



**APPROVED 09/17/2019**

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

Tuesday, August 20, 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**

Mr. Beck called the meeting to order at 9:04 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, Virginia Walden Ford, and Hailey Maloney (via phone);

Board Members Absent: Carla Hartwell;

Guests: Darla Gardner, School Leader (in person); Bryce Adams, Tina Blair, Mindy Whisman, Emily Lee, Hussa Blake, 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

Mr. 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. The Board added Action Item (a) Approval of Membership with Arkansas Public School Resource Center (APSRC). There being no further changes noted, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Agenda for the August 20, 2019 Arkansas Connections Academy, Inc. Regular Board Meeting, as amended, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

#### **IV. Oral Reports**

a. School Leader Report

i. Update on Back to School Activities, Staffing and Training

Ms. Gardner discussed with the Board upcoming back to school activities, including events held during the first week of classes. She also updated the Board on staffing and training efforts, which included a productive staff retreat held early in August.

ii. Update on Enrollment

Ms. Gardner reviewed the school's current enrollment numbers with the Board as well as trends in enrollment. She further advised that the staff were completing welcome calls with all recently enrolled 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. Unaudited 2018-2019 Financial Results

Ms. Blair reviewed the unaudited financial results from the previous school year with the Board.

ii. Update on Revised Fiscal Controls Policy

Ms. Whisman debriefed the Board regarding the revisions made to the Fiscal Controls Policy, to align with current practices regarding electronic funds transfers. Board members advised of their support of the updates made to the policy. There being no further discussion, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, the Revised Fiscal Controls Policy, as discussed, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

#### **V. Consent Items**

Mr. 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 further discussion, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, the Consent Items:

- a. Approval of Minutes from the July 16, 2019 Board Meeting;
- b. Approval of Staffing Report;

- c. Approval of Connections Education Supplemental Invoice(s);
- d. Approval of Revision(s) to 2019-2020 School Year State Specific School Handbook: SmartCore Curriculum Updates; and
- e. Approval of Federal Title Funding Documentation: Revised Parent and Family Engagement Policy; are hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

## **VI. Action Items**

### a. Approval of Membership with Arkansas Public School Resource Center (APSRC)

Ms. Gardner reviewed the invoice for membership with APSRC. She advised of the benefits of membership, as well as the continued support provided to the school. There being no further discussion, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, that membership with Arkansas Public School Resource Center (APSRC), as discussed, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

## **VII. Information Items**

### a. Legislative 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. 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.

### c. Board Recruitment Update

Mr. Adams provided the Board with an update on ongoing Board Member recruitment efforts.

d. Board Relations Update

Ms. DeGross presented this item to the Board.

i. Board Training and Conference Attendance Planning for the 2019-2020

Ms. DeGross reviewed the upcoming trainings and conferences that have been identified that may interest members of the Board. The Board reviewed the upcoming training offerings, including the Association for Educational Communications and Technology (AECT) Conference. The Board discussed the advantages and specific agenda topics of the conference, and their support of Board members making an effort to attend the training opportunities. Ms. DeGross further reviewed the anticipated cost of membership with AECT for attendance at the conference. Board members indicated their support in renewing membership for Mr. Beck, with a cost not to exceed \$200.00. There being no further discussion, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, that membership with Association for Educational Communications and Technology, not to exceed \$200, as discussed, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

ii. Conflict of Interest Statements and Background Check Reminders

Ms. DeGross thanked all Board members for their timely completion of all Conflict of Interest statements for the 2018-2019 school year.

**VIII. Adjournment and Confirmation of Next Meeting Date – September 17, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.**

Mr. Beck noted that the Board was at the end of its agenda and that the next meeting was scheduled to be held on September 17, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. At 9:43 a.m. the Board made and seconded the following motion:

RESOLVED, that the adjournment of the Arkansas Connections Academy, Inc. August 20, 2019 Board meeting, is hereby approved.

The motion was approved unanimously.