



APPROVED 02/18/2020

**Arkansas Connections Academy, Inc. (ARCA)
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**
Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at 10:00 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

Dr. Beck called the meeting to order at 10:04 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, Hailey Maloney, and David Hartman (via phone);

Board Members Absent: Virginia Walden Ford;

Guests: Darla Gardner, School Leader (in person); Bryce Adams, Tina Blair, Kristie Clements, and Megann Arthur, 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

Dr. 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 21, 2020 Arkansas Connections Academy, Inc. Regular Board Meeting, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Oral Reports

a. School Leader Report

Ms. Gardner reviewed the Monthly School Report data with the Board. She advised that the school currently has over 1,700 students enrolled and discussed recent trends in enrollment; she further highlighted the decrease in withdrawal rates from the same time last school year. Board members had discussion with Ms. Gardner about withdrawal rates and student retention efforts and successes.

i. Update on Student Activities

Ms. Gardner provided the Board with an update on specific student activities, including upcoming state testing, as well as SAT/ACT testing preparations.

ii. Health and Wellness Policy Review

Ms. Gardner reviewed this item with the Board. She referred Board members to the policy included in the Board materials, reminding the Board of the state requirements for the policy, including the 3 year review cycle. Ms. Gardner further related that the school was not recommending any changes to the previously adopted policy, and was providing it for Board review. Board members briefly discussed the policy with Ms. Gardner and indicated their support of the current policy.

b. PCx Presentation

Ms. Gardner presented this item to the Board. She provided a detailed review of the materials included in the Board package, including the anticipated timeline for the rollout of the new learning management system, snapshots of key pages for students, many of the upgrades and benefits to students and staff with the new system, as well as specific tools and the expectations of use with curriculum. Ms. Gardner related that course customization and curriculum alignment should be greatly improved for teachers with PCx.

c. Board Meeting Compliance Update

Ms. Arthur advised the Board of the background to the first four items on the Consent Items list; she explained the recommendation for the Board to ratify these items due to new compliance recommendations and recording requirements. Board members indicated their support of ratifying items from the December 2019 meeting agenda for the sake of confirming open meetings law compliance in the absence of a useable recording.

d. 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.

V. Consent Items

Dr. 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. Board members discussed and opted to table Item (h) Approval of the 2020-2021 School Year General Handbook, until all updates resulting from the PCx system upgrades were integrated into the handbook and available for consideration. There being no further discussion or changes, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Approval of the 2020-2021 School Year General School Handbook, is hereby tabled; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, the Consent Items:

- a. Ratification of Minutes from the November 19, 2019 Board Meeting;
- b. Ratification of Staffing Report;
- c. Ratification of Pearson Online & Blended Learning Invoice(s) for November;
- d. Ratification of Revision(s) to Employee Handbook: Residency Policy;
- e. Approval of Minutes from the December 17, 2019 Board Meeting;
- f. Approval of Staffing Report;
- g. Approval of Pearson Online & Blended Learning Invoice(s) for December; and
- i. Approval of the 2020-2021 School Year State Specific School Handbook; are hereby approved.

The motions passed unanimously.

VI. Action Items

- a. Approval of Outreach Recruitment Target for the 2020-2021 School Year

Ms. Gardner reviewed the proposed outreach recruitment target for the 2020-2021 school year of 1,964 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. There being no further discussion, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, the outreach recruitment target for the 2020-2021 school year, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

- b. Approval of Revision(s) to Board Meeting Schedule for the 2019-2020 School Year

Mr. Beck addressed the proposed revisions with the Board. He discussed the option of moving all meetings for the remainder of the school year to a start time of 10:00 a.m. CT, and Board members agreed the time would be acceptable for their schedules. There being no further discussion, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, the Revision(s) to Board Meeting Schedule for the 2019-2020 school year of moving all remaining regular meetings to begin at 10:00 a.m. CT, as discussed, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Information Items

a. Legislative Update

Mr. Adams advised the Board that there were no significant updates at this time, as the state legislature was not in session. He further advised that he expected to have an update at their next meeting as session resumes before that date.

b. POBL Agreement/Charter Renewal Timeline Update

Mr. Adams reviewed this item with the Board. He advised that there was no message from the state yet, but briefly reviewed some comparison information on similar schools' renewal applications, and that the results indicated good signs for ARCA for renewal.

c. Partner School Leadership Team (PSLT) Update

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

i. School Operations Metrics

Ms. Clements 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. Clements.

d. Budget Development Process Update

Ms. Blair reviewed the 2020-2021 budget development process with the Board. She advised the Board that the process starts with the outreach recruitment target as approved by the Board earlier in the meeting and includes input from the Board and school leader. Ms. Blair further reviewed the anticipated budget development schedule, including the final budget consideration in May.

e. Board Training Requirements Update

Ms. Gardner shared the annual Board training requirements update with the Board. She advised that all Board members were in compliance with training requirements for the 2019 calendar year.

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 10:47 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, David Hartman, Hailey Maloney, and Carla Hartwell. Invited guests included: Kristie Clements and Megann Arthur. All others left the meeting at this time.

Open Session resumed at 10:57 a.m. via a roll call vote. No action was taken during Executive Session.

IX. Adjournment and Confirmation of Next Meeting Date – February 18, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

Dr. Beck noted that the Board was at the end of its agenda and that the next meeting was scheduled to be held on February 18, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. At 10:58 a.m. the Board made and seconded the following motion:

RESOLVED, that the adjournment of the Arkansas Connections Academy, Inc. January 21, 2020 Board meeting, is hereby approved.

The motion was approved unanimously.