



APPROVED 09/18/2017

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

Monday, August 21, 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); Bryce Adams, Ben Shifflet, Mindy Whisman, Jennifer Dukek, and Kristin DeGross, Connections 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 August 21, 2017 Arkansas Connections Academy, Inc. Board Meeting, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Oral Reports

a. School Leader Report

i. Update on Back to School Activities, Staffing, and Training

Ms. Gardner discussed with the Board upcoming back to school activities, including field trips and a back to school bash for families at the school. She also updated the Board on staffing and training efforts.

ii. Update on Enrollment

Ms. Gardner reviewed the school's current enrollment numbers with the Board as well as trends in enrollment.

[Ms. Dukek joined the meeting at 9:10 a.m.]

iii. Update on School/Course Schedule

Ms. Gardner provided the Board with an update on this item, including recent communications with the Arkansas Department of Education, as well as student participation and compliance with state testing requirements.

iv. Statewide Data Report

Ms. Gardner presented this item to the Board. She reviewed the information currently available on the state's website, and advised that further updates would be provided upon the release of all statewide data.

v. School Operations Metrics

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

b. Financial Report

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

i. 2016-2017 Revised Budget

Mr. Shifflet reviewed the 2016-2017 revised budget, as recommended by the state for final allocation of IDEA funding.

ii. Unaudited 2016-2017 Financial Results

Mr. Shifflet reviewed the unaudited financial results from the previous school year with the Board.

iii. 2017-2018 Revised Fee Schedule

Mr. Shifflet discussed the revised fee schedule, as included in the Board materials.

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 July 17, 2017 Board Meeting;
- b. Approval of Staffing Report;
- c. Approval of Connections Education Invoice(s) for June;
- d. Approval of Invoice(s) from Connections Education Summer School 2017;
- e. Approval of Revised Budget for the 2016-2017 School Year;
- f. Approval of Revised Fee Schedule for the 2017-2018 School Year;
- g. Approval of 2017-2018 Base Salaries and Incentive Percentage and Career Ladder Positions; and
- h. Approval of Revision(s) to the Employee Handbook: Work at Home Stipends, are hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Action Items

There were no Action Items needed for consideration at this time.

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. Teacher Professional Development Products and Services for the 2017-2018 School Year

Ms. Dukek reviewed the professional development products and services for school staff, as offered by Connections for the 2017-2018 school year. She discussed the various levels and delivery models of professional learning opportunities available to staff members based on years of service and experience. She and Ms. Gardner also highlighted the additional training and development opportunities offered by school leadership. Ms. Dukek further advised of the training and resource opportunities available for Learning Coaches at the school.

Mr. Beck advised of his departure from the meeting, and requested that Ms. Walden Ford chair the remainder of the meeting in his absence.

[Mr. Beck left the meeting at 9:40 a.m.]

c. Conflict of Interest Statements and Background Check Reminders

Ms. DeGross thanked all Board members for completing their Conflict of Interest statements for the 2016-2017 school year.

d. Board Recruitment Update

Ms. Walden Ford provided the Board with an update regarding ongoing Board member recruitment.

e. National Charter Schools Conference Update

Ms. Hartwell discussed her attendance at the NCSC in Washington, D.C. Ms. Hartwell noted the value of the information that was presented at the conference and thanked Connections for coordinating the travel arrangements.

VIII. Adjournment and Confirmation of Next Meeting Date – September 18, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.

Ms. Walden Ford noted that the Board was at the end of its agenda and that the next meeting was scheduled to be held September 18, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. At 9:50 a.m. the Board made and seconded the following motion:

RESOLVED, that the adjournment of the Arkansas Connections Academy, Inc. August 21, 2017 Board meeting, is hereby approved.

The motion was approved unanimously.