



APPROVED 12/17/2019

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

Tuesday, November 19, 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

Dr. Beck called the meeting to order at 9:05 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, Carla Hartwell, Hailey Maloney, and David Hartman (via phone);

Guests: Darla Gardner, School Leader (in person); Bryce Adams, Tina Blair, Kristie Clements, Hussa Blake and Kristin DeGroff, 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 November 19, 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, and reviewed decreases within the school's withdrawal rate, the continual increase in the school's enrollment rate, as well as the status of IEP and 504 Plan requests for students at the school.

i. State of the School Report, Final Results on 2018-2019 Goals and State Testing Results

Ms. Gardner provided the Board with a state of the school report. She discussed last year's target enrollment goals as well as final enrollment numbers by grade level with the Board and reviewed the current enrollment, staff numbers, the school's retention and completion rates, and the school goals. Ms. Gardner reiterated that the school goals represent the major driver for the staff incentive plan. Ms. Gardner related that the goals are created with the intention of improving school outcomes, the student and family experience, and to foster student achievements school-wide. Furthermore, Ms. Gardner highlighted that the school received an award for high staff satisfaction.

Ms. Gardner also reviewed with the Board the recent state testing data and student resources and activities schedule. The Board thanked Ms. Gardner for her thoroughness and partnership in the educational process.

ii. Student Intervention Efforts – Tier 1 and 2

Ms. Gardner updated the Board on Student Intervention Efforts. She advised the Board of school staff members' increased awareness of critical educational components and benchmarks, as well as Pearson Online & Blended Learning's (POBL) useful tools for tracking student progress. Ms. Gardner further discussed the relation these efforts have to the school's annual success in goals completion.

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

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

RESOLVED, the Consent Items:

- a. Approval of Minutes from the October 15, 2019 Board Meeting;
- b. Approval of Staffing Report;
- c. Approval of Pearson Online & Blended Learning Invoice(s) for October; and
- d. Approval of Revision(s) to Employee Handbook: PTO Update; 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. He further advised of a recent decision by the Arkansas State Board of Education to uphold the Charter Authorizing Panel's decision regarding the allowance of telephonic participation by Board members for Executive Sessions.

i. Benefits Program Update

Mr. Adams provided the Board with an overview of recent medical benefit offering enhancements, as included in the Board meeting materials. He highlighted the contribution increase to the health savings account, paid maternity leave, increased parental and serious illness leave, among other added or increased benefits. Dr. Beck commended Pearson on its benefits program for school employees.

b. Partner School Leadership Team (PSLT) Update

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

i. School Leader Review Process

Ms. Clements presented this item to the Board. She outlined the annual school leader review process with the Board, including feedback from the Board through a survey. Ms. Clements further advised the Board that Ms. Gardner's mid-year review will be discussed during the January meeting and the final review will take place during the Board's Annual Meeting in June. She also reiterated the importance of Board member participation in the review process.

c. Association for Educational Communications and Technology (AECT) Conference Feedback

Dr. Beck provided the Board with feedback on his recent attendance at the Association for Educational Communications and Technology (AECT) Conference. He discussed the strong content of the sessions at the conference, as many sessions focused on ways to increase student engagement, technology leadership, and alternative models, in order to best to advocate for students.

VIII. Adjournment and Confirmation of Next Meeting Date – December 17, 2019 at 9:00 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 December 17, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. At 9:52 a.m. the Board made and seconded the following motion:

RESOLVED, that the adjournment of the Arkansas Connections Academy, Inc. November 19, 2019 Board meeting, is hereby approved.

The motion was approved unanimously.