



APPROVED 11/13/2017

**Arkansas Connections Academy, Inc. (ARCA)
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**
Monday, October 16, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.

Held at the following location and via teleconference:
Arkansas Connections Academy
1009 Beau Terre Drive, Building O
Bentonville, AR 72712

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Mr. Beck called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. when all participants were able to hear each other. The school was open to the public to attend the meeting. Mr. Beck conducted a Roll Call.

Board Members Present: Dennis Beck, Carla Hartwell, and Virginia Walden Ford (via phone);

Guests: Darla Gardner, School Leader (in person); Stacey Clayton, Board Member Candidate; Bryce Adams, Mindy Whisman, Jennifer Dukek, and Kristin DeGross, Pearson Online & Blended Learning (POBL) staff (via phone).

II. Public Comment

There were no public comments at this time.

III. Routine Business

a. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Beck asked the Board Members whether there were any changes necessary to the Agenda that has been posted in accordance with Arkansas open meeting law. There being no changes noted, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Agenda for the October 16, 2017 Arkansas Connections Academy, Inc. Board Meeting, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Oral Reports

a. School Leader Report

i. State of the School Report, Final Results on 2016-2017 School Goals, and State Testing Results

Ms. Gardner provided the Board with a state of the school report. She discussed last year's target enrollment goals as well as final enrollment numbers by grade level with the Board and reviewed the current enrollment and school goals, including increasing math proficiency. Ms. Gardner reminded Board members that the staff worked closely with Pearson Online & Blended Learning (POBL) staff on establishing this year's school goals, and reiterated that the school goals represent the major driver for the staff incentive plan. Ms. Gardner related that the goals are created with the intention of improving school outcomes, the student and family experience, and to foster student achievements school-wide. Ms. Gardner also reviewed with the Board the recent state testing data. The Board thanked Ms. Gardner for her thoroughness and partnership in the educational process.

b. Financial Report

Ms. Whisman reviewed the financial report included in the Board Meeting materials. She highlighted key aspects in the school's revenue and expense reports, as well as the current forecast.

i. Revised Budget Update

Ms. Whisman provided the Board with an update on the revised budget, including the modifications made based on student enrollment. She advised that additional revisions to the budget were expected in the coming months. Ms. Walden Ford noted her support of the current revisions, as submitted to the state prior to the meeting.

V. Consent Items

Mr. Beck asked the Board members whether there were any items from the Consent Items that they wished to have moved to Action Items for discussion. There being none, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, the Consent Items:

- a. Approval of Minutes from the September 18, 2017 Board Meeting;
- b. Approval of Staffing Report;
- c. Approval of Connections Education Invoice(s) for September;
- d. Ratification of Revised Budget for the 2017-2018 School Year;
- e. Approval of Enrollment Opening on First Business Day in March, to Occur in Perpetuity, and Authorization for the School Leader to work with Pearson Online & Blended Learning (POBL) Regarding Opening Enrollment; and
- f. Approval of Federal Title Funding Documentation: Parent and Family Engagement Policy; are hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Action Items

a. Approval of Board Training and Conference Attendance for 2017-2018 School Year

Ms. DeGroff reviewed the upcoming trainings and conferences that have been identified that may interest members of the Board. The Board reviewed the upcoming conferences being offered through the Association for Educational Communications and Technology (AECT), as well as the Arkansas School Boards Association (ASBA). The Board discussed the advantages and specific agenda topics of each conference, and their support of Board members making an effort to attend the training opportunities. There being no further discussion, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Board training and conference attendance for the 2017-2018 school year, including AECT and ASBA Conferences and Trainings, as discussed, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Information Items

a. State Relations Update

Mr. Adams provided the Board with an update on recent legislative activities which may impact the school.

b. Partner School Leadership Team (PSLT) Update

i. School Operations Metrics

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

c. Pearson Online & Blended Learning (POBL) Rebranding Update

Ms. DeGroff provided the Board with an update on the rebranding efforts of Pearson Online & Blended Learning (POBL), formerly Connections Education. She advised of the minor changes that may be noticed in the coming months, and re-iterated that these brand modifications are occurring for POBL at the corporate level only, and should not have any effect on the school.

d. Board Recruitment Update

Mr. Beck provided the Board with an update regarding ongoing Board member recruitment.

VIII. Consideration of Board Member Candidate, Stacey Clayton

Mr. Beck noted the background information on the Board member candidate, Stacey Clayton, included in the Board package. Mr. Beck provided the Board with some brief background information on the candidate and her interest in the Board. Ms. Clayton introduced herself, and reviewed her qualifications with the Board. Board members discussed the candidate, and expressed their support of her appointment. There being no further discussion, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, that Stacey Clayton as a Board Member of Arkansas Connections Academy, with a term ending at the Annual Meeting 2018, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Adjournment and Confirmation of Next Meeting Date – November 13, 2017 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 November 13, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. At 10:40 a.m. the Board made and seconded the following motion:

RESOLVED, that the adjournment of the Arkansas Connections Academy, Inc. October 16, 2017 Board meeting, is hereby approved.

The motion was approved unanimously.