Bryce Adams, Laura Sittler, Julia Haugarth, and Kristin DeGroff, Online & Blended Learning (OBL) staff (via video and teleconference).

**II. Routine Business**

a. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Gessing 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 January 26, 2021 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

Ms. Beery advised of the school's upcoming re-accreditation visit with Cognia, and provided additional information regarding course completion data for the first semester. She advised that the school has surpassed the course completion goals as set in the beginning of the school year.

##### i. State Testing during COVID-19 Precautions

Ms. Beery advised that all additional State testing information, staffing, and enrollment updates were included in the Governing Council materials. Governing Council members advised that they had no questions or comments at this time.

##### ii. Update on Staffing

This item was not discussed.

##### iii. Update on Enrollment

This item was not discussed.

##### iv. Update on Accreditation

This item was previously discussed.

##### b. Partner School Leadership Team (PSLT) Update

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

##### i. School Operations Metrics

Ms. Dukek presented this item to the Governing Council. She reviewed the data included in the Governing Council materials, highlighting the school's performance as compared with other OBL partnering schools of similar size and years in operation. Additionally, Ms. Beery discussed graduation data for winter graduates, as well as cohort data for the 2019-2020 school year.

##### c. 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. He further discussed his ongoing work with Ms. Beery regarding the school's new facility, including the potential work with Cooperative Education Services (CES) for contracted facility work.

##### i. RFP Process Update

Ms. Beery advised of her review of the RFP process as completed in 2017, and noted the ongoing work with the Vigil Group on the current RFP cycle. She advised that the school had discontinued the use of rental routers in the previous school year, and that an RFP was not necessary for this particular process. Mr. Vigil reminded the Governing Council of the annual audit process completed for all financial items, and advised that all requirements were previously met for the school's RFP processes.

ii. Finance Committee and Recommendations for Approval

a. Approval of Budget Adjustment Report (BAR)

1. NMCA BAR#554-000-2021-0011-I
2. NMCA BAR#554-000-2021-0012-I
3. NMCA BAR#554-000-2021-0013-I
4. NMCA BAR#554-000-2021-0014-I

Ms. Woodard reviewed in detail the Budget Adjustment Reports (BAR). There being no further discussion, Mr. Schalow made the following motion and it was seconded by Ms. Oman as follows:

RESOLVED, the (BAR) NMCA\_BAR#554-000-2021-0011-I, NMCA\_BAR#554-000-2021-0012-I, NMCA\_BAR#554-000-2021-0013-I, and NMCA\_BAR#554-000-2021-0014-I, as presented, are hereby approved.

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

b. Approval of Connections Academy of New Mexico, LLC Invoices for November and December

Mr. Schalow reviewed the November and December invoices, as drawn from the financial report provided in the meeting materials. He advised that he reviewed the invoices 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. The Governing Council discussed the invoices in detail, including the allotment for summer school expenses during mid-2020. 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 invoices for November (NMCA0008) in the amount of \$495,904.69 and (NMCA0009) in the amount of \$14,002.65, and December (NMCA0010) in the amount of \$524,445.24 and (NMCA0011) in the amount of \$13,477.03, as presented, are hereby approved.

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

**V. Consent Items**

Mr. Gessing 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.

a. Approval of Minutes from the December 1, 2020 Meeting

Mr. Gessing asked the Governing Council whether they had any questions on the minutes, or if they required further discussion. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Oman and seconded by Mr. Schalow as follows:

RESOLVED, the Minutes from the December 1, 2020 Meeting, as presented, are hereby approved.

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

b. Approval of the 2021-2022 School Year General School Handbook

Mr. Gessing asked the Governing Council whether they had any questions on the handbooks, or if they required further discussion. Ms. Beery advised of her review of the handbooks prior to presentation to the Governing Council. The Governing Council indicated their intent to consider the General School Handbook and State Specific School Handbook together. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Schalow and seconded by Mr. Gessing as follows:

RESOLVED, the 2021-2022 School Year General School Handbook; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, the 2021-2022 School Year State Specific School Handbook, as presented, are hereby approved.

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

c. Approval of the 2021-2022 School Year State Specific School Handbook

This item was previously approved.

**VI. Action Items**

a. Approval of Resolution in Support of Broadband Infrastructure in New Mexico

Ms. Beery presented this item to the Governing Council, and advised of the inequities in broadband internet availability throughout the state for public school students. She advised of the opportunities available for the state to benefit from federal funding for broadband infrastructure to assist students in their learning. Governing Council members indicated their support of the resolution on behalf of the school. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Gessing and seconded by Mr. Schalow as follows:

RESOLVED, the Resolution in Support of Broadband Infrastructure in New Mexico, as discussed, is hereby approved.

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

**VII. Information Items**

a. Legislative Update

In the interest of time, the Governing Council indicated their intent to table discussion of all legislative items to the next meeting.

i. PCx Path Forward

This item was not discussed.

ii. Brand Refresh Update

This item was not discussed.

iii. Marketing Services Overview

This item was not discussed.

b. Facility Update

Ms. Beery provided an update on the school facility buildout process. She advised that the buildout will be completed in three phases, and discussed the anticipated timeline for completion of the work.

c. Governing Council Recruitment Update

This item was not discussed.

**VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION - Pursuant to NMSA 1978 Section 10-15-1(H)(2) to discuss the hiring, promotion, demotion, dismissal, assignment or resignation of or the investigation or consideration of complaints or charges against any individual public employee: Mid-Year Review of School Leadership**

The Governing Council entered into Executive Session at 10:04 a.m. upon a motion being made by Mr. Schalow, seconded by Mr. Gessing and confirmed via roll call vote of all Governing Council members present, pursuant to NMSA 1978 Section 10-15-1(H)(2) to discuss the hiring, promotion, demotion, dismissal, assignment or resignation of or the investigation or consideration of complaints or charges against any individual public employee: Mid-Year Review of School Leadership. Governing Council members in attendance to begin the Executive Session were: Letha Oman, Jerry Schalow, and Paul Gessing. Guests present in Executive Session at the request of the Governing Council based on their participation in the discussion were: Jenny Dukek and Kristin DeGroff.

The Governing Council ended Executive Session and resumed open session at 10:22 a.m. upon a motion made by Mr. Schalow and seconded by Ms. Oman. No action was taken during Executive Session, and matters discussed in the Executive Session were limited only to those specified in the motion for closure.

**IX. Adjournment and Confirmation of Next Meeting - Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. MT**

Mr. Gessing noted that the Governing Council was at the end of its agenda and that the next meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. MT. At 10:22 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. January 26, 2021 Governing Council Meeting, as discussed, is hereby approved.

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