



APPROVED 11/19/13

**New Mexico Connections Academy (NMCA)
MINUTES OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, October 15, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. MT**

**Held at the following location and via teleconference:
4001 Office Court, Suite 201
Santa Fe, NM 87507**

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Mr. Boitano called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. The meeting was open to the public. Mr. Boitano conducted a Roll Call.

Governing Council Members Present: Jeanine Robinson (in person at the school location); Mark Boitano, Carlo Lucero, Paul Gessing, Yvonne Duhigg and Patrick Chavez (via phone);

Guests Present: Athena Trujillo, School leader; Sue Fox, Governing Council Counsel; Heather Woodward, Connections staff (in person at the school location); Michael Vigil and Justine Roybal, School Business Managers; Melissa Nelson, Donna Hutchison, Shawn Soltz and Heather Woodward, Connections 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. The Board asked to move the Financial Report immediately following the Executive Session. There being no changes, a motion was made by Ms. Robinson and seconded by Mr. Lucero as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Agenda for the October 15, 2013 New Mexico Connections Academy Governing Council Meeting, as amended, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

III. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Upon a motion made by Ms. Duhigg and duly seconded by Ms. Robinson, the Governing Council entered into Executive Session at 9:06 a.m. pursuant to NMSA 1978 Section 10-15-1 (H)(6) that portion of meetings at which a decision concerning purchases in an amount exceeding two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) that can be made only from one source and that portion of meetings at which the contents of competitive sealed proposals solicited pursuant to the Procurement Code [13-1-28 to 13-1-199 NMSA 1978] are discussed during the contract negotiation process.

Governing Council members entered into the Executive Session via a roll call vote. Governing Council members present during the Executive Session were: Mark Boitano, Paul Gessing, Patrick Chavez, Jeanine Robinson, Carlo Lucero and Yvonne Duhigg; guest present were: Athena Trujillo, Sue Fox, Michael Vigil and Justine Roybal.

At 9:40 a.m. the Governing Council resumed open session. No action was taken during Executive Session.

[Ms. Woodward, Mr. Soltz, Dr. Hutchison and Ms. Nelson joined the meeting at 9:40 a.m.]

IV. Actions Resulting from Executive Session

Mr. Lucero reminded the Governing Council of their review and discussion surrounding the RFP for technology services as well as the multiple responses received to the request. There being no changes, a motion was made by Ms. Robinson and seconded by Mr. Lucero as follows:

RESOLVED, that the award of the RFP for technology services to Connections Academy of New Mexico, LLC, subject to negotiation, finalization and execution of an agreement, is hereby approved.

The motion passed by a vote of 5 yes and 1 no vote by Mr. Boitano.

V. Oral Reports

Financial Report

Mr. Vigil reviewed the school's financial statements in detail, including the revenue and expense statements, with the Governing Council. He reviewed the compliance requirements and upcoming due dates.

Mr. Vigil reviewed in detail the Connections Academy, LLC invoices for the months of July, August and September, as drawn from the financial report in the Governing Council materials. He asked the Governing Council members whether they had any questions on the invoices or if any items required any further explanation. There being no further discussion, Mr. Gessing made the following motion and it was seconded by Mr. Lucero as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Connections Academy of New Mexico, LLC invoices for the months of July, in the amount of \$166,666.67, August, in the amount of \$152,220.00 and September, in the amount of \$0.00, as presented, are hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

a. Principal's Report

i. Update on Enrollment

Ms. Trujillo provided the Governing Council with the most up-to-date enrollment numbers, including those who are in the application stages and those on the waiting list.

ii. State of the School Report and Update on School Performance Framework

Ms. Trujillo provided the Governing Council with a state of the school report. Ms. Trujillo reviewed the school's goals that were included in the Governing Council materials. She further advised that the staff worked closely with Connections Academy staff on establishing the school goals, and reminded the Governing Council that the school goals represent the major driver for the staff incentive plan. Ms. Trujillo commented that the goals are created with the intention of making the school a better experience for students and to allow for the better outcomes and student achievements. The Governing Council discussed the goals in detail. The Governing Council thanked Ms. Trujillo for her hard work.

iii. Update on Staffing

Ms. Trujillo advised the Governing Council on the progress of specific teaching position hiring. She also reviewed the current recruitment efforts for additional staff.

iv. Preparations for Annual Report

Ms. Trujillo reviewed the information and preparations for the Annual Report, as included in the Governing Council Meeting materials.

b. Financial Report

This report was provided earlier in the meeting.

VI. 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 none, Mr. Gessing made the following motion and it was seconded by Mr. Lucero as follows:

- a. Approval of Minutes from the September 17, 2013 Meeting; is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Action Items

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

This item was reviewed earlier in the meeting.

- b. Consideration and Approval of LiveSpeech Services and Approval of a Governing Council Designee to Negotiate, Finalize and Execute an Agreement with Connections Academy of New Mexico, LLC

Ms. Trujillo presented this item to the Governing Council. The Governing Council had a detailed discussion on the special education services needed to be provided to the school's students. The Governing Council discussed the options available to obtain the services necessary. Ms. Trujillo reviewed the LiveSpeech services available through Connections Academy of New Mexico, LLC, as well as the other state options for occupational therapy and other therapies. There being no further discussion a motion was made by Mr. Gessing and seconded by Mr. Lucero as follows:

RESOLVED, that LiveSpeech Services and, that Jeanine Robinson as Governing Council Designee to negotiate, finalize and execute an agreement with Connections Academy of New Mexico, LLC, are hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Information Items

a. State Relations Update

Mr. Boitano provided the Governing Council with an update on legislative matters that may impact the school.

b. Governing Council Meeting Schedule

This item was not discussed.

IX. Adjournment and Confirmation of Next Meeting - Tuesday, November 19, 2013 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, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. MT. At 11:06 a.m. the Governing Council made and seconded the following motion:

RESOLVED, that the adjournment of the New Mexico Connections Academy, Inc. October 15, 2013 Governing Council meeting, is hereby approved.

The motion was approved unanimously.