



APPROVED 5/18/2022

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

Wednesday, March 16, 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#

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, Selena Blackston and Ashley Quinn (all via phone);

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

Board Members Absent: Rebecca Battle-Bryant and Meka Childs;

Guests Present: Josh Kitchens, Executive Director (in person at the school location); Adriana Walker, School staff; Christina Clausen, Brittiany Sanford, Michelle Bull, Sonali Rogers, Julia Haugarth, and Laura Coleman, Pearson Virtual Schools staff (all via phone).

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

RESOLVED, that the Agenda for the March 16, 2022 South Carolina Connections Academy Board of Directors Meeting, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

[Ms. Newton joined the meeting at 3:03 p.m.]

V. Oral Reports

a. School Leader's Report

i. State Testing Update

Mr. Kitchens provided the Board with an update on the preparations for state testing, including notifications to families and COVID safety protocols.

ii. Graduation Plans Update

Mr. Kitchens advised the Board of the preparations for the upcoming high school graduation and encouraged Board members to attend.

iii. Winter Leadership Retreat Update

Mr. Kitchens reported to the Board on the recent in-person Winter Leadership Retreat, including professional development initiatives and opportunities to share best practices among School Leaders.

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.

VI. 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. Blackston as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Consent Items:

- a. Approval of Minutes from the January 19, 2022 Board Meeting;

- b. Approval of Staffing Report;
- c. Approval of Pearson Invoice(s) for January and February;
- d. Approval of School Calendar for the 2022-2023 School Year; and
- e. Approval of Staff Compensation for the 2022-2023 School Year; are hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

[Ms. Walker joined the meeting at 3:11 p.m.]

VII. Action Items

a. Approval of Local Board Approved Courses

Mr. Kitchens reviewed with the Board the request to add five (5) 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. Blackston as follows:

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

The motion passed unanimously.

b. Approval of Outreach Plan for the 2022-2023 School Year

Ms. Haugarth reviewed the school's proposed Outreach Plan for the 2022-2023 school year, as included in the Board materials. She provided the Board with a presentation on the current student outreach services being provided by Pearson Virtual Schools (PVS), the potential impacts on enrollment due to COVID-19, the current and projected enrollment numbers for SCCA. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Hall and seconded by Ms. Quinn as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Outreach Plan for the 2022-2023 School Year, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. 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. The Board discussed potential legislation in detail with Mr. Michel.

i. Employee Handbook Update

Ms. Clausen provided an update to the extended illness section of the Employee Handbook, as included in the Board meeting materials.

b. Budget Development Process

Ms. Clausen reviewed the 2022-2023 budget development process with the Board. He reminded the Board that the process, while ongoing, is significantly aided by the Board's approval of an enrollment recruitment target during the last Board meeting. Ms. Rogers reviewed the approximate timeline for Board consideration and those involved in the process, including the Board Treasurer, School Leader and Pearson support staff.

c. Academic Success Partner (ASP) Update

Ms. Sanford presented to the Board on behalf of the Academic Success Partner (ASP) team. She further commended Mr. Kitchens for his awards and leadership during the recent Winter Leadership Conference.

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.

d. Board Relations (BR) Update

Ms. Coleman presented the Board on behalf of Pearson's Board Relations Team.

i. National Charter Schools Conference (NCSC); Washington, DC, June 19-22

Ms. Coleman reminded the Board with an update on the upcoming National Charter Schools Conference (NCSC) in Washington DC this June and encouraged Board Member attendance.

Additionally, Ms. Coleman provided the Board with an update on support services and personnel provided to the school and Board by PVS.

IX. Adjournment and Confirmation of the Next Meeting – Wednesday, May 18, 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 May 18, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. ET. A motion was made by Mr. Hall and seconded by Ms. Blackston to adjourn the meeting at 3:28 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.