



APPROVED 2/25/14

**New Mexico Connections Academy (NMCA)
MINUTES OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, January 28, 2014 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 school location was open to the public. Mr. Boitano conducted a Roll Call.

Governing Council Members Present: Mark Boitano, Carlo Lucero, Yvonne Duhigg, Paul Gessing and Jeanine Robinson (all via phone);

Governing Council Members Absent: Patrick Chavez;

Guests Present: Athena Trujillo, School Leader; Michael Vigil and Justine Roybal, School Business Managers; Donna Hutchison, Melissa Nelson, Tanya Lee and Megann Arthur, 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. There being no changes, a motion was made by Mr. Lucero and seconded by Mr. Gessing as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Agenda for the January 28, 2014 New Mexico Connections Academy Governing Council Meeting, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

III. Oral Reports

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 Trujillo provided the Governing Council with the most up-to-date enrollment numbers, including those who have withdrawn from the school. She discussed the Monthly School Report (MSR) data, as included in the Governing Council materials, detailing specific items regarding student demographics.

ii. Student Accolades

Ms. Trujillo presented this item to the Governing Council, advising them on recent student accomplishments. She discussed a 10th grader's recent public acknowledgment for academic achievement, as well as other student accomplishments the school wished to acknowledge since the last Governing Council meeting.

iii. Update on School Activities and School Field Trips

Ms. Trujillo provided the Governing Council with an update on school activities and planned field trips. The Governing Council discussed a recent event at a bio-park, as well as additional staff and student activities at the school.

iv. Update on Staffing

Ms. Trujillo advised the Governing Council on specific staff positions the school is currently recruiting for, as well as those recently hired. The Governing Council had discussion on the business-related position being considered, and ideal candidates for that position.

b. Financial Report

Mr. Vigil reviewed the school's financial statements in detail, including the revenue and expense statements, with the Governing Council. He discussed the current budget and forecast, as well as the current state funding model with the Governing Council.

IV. Nominating Committee Report

Mr. Lucero presented this item to the Governing Council. He advised the Governing Council regarding a Board member candidate he has spoken with about joining the Council, and that the consideration of the candidate will be added to a future agenda.

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 Board indicated their desire to consider each item separately.

a. Approval of Minutes from the December 17, 2013 Meeting

Mr. Boitano asked the Board if there were any recommended revisions to the minutes. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Lucero and seconded by Mr. Gessing as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Minutes from the December 17, 2013 Meeting, as presented, are hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

b. Approval of School Enrollment Opening for the 2014-2015 School Year on March 3, 2014

The Board had discussion on the process for the opening of enrollment for the next school year, and discussed the background for the selection of the March 3rd date with school leadership. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Gessing and seconded by Ms. Duhigg as follows:

RESOLVED, that the School Enrollment Opening for the 2014-2015 School Year on March 3, 2014, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Action Items

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

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

RESOLVED, that the Connections Academy of New Mexico, LLC invoice for the month of December, in the amount of \$134,420.82, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

b. Approval of a Funded Enrollment Target for the 2014-2105 School Year As Outlined in the Charter Application

Ms. Trujillo reviewed the proposed enrollment target for the 2014-2015 school year of 700 students and sought Governing Council input in regards to the number. The Governing Council had extensive discussion on the current enrollment cap and both funding and political implications to increasing the school's enrollment target.

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

The Governing Council continued their discussion and agreed that 700 students was a good target to set for the upcoming school year based on staffing and budget. There being no further discussion, Mr. Lucero made the following motion and it was seconded by Ms. Duhigg as follows:

RESOLVED, that funded enrollment target for the 2014-2015 school year, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Information Items

a. State Relations Update

Dr. Hutchison provided the Governing Council with an update on legislative matters that may impact the school.

[Mr. Gessing re-joined the meeting at 10:16 a.m.]

b. Upcoming LiveLesson® Sessions

Ms. Arthur presented this item to the Governing Council. She reminded the Governing Council they will be receiving links soon for LiveLesson® sessions for the upcoming Governing Council consideration of the Curriculum and Outreach Plans for the 2014-2015 School Year. Ms. Arthur advised the Governing Council that these recorded presentations are a more in-depth look at the plans prior to the Governing Council meeting presentations and documentation.

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 Leader

Upon a motion made by Mr. Lucero and duly seconded by Ms. Robinson, the Governing Council entered into Executive Session at 10:34 a.m. 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. 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, Jeanine Robinson, Carlo Lucero and Yvonne Duhigg. Guests present in Executive Session at the request of the Governing Council based on their participation in the discussion were: Melissa Nelson and Megann Arthur. All others left the meeting at this time.

[Mr. Lucero left the meeting at 10:36 a.m.]

At 11:10 p.m. the Governing Council resumed open session. No action was taken during Executive Session.

IX. Adjournment and Confirmation of Next Meeting - Tuesday, February 25, 2014 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, February 25, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. MT. At 11:11 a.m. the Governing Council made and seconded the following motion:

RESOLVED, that the adjournment of the New Mexico Connections Academy, Inc. January 28, 2014 Governing Council meeting, is hereby approved.

The motion was approved unanimously.