



**APPROVED 1/19/2022**

**Oklahoma Connections Academy (OKCA)  
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING**

**Date and Time:**

Wednesday, November 17, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. CT

**Held at the following location:**

3307 S. Harvard Ave Suite C  
Tulsa, OK 74135

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**I. Call to Order**

Mr. Tidwell called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m., when all participants were present and able to hear each other.

**II. Statement of Compliance with the Open Meeting Act**

Mr. Tidwell confirmed the Board Meeting Agenda had been posted in accordance with the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act.

**III. Roll Call**

Board Members Present: John Tidwell, Charlie Daniels, Bob Sullivan, and Michael Lapolla (in person at the meeting location);

Board Members Absent: Aubrey Lakey;

Guests: Melissa Gregory, School Leader; Stacy Green, Rebecca James, and Cheryl Puryear, School staff; Nicole Anderson and Mandi Adams-Brazill, Pearson Virtual Schools staff (in person); Skyler Lusnia and Rebecca Wilkinson, SVCSB representatives; Kristin DeGross, Diana Johnson, and Gary Corkran, Pearson Virtual Schools staff (via phone and videoconference).

**IV. Public Comment**

There were no public comments at this time.

## **V. Routine Business**

### a. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Tidwell asked the Board to review the Agenda distributed prior to the meeting. He asked whether the Board requested any changes be made to the Agenda. There being no changes requested, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Agenda for the November 17, 2021 Oklahoma Connections Academy Board of Directors Special Meeting, as presented, is hereby approved.

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

## **VI. Oral Reports**

The Board requested that the Financial Report be presented prior to the Principal's Report.

### Financial Report

Mr. Corkran reviewed the financial materials included in the Board meeting materials in detail, highlighting the budget and forecasting areas of the financial statements. He further reviewed the revenue and expense statements and discussed specific line items of interest with the Board, including the process for payment of authorizer fees.

Additionally, the Board discussed the school's budget process and use of ESSER funds. There being no further discussion, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, the financial report, as presented, is hereby accepted.

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

### a. Principal's Report

Ms. Gregory provided an update on data included in the Monthly School Report and Data Dashboard documents.

[Mr. Corkran left the meeting at 3:28 p.m.]

### i. State of the School Report and Update on 2020-2021 Goals

Ms. Gregory provided an in-depth review of the State of the School report. She reviewed the school's work on the mission statement, in order to align with staff efforts for student learning and success.

[Mr. Lusnia joined the meeting at 3:31 p.m.]

Ms. Gregory further provided an update on the school's goal completion rates from the previous school year, and reminded the Board that the goals were created with the intention of improving school outcomes, the student and family experience, and

to foster student achievements school-wide. She advised that the goals within the School Improvement Plan would be implemented schoolwide for the current academic year. Additionally, Ms. Gregory reviewed state testing results, including participation rates for the 2020-2021 school year, as well as the school's positive ACT scores, which were higher than the state average in all areas.

Ms. Gregory provided an overview of school improvement planning, including four areas of focus: student retention/engagement, post secondary planning, graduation efforts, and mathematics success. Ms. Green discussed intervention efforts with students at the school, including efforts at Tier I, II, and III levels. Lastly, Ms. Gregory advised of staff professional development opportunities, staff engagement successes, and upcoming student field trips. The Board had discussion on the staff and student accomplishments over the past year, and thanked Ms. Gregory for her thoroughness and partnership in the educational process.

[Ms. Wilkinson joined the meeting at 4:06 p.m.]

ii. Update on Plan of Improvement

Ms. Gregory reminded the Board of the discussion on specific items in the Plan of Improvement, as discussed during the State of the School report. Additionally, she reviewed her work with the school's authorizer on the Plan, and related that the Plan is slated for consideration later in the meeting, as required annually by the school's authorizer.

iii. Student Spotlight

Ms. Gregory presented this item to the Board, and provided an overview of a high school student's successes and engagement in Student Council throughout her time at the school.

iv. Update on Student Activities

Ms. Gregory reminded the Board of discussion held at a previous meeting regarding student activities, and advised that staff was currently planning several in person student activities, slated to take place in the coming months.

b. Financial Report

This item was previously discussed.

## **VII. Consent Items**

Mr. Tidwell asked the Board 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 changes made and no further discussion, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, the Consent Items:

- a. Approval of Minutes from the October 20, 2021 Regular Board Meeting;
- b. Approval of Staffing Report;
- c. Approval of Pearson Invoices for October (# 91000009166); and
- d. Approval of Plan of Improvement; are hereby approved.

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

## **VIII. Action Items**

- a. Approval of Revision(s) to the 2021-2022 School Year Handbook Supplement: Student Transfer Policy

Ms. Anderson presented this item to the Board, and reminded meeting participants of the discussion held at a previous meeting regarding state requirements for student transfers. She reviewed the draft policy, as included in the Board meeting materials. Board members discussed the policy in detail, including the anticipated removal of all redlined language, as well as the options presented regarding student appeals processes. The Board advised of their preference for the inclusion of Option #2 within the policy, and requested that parents be allowed to attend an appeals hearing virtually, should their location across the state not be conducive to in person attendance. Additionally, the Board discussed Mr. Daniels' previous approval as a Board designee to review and finalize the policy. There being no further discussion, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, the revision(s) to the 2021-2022 School Year Handbook Supplement: Student Transfer Policy, pending final review by the school leader and Board designee, as discussed, is hereby approved.

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

## **IX. Information Items**

- a. President's Update

Mr. Tidwell discussed comparison reports for OKCA and virtual schools across the state and nation.

b. School Success Partner (SSP) Update

Ms. Anderson presented to the Board on behalf of the School Success Partner (SSP) team. She provided an overview of the support provided to the school by Pearson, and noted her continuing work with a lobbyist within the state to address virtual school needs.

c. Academic Success Partner (ASP) Update

Ms. Adams-Brazill presented to the Board on behalf of the Academic Success Partner (ASP) team.

i. Key School Metrics

Ms. Adams-Brazill reviewed the quarterly school operations metrics included in the Board materials, highlighting the school's pass rate and the school's performance as compared with other Pearson partnering schools of similar size and years in operation.

ii. School Leader Review Process

Ms. Adams-Brazill outlined the annual school leader review process with the Board. She reminded Board members that the process includes feedback from the Board through a survey. Ms. Adams-Brazill further reminded the Board that Ms. Gregory's mid-year review will be discussed during the January meeting and the final review will take place during the Board's Annual Meeting in June. She also reiterated the importance of Board member participation in the review process.

**X. Extended Public Comment (limited to agenda items only)**

There were no comments at this time.

The Board discussed the location of the school's next meeting, and agreed to hold the meeting scheduled for January 19, 2022 at the current location in Tulsa. Ms. DeGroff advised that all meeting postings would be updated to reflect the change from the originally scheduled location at the school facility.

**XI. Adjournment and Confirmation of Next Meeting Date – January 19, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. CT**

The Board confirmed the next Board Meeting is to be held on January 19, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. CT. The Board, being at the end of its agenda, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, to adjourn the meeting at 4:45 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

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Submitted by

Name: Kristin DeGross  
Board Minute Clerk

Approved by

Name: John Tidwell  
Board President