



Approved 02/18/15

South Carolina Connections Academy (SCCA)  
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
Wednesday, January 21, 2015 at 3:00 p.m.

Held at the following location and via teleconference:  
220 Stoneridge Drive, Suite 403  
Columbia, SC 29210

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I. Call to Order

Mr. Prince called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m. when all participants were present and able to hear each other. The agenda had been posted in accordance with the legal requirements and the school was open to the public to attend the meeting.

II. Roll Call and Introduction of Participants

Board Members Present: Gary Prince, Armando Colombo, Peter Moyi and Rebecca Battle-Bryant (in person, at the school, which was open to the public); Melanie Murphy and Beth Purcell (via phone);

Board Members Joined During Meeting: Frank Thomas (in person);

Guests in Person: Amanda Ebel, Executive Director, Kyle Michel, Kyle Michel Law Firm; Wayne Brazell, Robert Compton, Vamshi Rudrapati, and Robert Rykard, South Carolina Public Charter School District (SCPCSD) staff; Ted Ochs, Allison Reaves and Jay W. Ragley, Connections staff;

Guests via Phone: Tanya Lee and Laura Karns, Connections staff.

III. Public Comment

There were no comments at this time.

IV. Routine Business

a. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Prince asked the Board to review the Agenda distributed prior to the meeting and properly noticed and posted per the legal requirements. The Board moved the Title Funding Discussion with SCPCSD to immediately follow the Approval of Agenda for the meeting. There being no further changes noted, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Agenda for the January 21, 2015 South Carolina Connections Academy Board of Directors Meeting, as amended, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

## V. Oral Reports

### c. Title Funding Discussion with SCPCSD

Mr. Prince reviewed the Board's concerns regarding the distribution of Title I funding within the district with the SCPCSD representatives. The Board, Dr. Brazell, and school staff had extensive discussion about the district's 45% Free and Reduced Meals (FARM) student threshold required for a school to receive any Title I funding. The SCPCSD representatives acknowledged that the Title I funding distribution could use improvements, but also encouraged SCCA to continue to strive to meet the 45% FARM threshold. The Board thanked SCPCSD for their attendance and time.

[Mr. Thomas joined the meeting at 3:21 p.m.]

[Dr. Brazell, Dr. Compton, Mr. Rudrapati and Mr. Rykard left the meeting at 4:02 p.m.]

### a. Executive Director's Report

#### i. Introduction of Superintendent Dr. Wayne Brazell

This item was tabled as it was no longer necessary.

#### ii. Accreditation Update

Ms. Ebel reviewed the upcoming AdvancED accreditation visit with the Board.

#### iii. Update on State-Specific School Handbook: Abusive Learning Coach/ Caretaker Policy

Ms. Ebel provided the Board with an update regarding a minor language change in the recently Board-approved Abusive Learning Coach/Caretaker Policy for the school, which provides the school with recourse in the event that a learning coach or caretaker acts in an improper manner with school staff members. Ms. Ebel advised that, following feedback from Counsel, the term "due process" has been changed to "grievance policy" throughout the policy. Board members did not express any concern with the language change.

#### iv. School Operations Metrics

Ms. Ebel presented this item to the Board. She reviewed the data included in the Board materials, highlighting the school's performance as compared with other Connections' partnering schools of similar size and years in operation.

### b. Financial Report

Ms. Lee reviewed the financial statements in detail, as included in the Board materials. She reviewed the balance sheet, and the school's revenue and expense statements with the Board.

### c. Title Funding Discussion with SCPCSD

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

## VI. Consent Agenda

Mr. Prince asked the Board members whether any items from the Consent Items that they wished to have moved to Action Items for discussion, or tabled. There being no changes, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Consent Items:

- a. Approval of Minutes from the November 19, 2014 Meeting;
- b. Approval of Staffing Report;
- c. Ratification of 2013-2014 School Year Annual Report;
- d. Approval of Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Funding Application;
- e. Approval of School Enrollment Opening for the 2015-2016 School Year;
- f. Approval of Agreements for Student Enrollment for the 2015-2016 School Year Regulatory Program Description, Parent/Legal Guardian (Caretaker) Acknowledgement and Designated Learning Coach Agreement;
- g. Approval of 2015-2016 School Year General School Handbook; and
- h. Approval of 2015-2016 School Year State-Specific School Handbook; are hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

## VII. Action Items

- a. Approval of Connections Academy of South Carolina, LLC Invoices for November and December

Mr. Moyi reviewed the invoices for the months of November and December, as included in the Board package, and derived from the financial report provided earlier in the meeting. He asked the Board whether they had any questions on the invoices. There being none, he recommended the approval of the invoices to the Board based on his review. There being no further discussion, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Connections Academy of South Carolina, LLC invoices for November, in the amount of 1,699,726.97, and December, in the amount of \$1,519,630.71, as presented, are hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

- b. Approval of Funded Enrollment Target for the 2015-2016 School Year

Ms. Ebel reviewed the proposed enrollment target for the 2015-2016 school year of 3,700 students and sought Board input in regards to the number. The Board had a discussion and agreed that this was a good target to set for the upcoming school year based on staffing and budget. The motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, that funded enrollment target for the 2015-2016 school year, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

## VIII. Information Items

- a. State Relations Update

Mr. Ragley provided the Board with an update on recent legislative activities that may impact the school.

b. Upcoming LiveLesson® Sessions

Ms. Karns presented this item to the Board. She reminded the Board they will be receiving links soon for LiveLesson® sessions for the upcoming Board consideration of the Curriculum and Outreach Plans for the 2015-2016 School Year. Ms. Karns advised the Board that these recorded presentations are a more in-depth look at the plans prior to the Board meeting presentations and documentation.

**IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Personnel Matter – S.C.C. § 30-4-70(a)(1) – for the discussion of employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee, a student or a person regulated by public body**

The Board entered into executive session at 4:26 p.m. via a roll call vote of the Board pursuant to S.C.C. § 30-4-70(a)(1) for the discussion of employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee, a student or a person regulated by public body. Board members in attendance were Gary Prince, Armando Colombo, Peter Moyi, Rebecca Battle-Bryant, Melanie Murphy and Beth Purcell. Guests invited by the Board to attend were: Allison Reaves and Laura Karns. All others left the meeting at this time.

The Board ended Executive Session and entered into open session at 4:37 p.m. via roll call vote. No action was taken during Executive Session.

**X. Adjournment and Confirmation of Next Meeting – Wednesday, February 18, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. ET**

The Board confirmed the next Board meeting would be February 18, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. ET. The Board, being at the end of its agenda, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 4:38 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.