



**APPROVED 02/26/2018**

**Arkansas Connections Academy, Inc. (ARCA)  
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
Monday, January 22, 2018 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, Carla Hartwell, and Virginia Walden Ford (via phone);

Guests: Darla Gardner, School Leader; Cheryl Puryear, School staff (in person); Bryce Adams, Mindy Whisman, Tina Blair, Jennifer Dukek, and Kristin DeGroff, 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 January 22, 2018 Arkansas Connections Academy, Inc. Board Meeting, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

#### **IV. Oral Reports**

a. School Leader Report

Ms. Gardner reviewed with the Board the Monthly School Report, as included in the Board package in detail. She further reviewed a recent event to meet students and families, which was well attended.

i. 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 POBL partnering schools of similar size and years in operation. Board members discussed the metrics data with Ms. Gardner.

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 no further discussion, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, the Consent Items:

- a. Approval of Minutes from the December 18, 2017 Board Meeting;
- b. Approval of Staffing Report;
- c. Approval of Connections Education Invoice(s) for December;
- d. Approval of Revision(s) to the 2017-2018 School Year General School Handbook: Clubs and Activities Policy;
- e. Approval of the 2018-2019 School Year General School Handbook; and
- f. Approval of the 2018-2019 School Year State Specific School Handbook; are hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

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

a. Approval of Funded Enrollment Target for the 2018-2019 School Year

Ms. Gardner reviewed the proposed enrollment target for the 2018-2019 school year of 1,200 students and sought Board input in regards to the number. The Board had a discussion and agreed that this was a good target to set for the upcoming school year based on staffing and budget. The motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, that funded enrollment target for the 2018-2019 school year, as presented, 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 Leader Winter Conference

Ms. Dukek presented to the Board on behalf of POBL's Partner School Leadership Team. She reviewed the upcoming winter conference to be attended by Ms. Gardner, and further discussed the anticipated collaboration with school leaders from POBL's partnering schools.

### c. Budget Development Process Update

Mr. Adams reviewed the 2018-2019 budget development process with the Board. He advised the Board that the process starts with the funded enrollment target as approved by the Board earlier in the meeting and includes input from the Board and school leader. Mr. Adams further reviewed the anticipated budget development schedule, including the final budget consideration in May. The Board expressed desires for an update on the Free and Reduced Meals (FARM) program, as well as the potential for virtual Learning Coaches.

### d. Board Recruitment Update

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

## **VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION: pursuant to Arkansas Freedom of Information Act of 1967 Section 519-106(c)(1) for the purpose of considering employment, appointment, promotion, demotion, disciplining, or resignation of any public officer or employee: School Leader Mid-Year Review**

The Board entered into Executive Session at 9:59 a.m. The Board cited the following for entering into the Executive Session: pursuant to Arkansas Freedom of Information Act of 1967 Section 519-106(c)(1) for the purpose of considering employment, appointment, promotion, demotion, disciplining, or resignation of any public officer or employee: School Leader Mid-Year Review. Board members entered into the Executive Session via a roll call vote. Board members present included: Dennis Beck, Virginia Walden Ford and Carla Hartwell. Invited guests included: Jenny Dukek and Kristin DeGroff. All others left the meeting at this time.

Open Session resumed at 10:21 a.m. via a roll call vote. No action was taken during Executive Session.

**IX. Adjournment and Confirmation of Next Meeting Date – February 26, 2018 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 February 26, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. At 10:21 a.m. the Board made and seconded the following motion:

RESOLVED, that the adjournment of the Arkansas Connections Academy, Inc. January 22, 2018 Board meeting, is hereby approved.

The motion was approved unanimously.