



**APPROVED 3/16/22**

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

Wednesday, January 19, 2022 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#**

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**I. Call to Order**

Mr. Prince called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. when all participants were present and able to hear each other. The meeting was open to the public.

**II. Roll Call**

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

Board Members Joined During Meeting: Ashley Newton (via phone);

Guests Present: Josh Kitchens, Executive Director (in person at the school location); Casey Ahmed, Erin Hynum, Alicia Hughes, and Michelle Bull, School staff; Christina Clausen, Brittiany Sanford, Sonali Rogers, and Laura Coleman, Pearson Virtual Schools staff (all via phone).

**III. Public Comment**

There were no comments at this time.

**IV. Audit Committee, Committee of the Entire Board**

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

Ms. Rogers reviewed the single file financial 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. Rogers further reviewed with the Board the timeline and

submission of the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year Audit Report. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Childs and seconded by Mr. Hall as follows:

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

The motion passed unanimously.

## **V. 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. Quinn as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Agenda for the January 19, 2022 South Carolina Connections Academy Board of Directors Meeting, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

## **VI. Oral Reports**

### a. School Leader's Report

#### i. Transition to Second Semester

Mr. Kitchens provided the Board with an update on the semester transition, including the current enrollment data, updates to staffing, and ongoing strategic planning efforts by the leadership team.

[Ms. Newton and Ms. Hughes joined the meeting at 3:08 p.m.]

#### ii. Principal Overview

Mr. Kitchens introduced each grade band Principal to give an overview of their current focus. Ms. Ahmed, Elementary School Principal, reviewed current course completion rates and the efforts meeting math, reading, and student motivation goals. Ms. Hynum, Middle School Principal, reviewed intervention efforts and events to encourage a sense of community and engagement with the students. Ms. Hughes, High School Principal, also reviewed the efforts to ensure students meet course requirements and student motivation events. Mr. Kitchens commended the Principals for their dedication and leadership. The Board thanked the Principals for their efforts to ensure academic achievement and a strong school community.

b. Financial Report

Ms. Rogers reviewed the financial materials included in the Board meeting materials in detail, highlighting the budget and forecasting areas of the financial statements. She reviewed the changes in the financials and forecasted expenses since last meeting's statements, including the balance sheet and school's revenue and expense statements.

**VII. 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 Mr. Hall and seconded by Ms. Childs as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Consent Items:

- a. Approval of Minutes from the November 17, 2021 Board Meeting;
- b. Approval of Staffing Report;
- c. Approval of Pearson Invoice(s) for November (# 91000009470) and December (# 91000009599);
- d. Approval of the 2022-2023 School Year General School Handbook; and
- e. Approval of the 2022-2023 School Year Handbook School Supplement; are hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

**VIII. Action Items**

a. Approval of Outreach Recruitment Target for the 2022-2023 School Year

Mr. Kitchens reviewed the proposed outreach recruitment target for the 2022-2023 school year of 6,800 students. He further advised this was a good target to set for the upcoming school year based on anticipated growth. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Hall and seconded by Ms. Quinn as follows:

RESOLVED, that the outreach recruitment target for the 2022-2023 school year of 6,800 students, as discussed, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

## **IX. 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 legislative and regulatory activities in the state, which may impact the school.

### b. Academic Success Partner (ASP) Update

Ms. Sanford presented to the Board on behalf of the Academic Success Partner (ASP) team. She provided the Board with an update on the timing of the Winter Leadership Retreat for School Leaders, as well as the areas of focus.

## **X. 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 3:29 p.m., upon a motion being made by Mr. Hall, seconded by Ms. Newton, and confirmed via a roll call vote of all Board members present, 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, Adam Hall, Rebecca Battle-Bryant, Meka Childs, and Ashley Newton. Guests invited by the Board to attend were: Brittiany Sanford and Laura Coleman. All others left the meeting at this time.

[Ms. Blackston rejoined the meeting at 3:32 p.m.]

[Ms. Quinn rejoined the meeting at 3:36 p.m.]

The Board ended Executive Session and entered into open session at 3:37 p.m. upon a motion being made by Mr. Hall, seconded by Ms. Newton, and confirmed via roll call vote of all Board members present. No action was taken during Executive Session.

## **XI. Adjournment and Confirmation of the Next Meeting – Wednesday, March 16, 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 March 16, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. ET. A motion was made by Mr. Hall and seconded by Ms. Newton to adjourn the meeting at 3:38 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.