



APPROVED 06/16/2020

**Arkansas Connections Academy, Inc. (ARCA)
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.**

**Held via teleconference due to State Precautions regarding Public Health and Safety
During COVID-19 Pandemic:**

800-747-5150; Access Code 028-1338#

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, Virginia Walden Ford, David Hartman and Hailey Maloney (via phone);

Board Members Absent: Carla Hartwell;

Guests: Darla Gardner, School Leader; Nicole Stephens, School staff; Kristin DeGross, Whitney Cardenas, Bryce Adams, Tina Blair, and Kristie Clements, Pearson Online & Blended Learning (OBL) staff (via phone).

II. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

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 May 19, 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 discussed recent trends in enrollment, and further highlighted the decrease in withdrawal rates from the same time last school year.

i. Update on Graduation Plans and End of Year Activities

Ms. Gardner presented this item to the Board. She reminded the Board of the school's upcoming virtual talent show. Ms. Gardner further notified the Board that the individual senior graduation ceremonies had concluded and that the response from students and families was overwhelmingly positive.

Ms. Gardner introduced Ms. Stephens to the Board. Ms. Stephens reminded the Board of the upcoming plans for ARCA's virtual graduation ceremony. Ms. Gardner added that the school's graduating class of 2020 has received \$390,000.00 in scholarships to date.

b. Financial Report

Ms. Blair reviewed the financial report included in the Board Meeting materials. Additionally, Ms. Blair 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. There being no discussion or changes, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, the Consent Items:

- a. Approval of Minutes from the April 21, 2020 Board Meeting;
- b. Approval of Staffing Report;
- c. Approval of Online & Blended Learning Invoice(s) for April; and
- d. Approval of Board President as Board Designee to Approve Summer Staffing Decisions for the 2020-2021 School Year; are hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Action Items

There were no action items.

VII. Information Items

a. State Account Relations (STAR) Update

Mr. Adams provided the Board with an update on recent legislative activities which may impact the school. He further noted that there are no anticipated budgetary impacts for the 2020-2021 school year due to COVID-19.

i. OBL Agreement/Charter Renewal Timeline Update

Mr. Adams presented this item to the Board. He advised the Board of OBL's plans to assist the school in compiling all necessary information for the Charter Renewal application, as well as the anticipated timeline for completion of the documentation. Additionally, Mr. Adams reviewed the expected release of additional application information by the state. He further informed the Board of the timing for consideration of all Charter Renewal documentation in the Fall.

b. Partner School Leadership Team (PSLT) Update

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

i. Planning for School Leader Performance Review

Ms. Clements outlined the annual school leader review process with the Board. She reminded Board members that the process includes feedback from the Board through a survey. Ms. Clements further reminded the Board that Ms. Gardner's final review will take place during the June annual meeting. She also reiterated the importance of Board member participation in the review process.

c. Update on Greater Bentonville Chamber of Commerce Membership

Ms. Gardner informed the Board that the school has renewed its annual membership with the Greater Bentonville Chamber of Commerce.

VIII. Adjournment and Confirmation of Annual Meeting Date – June 16, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

Dr. Beck noted that the Board was at the end of its agenda and that the annual meeting was scheduled to be held on June 16, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. At 10:26 a.m. the Board made and seconded the following motion:

RESOLVED, that the adjournment of the Arkansas Connections Academy, Inc. May 19, 2020 Board meeting, is hereby approved.

The motion was approved unanimously.