



**APPROVED 06/15/2018**

**Arkansas Connections Academy, Inc. (ARCA)  
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
Monday, May 21, 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 9:07 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; Virginia Walden Ford, and Hailey Maloney (via phone);

Board Members Absent: Carla Hartwell;

Guests: Darla Gardner, School Leader (in person); Kevin Norton, Rasco Winter Abston Moore & Associates; Bryce Adams, Tina Blair, Mindy Whisman, 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. Audit Committee, Committee of the Entire Board**

a. Review and Acceptance of 2016-2017 Fiscal Year Audit Report

Ms. Whisman introduced Mr. Norton, who presented this item to the Board. He reviewed the audit report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017, as included in the Board materials. Mr. Norton highlighted key aspects of the report, and advised that there were no significant material deficiencies or weaknesses. He further explained that due to the State's required reporting standards they could not issue an unqualified opinion, but advised the report was the best result the school can achieve. Board members discussed the audit report, and expressed their satisfaction with the school and POBL for the results. There being no further discussion, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Audit Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017, as presented, is hereby accepted.

The motion passed unanimously.

[Mr. Norton left the meeting at 9:38 a.m.]

b. Approval of Audit Firm Engagement for the 2017-2018 School Year

Mr. Beck reviewed the audit firm engagement letter, as included in the Board materials. Board members reviewed the audit letter and related charges in detail. He advised the Board of the request regarding an additional GAAP report, and noted that Mr. Norton would be providing additional information in regard to the anticipated cost in the coming days. Board members discussed their intent to table this item until additional information has been received.

This item was tabled.

**IV. 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 May 21, 2018 Arkansas Connections Academy, Inc. Board Meeting, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

**V. 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, indicating that recent events had been well attended, and reviewing an upcoming virtual talent show.

ii. State Testing Update

Ms. Gardner provided the Board with an update on state testing, and advised that the school had exceeded the anticipated participation rates.

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.

**VI. 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 April 16, 2018 Board Meeting;
- b. Approval of Staffing Report;
- c. Approval of Connections Education Invoice(s) for April; and
- d. Approval of Board President as Board Designee to Approve Summer Staffing Decisions for the 2018-2019 School Year; are hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

**VII. Action Items**

There were no action items at this time.

**VIII. 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. She advised that Ms. Gardner's end of year review would be presented later in the meeting.

c. Board Recruitment Update

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

**IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION: pursuant to Arkansas Freedom of Information Act of 1967 Section 5-19-106(c)(1) for the purpose of considering employment, appointment, promotion, demotion,**

**disciplining, or resignation of any public officer or employee: School Leader End of Year Review**

The Board entered into Executive Session at 10:04 a.m. The Board cited the following for entering into the Executive Session: pursuant to Arkansas Freedom of Information Act of 1967 Section 5-19-106(c)(1) for the purpose of considering employment, appointment, promotion, demotion, disciplining, or resignation of any public officer or employee: School Leader End of Year Review. Board members entered into the Executive Session via a roll call vote. Board members present included: Dennis Beck, Virginia Walden Ford and Hailey Maloney. Invited guests included: Jennifer Dukek and Kristin DeGross. All others left the meeting at this time.

Open Session resumed at 10:33 a.m. via a roll call vote. No action was taken during Executive Session.

**X. Adjournment and Confirmation of Annual Meeting Date – June 18, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.**

Mr. Beck noted that the Board was at the end of its agenda and that the annual meeting was scheduled to be held June 18, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. At 10:33 a.m. the Board made and seconded the following motion:

RESOLVED, that the adjournment of the Arkansas Connections Academy, Inc. May 21, 2018 Board meeting, is hereby approved.

The motion was approved unanimously.