



APPROVED 1/19/2022

**South Carolina Connections Academy (SCCA)
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

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

Held at the following location:

201 Executive Center Drive, Suite 250
Columbia, SC 29210

1(800) 503-2899; Code 529-1039#

I. Call to Order

Mr. Prince called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m. when all participants were present and able to hear each other. The meeting was open to the public.

II. Summary of Election and Appointment of Newly Elected Board Members

Ms. Coleman briefly discussed the recent Board election process, including the nomination process, those who were eligible to vote, the results, and the communications sent to all participants. She further confirmed that the election results were verified by a third-party representative from the Charter Institute at Erskine. Ms. Coleman congratulated the newly appointed and reappointed Board members: Selena Blackston, Meka Childs, Ashley Newton, and Ashley Quinn.

III. Introduction of Participants and Roll Call

Ms. Coleman introduced each member of the Board and remaining participants, including school and Pearson staff.

Board Members Present: Gary Prince, Adam Hall, Meka Childs, Rebecca Battle-Bryant, Ashley Quinn and Selena Blackston (all via phone);

Board Members Absent: Ashley Newton;

Guests Present: Josh Kitchens, Executive Director (in person at the school location); Dena Mixon, School staff; Kyle Michel, Kyle Michel Law Firm; Christina Clausen, Brittiany Sanford, Megan Holston, and Laura Coleman, Pearson Virtual Schools staff (all via phone).

IV. Public Comment

There were no comments at this time.

V. Audit Committee, Committee of the Entire Board

a. Ratification of the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year Financial Audit Report

Ms. Holston reviewed the audit report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021 in detail, as included in the Board meeting materials. She highlighted key aspects of the report, and related to the Board that the audit firm indicated no findings and advised that the report was the best result the school can achieve. Ms. Holston further reviewed with the Board the timeline and submission of the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year Audit Report and anticipation of a single audit report for Board consideration at a future Board meeting. Board members discussed the audit report, and expressed their satisfaction with the school and Pearson for the results. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Hall and seconded by Ms. Quinn as follows:

RESOLVED, that the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year Financial Audit Report, as presented, is hereby ratified.

The motion passed unanimously.

VI. 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. There being no changes noted, a motion was made by Mr. Hall and seconded by Ms. Childs as follows:

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

The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Oral Reports

a. School Leader's Report

i. State of the School Report and Final Results on 2020-2021 Goals

Mr. Kitchens reviewed the State of the School Report with the Board, as included in the Board meeting materials. He further discussed academic achievement data and parent satisfaction survey results. Mr. Kitchens reviewed future initiatives and goals with the intention of improving school outcomes, the student and family experience, and to foster student achievements school-wide. The Board discussed the State of the School Report with Mr. Kitchens, specifically opportunities for parent engagement and commended Mr. Kitchens for his strong leadership.

b. Financial Report

Ms. Holston reviewed the financial materials included in the Board meeting materials in detail, highlighting the budget and forecasting areas of the financial statements. Ms. Holston further reviewed the balance sheet and school's revenue and expense statements.

VIII. Consent Items

Mr. Prince 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 further discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Childs and seconded by Mr. Hall as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Consent Items:

- a. Approval of Minutes from the September 15, 2021 Board Meeting;
- b. Approval of Staffing Report;
- c. Approval of Pearson Invoice(s) for September (# 91000009019) and October (# 91000009163); and
- d. Approval of Revision(s) to the 2021-2022 School Year School Supplement: Suicide Prevention Policy; are hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Action Items

a. Approval of Local Board Approved Courses

Mr. Kitchens reviewed with the Board the request to add three (3) Local Board Approved Courses, as included in the Board meeting materials. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Hall and seconded by Ms. Quinn as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Local Board Approved Courses, as presented, are hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

b. Approval of Board Officers for the Remainder of the 2021-2022 School Year

Ms. Coleman reviewed the need for the Board to appoint Officers to the Board with the conclusion of the election process. She reviewed with the Board each Officer position as set out in the Board-adopted Bylaws, and advised the Board that all positions would be until the Board's Annual Meeting in June 2022. Nominations were opened for each position. Following the closure of nominations, and there being no further discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Childs and seconded by Mr. Hall as follows:

RESOLVED, that the appointment of:

Gary Prince, Board President;
Adam Hall, Board Vice President;
Rebecca Battle-Bryant, Board Treasurer; and
Meka Childs, Board Secretary; as discussed, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

X. Information Items

a. School Success Partner (SSP) Update

Ms. Clausen presented to the Board on behalf of the School Success Partner (SSP) team. She provided the Board with an update on state elections and legislation.

b. Academic Success Partner (ASP) Update

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

i. Key School Metrics

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

ii. School Leader Review Process

Ms. Sanford reviewed 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. Sanford further reminded the Board that Mr. Kitchens' 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.

c. Education Service Provider (ESP) Evaluation

Ms. Coleman reviewed the results of the Board members' recently completed Educational Management Organization (EMO) evaluation for the 2020-2021 school year and thanked the Board for their participation and feedback. The Board noted that they were pleased with the product, services, and relationship and thanked Pearson Virtual Schools for their partnership.

XI. Adjournment and Confirmation of the Next Meeting - Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at 3:00 pm ET

Mr. Prince noted that the Board was at the end of its agenda and that the next meeting is scheduled for January 19, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. ET. A motion was made by Ms. Quinn and seconded by Mr. Hall to adjourn the meeting at 3:51 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.