



**APPROVED 10/16/2017**

**Arkansas Connections Academy, Inc. (ARCA)  
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
Monday, September 18, 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

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**I. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Mr. Beck called the meeting to order at 9:04 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, and Virginia Walden Ford (via phone);

Board Members Absent: Carla Hartwell;

Guests: Darla Gardner, School Leader (in person); Bryce Adams, Jay Ragley, Mindy Whisman, Jennifer Dukek, and Kristin DeGross, Pearson Online & Blended Learning (POBL) staff (formerly Connections), (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 September 18, 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, Enrollment, and Staffing

Ms. Gardner reviewed the school's Monthly School Report with the Board, highlighting enrollment changes from the previous month's report. She further provided the Board with an update on staff composition and recent back to school activities, including picnics and field trips. Ms. Gardner further advised of upcoming field trips scheduled to take place throughout the school year.

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.

#### **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 August 21, 2017 Board Meeting;
- b. Approval of Staffing Report;
- c. Approval of Connections Education Invoice(s) for July and August;
- d. Approval of Revision(s) to the 2017-2018 School Year State Specific School Handbook: Dual Enrollment; and
- e. Approval of Federal Title Funding Documentation: Federal Assurances, are hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

#### **VI. Action Items**

a. Approval of School Focus Goals for the 2017-2018 School Year

Ms. Gardner reviewed the school focus goals for the 2017-2018 school year included in the Board package with the Board. She advised that the staff worked closely with school leadership and Pearson Online & Blended Learning (POBL), formerly Connections Education, on establishing the school goals. She further advised the Board that the school goals represent the major driver for the staff incentive plan. There being no further discussion, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, that the school focus goals for the 2017-2018 school year, as presented, are 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.

#### i. Board Training Update

Mr. Adams provided the Board with an update on the process for obtaining training credits for conferences hosted by groups other than the Arkansas Department of Education.

### b. Partner School Leadership Team (PSLT) Update

#### i. Quarterly Metrics Update

Ms. Dukek reviewed the document outlining the planned format and data to be included in the school year's School Metrics reports.

### c. Board Recruitment Update

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

### d. Curriculum Town Hall Reminder

Ms. DeGross reminded the Board of the timing of the upcoming Curriculum Town Hall presentation, and encouraged Board members to attend.

### e. 2017-2018 Items for Board Consideration

Ms. DeGross reviewed the outline of items planned to be presented for Board consideration throughout the current school year. She further advised the Board that the document was fluid, and items may be included, omitted, or considered on a varied timeline based on a number of factors, including state submission and enrollment deadlines, as well as school need for student support.

## **VIII. Adjournment and Confirmation of Next Meeting Date – October 16, 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 October 16, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. At 9:51 a.m. the Board made and seconded the following motion:

RESOLVED, that the adjournment of the Arkansas Connections Academy, Inc. September 18, 2017 Board meeting, is hereby approved.

The motion was approved unanimously.