



APPROVED 01/21/2020

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

Tuesday, December 17, 2019 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 9:03 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, Hailey Maloney, and David Hartman (via phone);

Board Members Absent: Dennis Beck;

Guests: Darla Gardner, School Leader (in person); Bryce Adams, Tina Blair, Kristie Clements, 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 December 17, 2019 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 presented the Monthly School Report to the Board, including enrollment levels and students in all stages of the enrollment process. She further reviewed end of Semester 1 activities, as well as discussed a marked decrease in student dropout rates. The Board congratulated Ms. Gardner on the school's successes.

i. Update on Student Activities

Ms. Gardner reviewed recent holiday luncheons with staff in various locations across the state. She discussed the charities benefitting from staff donations at the luncheons, as well as upcoming student volunteering activities at local foodbanks. Ms. Gardner further discussed anticipated activities scheduled to take place throughout the second semester, and provided an update on the school's first graduation ceremony to be held on May 31, 2020.

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.

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 November 19, 2019 Board Meeting;
- b. Approval of Staffing Report;
- c. Approval of Pearson Online & Blended Learning Invoice(s) for November; and
- d. Approval of Revision(s) to Employee Handbook: Residency Policy; are hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Action Items

There were no action items.

VII. Information Items

a. Legislative Update

Mr. Adams provided the Board with an update on recent legislative activities which may impact the school.

b. POBL Agreement/Charter Renewal Timeline Update

Mr. Adams reviewed the timeline for renewal of the school's Charter contract, and advised that the services agreement with Pearson Online & Blended Learning runs coterminous with the Charter. He advised of the anticipated release of all Charter application documentation, as well as the school's plans 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. Outreach Recruitment Target

Ms. Clements reviewed with the Board a proposed Outreach Recruitment Target for the 2020-2021 school year of 1,964 students. She reminded Board members that the target is a major driver for school budget planning, including outreach, staffing and many other initiatives. Ms. Clements further advised that the proposed outreach target will be presented for approval during the upcoming January Board meeting, if Board members indicate their support of the number. She reviewed the predicted growth for the school based on many factors, including trends in enrollment, students currently in the pipeline and outreach efforts. The Board expressed their support of the proposed number.

VIII. Adjournment and Confirmation of Next Meeting Date – January 21, 2020 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 on January 21, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. At 9:20 a.m. the Board made and seconded the following motion:

RESOLVED, that the adjournment of the Arkansas Connections Academy, Inc. December 17, 2019 Board meeting, is hereby approved.

The motion was approved unanimously.