



APPROVED 05/21/2018

**Arkansas Connections Academy, Inc. (ARCA)
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Monday, April 16, 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

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

In Mr. Beck's absence, Ms. Walden Ford called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. when all participants were able to hear each other. The school was open to the public to attend the meeting. Ms. Walden Ford conducted a Roll Call.

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

Board Members Absent: Dennis Beck;

Guests: Darla Gardner, School Leader (in person); TraKisha McNeil, Bryce Adams, Tina Blair, 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

Ms. Walden Ford 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 April 16, 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.

i. End of Year Activities Update

Ms. Gardener provided the Board with an update on end of year school activities, including an upcoming schoolwide celebration, which is expected to be well attended. She also advised the Board of the annual virtual talent show currently being planned.

ii. School Report Card Update

Ms. Gardner provided the Board with an update on the School Report Card. She advised that the calculations used for all schools across the state were in their first year of implementation, and further reviewed the school's results in comparison with similar schools.

iii. State Testing Update

Ms. Gardner provided the Board with an update on state testing, including the timeline for upcoming exams, and recent communications to families at the school.

b. Financial Report

Ms. Blair 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. Audit Update

Ms. Blair provided the Board with an update on the timeline for audit completion.

V. Consent Items

Ms. Walden Ford 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 March 19, 2018 Board Meeting;
- b. Approval of Staffing Report;
- c. Approval of Connections Education Invoice(s) for March;
- d. Approval of Staff Compensation Plan for the 2018-2019 School Year; and
- e. Approval of Employee Handbook Revision(s); are hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Action Items

There were no action items 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

Ms. Dukek presented to the Board on behalf of POBL's Partner School Leadership Team.

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. Board members discussed the metrics data with Ms. Dukek.

ii. Curriculum for the 2018 – 2019 School Year

Ms. Dukek presented this item to the Board. She reviewed the 2018-2019 Curriculum and Instructional Programming Memo as included in the Board materials, as well as the recent Curriculum Town Hall presentation hosted by POBL. Ms. Dukek further advised the Board on upcoming enhancements to the curriculum based on performance indicators. Board members discussed the curriculum plans in detail.

c. Outreach Plan for the 2018-2019 School Year

Ms. Gardner introduced Ms. McNeil to the Board, who presented this item to the Board. She reviewed the school's proposed Outreach Plan for the upcoming school year, as included in the Board materials. Ms. McNeil highlighted current and projected enrollment numbers, as well as planned activities for student recruitment. Board members had discussion on the outreach plans and specific activities.

d. Board Planning for the 2018-2019 School Year

Ms. DeGross discussed the planning for the 2018-2019 school year that POBL has been working on with the school.

i. Board Composition and Recruitment

Ms. DeGross discussed with the Board the current composition, including board member terms that would be up at this year's Annual Meeting, and encouraged Board members to discuss their intentions regarding terms and renewal with the Board Chair.

ii. Proposed Meeting Schedule

The Board confirmed their support of maintaining the current meeting schedule for the upcoming school year. Ms. DeGross advised that the consideration of the Board meeting schedule for the 2018-2019 school year will be included on the June Annual Meeting agenda.

e. Board Recruitment Update

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

VIII. Adjournment and Confirmation of Next Meeting Date – May 21, 2018 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 May 21, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. At 10:05 a.m. the Board made and seconded the following motion:

RESOLVED, that the adjournment of the Arkansas Connections Academy, Inc. April 16, 2018 Board meeting, is hereby approved.

The motion was approved unanimously.