



**APPROVED 05/16/16**  
Arkansas Connections Academy, Inc. (ARCA)  
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Monday, April 18, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.

Held via teleconference

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**I. Call to Order**

Mr. Beck called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. The meeting was open to the public. Mr. Beck conducted a Roll Call.

Board Members Present: Dennis Beck, Virginia Walden Ford and Carla Hartwell;

Guests: Bryce Adams, Jay W. Ragley, Melissa Nelson, Laura Coleman and Heather Woodward; Connections staff.

**II. Routine Business**

- a. Approval of Agenda
- b. Approval of Minutes from the March 2, 2016 Board Meeting
- c. Approval of Minutes from the March 29, 2016 Board Meeting

The Board expressed their intent to consider all three Routine Business items together. Mr. Beck asked the Board Members whether there were any change necessary to the Agenda that has been posted in accordance with Arkansas open meeting law or the proposed minutes. There being no changes noted, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Agenda for the April 18, 2016 Arkansas Connections Academy, Inc. Board Meeting, as presented, is hereby approved.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Minutes from the March 2, 2016 Board Meeting, as presented, are hereby approved.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Minutes from the March 29, 2016 Board Meeting, as presented, are hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

**III. Oral Reports**

- a. Update on Preparations for School Opening
  - i. Update on Enrollment

Ms. Nelson reviewed the school's current enrollment numbers with the Board, including those students who have applied and are currently in the enrollment process.

ii. Staff Recruiting

Ms. Nelson advised the Board that the School Leader has accepted the position and will begin his employment on May 2, 2016. Ms. Nelson further provided the Board with an update on the staff hiring and training initiatives.

[Mr. Adams joined the meeting at 9:13 a.m.]

b. Update on Facility

Mr. Adams provided the Board with an update on the school facility search. He reviewed the process and timeline expected to receive all necessary permissions.

c. Outreach Efforts

Mr. Adams reviewed the current outreach efforts being completed on behalf of Arkansas Connections Academy and those activities planned for the next few months.

Desktop to Laptop Conversion Plan

Mr. Adams advised the Board of the initiative to offer students laptop computers instead of desktop computers. Mr. Adams further reviewed the related costs and benefits for students. The Board expressed their support of offering laptops to enrolling families.

**IV. Action Items**

a. Approval of General School Handbook for the 2016-2017 School Year

b. Approval of State Specific School Handbook for the 2016-2017 School Year

The Board expressed their intent to consider the General and State Specific Handbooks together. Ms. Nelson reviewed the General School and State Specific Handbooks to the Board. She asked the Board whether they had any questions on the Handbooks. There being none, she recommended the approval of the 2016-2017 School Year General School Handbook. There being no further discussion, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, that the 2016-2017 school year General School Handbook, as presented, is hereby approved.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 2016-2017 school year State Specific School Handbook, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

**V. Information Item**

a. Board Member Recruitment

The Board provided an update on the recent work completed to recruit additional Board members. Board members discussed current Board composition, as well as their preferred background and credentials for the next Board member candidates.

[Mr. Adams left the meeting at 9:28 a.m.]

b. Board Training and Lunch

Ms. Woodward discussed the benefits of Board governance training as the school prepares to open. The Board welcomed an upcoming Board training and discussed availability.

**VI. Adjournment and Confirmation of Next Meeting Date – May 16, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.**

Mr. Beck noted that the Board was at the end of its agenda and that the next meeting was scheduled to be held May 16, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. At 9:38 a.m. the Board made and seconded the following motion:

RESOLVED, that the adjournment of the Arkansas Connections Academy, Inc. April 18, 2016 Board meeting, is hereby approved.

The motion was approved unanimously.