



APPROVED 03/17/2020

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

Tuesday, February 18, 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. Dr. Beck conducted a Roll Call.

Board Members Present: Dennis Beck (in person); Carla Hartwell and Hailey Maloney (via phone);

Board Members Absent: David Hartman and Virginia Walden Ford;

Guests: Darla Gardner, School Leader; Nicole Stephens and Melissa Curiel; Kristin DeGroff and Anne Parmley, Pearson Online & Blended Learning (POBL) staff (in person); Bryce Adams, Tina Blair, Kristie Clements, and Sally Fernandez, POBL staff (via phone).

II. Public Comment

Dr. Beck congratulated Mr. Adams on the recent addition to his family.

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 February 18, 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 1,750 students enrolled and discussed recent trends in enrollment; she further highlighted the continued decrease in withdrawal rates from the same time last school year. Ms. Gardner advised that the school was on track to meet their goal of retaining 75% of enrolled students during the current school year.

i. Update on State Testing

Ms. Gardner provided the Board with an update on state testing, including upcoming ACT exam proctoring scheduled at 15 locations around the state.

ii. Update on Graduation Plans

Ms. Stephens provided the Board with an update on graduation plans, and advised that the school's graduation was scheduled to be held on May 31, 2020 at the Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock, Arkansas. She thanked Dr. Beck for volunteering to speak at the ceremony, and invited Board members to attend.

ii. Update on Winter Leadership Retreat

Ms. Gardner reported to the Board on the Winter Leadership Retreat that she recently attended, including professional development initiatives and networking opportunities. She also highlighted the mentoring opportunities available with veteran virtual school leaders. Ms. Gardner further congratulated the staff on the Starboy Award granted to the school for the on-time completion of welcome calls to new and returning students.

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 a brief update on the timing of the annual audit process. She advised that the audit was currently being finalized with the audit firm, and that all final documentation was slated to be submitted prior to the deadlines set by the state. She advised that the report would be available for review at the next meeting.

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. There being no discussion or changes, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, the Consent Items:

- a. Approval of Minutes from the January 21, 2020 Board Meeting;
- b. Approval of Staffing Report;
- c. Approval of Pearson Online & Blended Learning Invoice(s) for January;
- d. Approval of Revision(s) to the 2019-2020 School Year State Specific School Handbook: Chaperone Requirements;
- e. Approval of the 2020-2021 School Year General School Handbook;
- f. Approval of School Calendar for the 2020-2021 School Year; and
- g. Approval of Revised Board Policy: Board Delegation Policy; are hereby approved.

The motions passed unanimously.

VI. Action Items

There were no action items.

VII. Information Items

a. State Account Relations Update

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

i. POBL Agreement/Charter Renewal Timeline Update

Mr. Adams reminded the Board of the timeline for renewal of the school's Charter contract, as well as the coterminous timeline for the Statement of Agreement with POBL. He advised of his work with Ms. Gardner to begin the renewal application process.

b. Partner School Leadership Team (PSLT) Update

Ms. Clements presented to the Board on behalf of POBL's Partner School Leadership Team. She reviewed her recent work with Ms. Gardner and the school staff on the quarterly review of the School Improvement Plan. Dr. Beck thanked Ms. Clements and Ms. Gardner for their progress on the school's SMART Goals.

c. Outreach Plan for the 2020-2021 School Year

Ms. Fernandez 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. Fernandez further advised of a correction to the previously submitted Outreach Plan, and that the enrollment goal was set for 1,964 students. Ms. Gardner 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.

VIII. Adjournment and Confirmation of Next Meeting Date – March 17, 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 March 17, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. At 10:35 a.m. the Board made and seconded the following motion:

RESOLVED, that the adjournment of the Arkansas Connections Academy, Inc. February 18, 2020 Board meeting, is hereby approved.

The motion was approved unanimously.