



APPROVED 4/29/14

**New Mexico Connections Academy (NMCA)
MINUTES OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, March 25, 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 9:02 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 Jerry Schalow (all via phone);

Governing Council Members Absent: Patrick Chavez and Jeanine Robinson;

Guests Present: Athena Trujillo, School Leader (in person); Michael Vigil and Justine Roybal, School Business Managers; Donna Hutchison, Melissa Nelson, Susan Fancher, Sylvia Pryor, Tanya Lee 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. There being no changes, a motion was made by Mr. Lucero and seconded by Mr. Schalow as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Agenda for the March 25, 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 recent applicants for the 2014-2015 school year. She reviewed the "intent to return" process and the school's work to retain students for next school year.

ii. Update on School Activities, School Field Trips and Student Accolades

Ms. Trujillo provided the Governing Council with an update on state testing, including student participation. She noted that they are continuing to test students to reach 95% participation. Ms. Trujillo further noted the comradely of the students and families at recent school events.

[Mr. Gessing joined at 9:11 a.m.]

The Governing Council held significant discussion about testing participation and ways to ensure all students have the ability to comply with the testing requirements.

Ms. Trujillo reviewed recent and upcoming field trips with the Governing Council.

iii. Update on Staffing

Ms. Trujillo provided a brief update on staffing, noting recent recruitment efforts.

iv. Upcoming NM PED Site Visit – April 8, 2014

Ms. Trujillo advised the Governing Council that preparations are ongoing for the upcoming site visit on April 8, 2014. She reviewed the timing and expectations of the meeting.

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. He further reviewed the cash flow and expenditures in detail with the Governing Council.

i. Board of Finance for Newly Appointed Governing Council Member

Mr. Vigil presented this item to the Governing Council. He noted that he has the updated Board of Finance form for completion at the meeting, and confirmed he will submit the form to all necessary parties.

IV. 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 Governing Council indicated their desire to consider each item separately.

a. Approval of Minutes from the February 25, 2014 Meeting

Mr. Boitano asked the Governing Council 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 February 25, 2014 Meeting, as presented, are hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

V. Action Items

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

Mr. Vigil reviewed in detail the Connections Academy, LLC invoice for the month of February, 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. Lucero made the following motion and it was seconded by Mr. Schalow as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Connections Academy of New Mexico, LLC invoice for the month of February, in the amount of \$253,931.25, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

b. Approval of Outreach Plan for the 2014-2015 School Year

Ms. Trujillo and Ms. Fancher presented this item to the Governing Council. Ms. Trujillo reviewed the school's proposed Outreach Plan for the upcoming school year, as included in the Governing Council materials. She highlighted current and projected enrollment numbers, as well as planned activities for student recruitment. Governing Council members had discussion on the outreach plans and specific activities. Ms. Fancher inquired with Governing Council members regarding television and radio advertisements.

[Mr. Gessing left the meeting at 10:53 a.m.]

There being no further discussion, Mr. Lucero made the following motion and it was seconded by Ms. Duhigg as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Outreach Plan for the 2014-2015 School Year, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

[Mr. Lucero, Ms. Fancher and Ms. Pryor left the meeting at 11:02 a.m.]

VI. Information Items

a. State Relations Update

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

b. Upcoming Governing Council Training Opportunities

Ms. Woodward provided the Governing Council with a reminder on state-required training and reviewed the upcoming trainings offered by the NM Coalition of Charter Schools that would satisfy the five hour requirement.

VII. Adjournment and Confirmation of Next Meeting - Tuesday, April 29, 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, April 29, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. MT. At 11:10 a.m. the Governing Council made and seconded the following motion:

RESOLVED, that the adjournment of the New Mexico Connections Academy, Inc. April 29, 2014 Governing Council meeting, is hereby approved.

The motion was approved unanimously.