



**APPROVED 07/16/2018**

**Arkansas Connections Academy, Inc. (ARCA)  
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNUAL MEETING  
Friday, June 15, 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**

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); 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. Audit Committee, Committee of the Entire Board**

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

Ms. Whisman reviewed the audit firm engagement letter, as included in the Board materials. Board members reviewed the audit letter and related charges in detail. There being no further discussion, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, that the engagement of Rasco Winter Abston Moore & Associates, LLP for the 2017-2018 school year financial audit, as presented, is hereby accepted.

The motion passed unanimously.

#### **IV. 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 June 15, 2018 Arkansas Connections Academy, Inc. Annual 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 Celebrations

Ms. Gardner discussed the End of Year Celebrations held earlier in the month, including the school's inaugural Talent Show, which she noted was well attended.

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**

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 May 21, 2018 Board Meeting;
- b. Approval of Staffing Report;
- c. Approval of Connections Education Invoice(s) for May; and
- d. Approval of Board Meeting Schedule for the 2018-2019 School Year; are hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

## VII. Action Items

### a. Approval of the 2018-2019 School Year Budget

Ms. Blair reviewed the proposed 2018-2019 school year budget outline and Budget Notes documents with the Board, also reminding them of the budget development process to date that included the school leader, Board Treasurer and/or other Designee(s) and POBL staff. Board members discussed the budget, including related staffing, outreach and other specific expenses for the school, as well as the fee schedule and all services provided by POBL under the schedule. There being no further discussion, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, that the proposed budget for the 2018-2019 school year and all assumptions provided therein, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

### b. Approval of Directors

Ms. DeGroff advised the Board that two Board member terms were up for renewal at this meeting, Carla Hartwell and Hailey Maloney. Following Ms. Hartwell and Ms. Maloney's confirmation that they wished to continue on the Board, discussion was held on the renewal of their terms. There being no further discussion, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, that the re-appointment of Carla Hartwell to the Arkansas Connections Academy Board of Directors, as a Class 1 Director, for a term of three (3) years to the 2021 Annual Meeting, as discussed, is hereby approved.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the re-appointment of Hailey Maloney to the Arkansas Connections Academy Board of Directors, as a Class 1 Director, for the term of three (3) years to the 2021 Annual Meeting, as discussed, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

### c. Approval of Officers for the 2018-2019 School Year

Ms. DeGroff presented this item to the Board. She reviewed with the Board each Officer position as set out in the Board-adopted Bylaws, and advised the Board that all positions would be for a term until the Annual Meeting 2019. Nominations were opened for each position. Following the closure of nominations, and there being no further discussion, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, that the appointment of:

Dennis Beck, Board President;  
Virginia Walden Ford, Board Treasurer; and  
Carla Hartwell, Board Secretary, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion was approved unanimously.

## 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 of an upcoming Leadership Retreat hosted by POBL, which Ms. Gardner and the school's leadership team expect to attend.

### c. Results of the Parent Satisfaction Survey

Ms. Gardner presented this item to the Board. She noted that a third party independent vendor conducted the survey. A copy of the results of the survey was sent to the school Board's President directly from the third party vendor. The Board reviewed the results in detail, a copy of which was included in the Board materials. Board members had discussion on the results and the data included.

### d. Board Recruitment Update

In Mr. Beck's absence, this item was not discussed.

### e. Board Support Update

Ms. DeGross provided an update on Board support, advising of the final stages of organizational redesign within Pearson Online and Blended Learning (POBL), including the alignment of departments and processes to better serve the school and Board. She reminded the Board of discussion earlier in the year regarding changes of the brand name from Connections Education to POBL, and further noted that no expected changes to Board Relations support was expected at this time.

## 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 9:49 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: Virginia Walden Ford, Hailey Maloney, and Carla Hartwell. Invited guests included: Jennifer Dukek and Kristin DeGross. All others left the meeting at this time.

Open Session resumed at 9:54 a.m. via a roll call vote. No action was taken during Executive Session.

**X. Approval of School Leader Compensation for the 2018-2019 School Year**

Ms. Walden Ford reminded the Board of the discussion held in executive session. There being no further discussion, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, that the School Leader compensation for the 2018-2019 school year in the amount of \$87,720 with a 15% bonus potential, as discussed, is hereby approved.

The motion was approved unanimously.

**XI. Adjournment and Confirmation of Next Meeting Date – July 16, 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 July 16, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. At 9:56 a.m. the Board made and seconded the following motion:

RESOLVED, that the adjournment of the Arkansas Connections Academy, Inc. June 15, 2018 Annual Board meeting, is hereby approved.

The motion was approved unanimously.