



APPROVED 07/28/2020

**Arkansas Connections Academy, Inc. (ARCA)
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNUAL MEETING
Tuesday, June 16, 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

In Dr. Beck's absence, Ms. Walden Ford called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. when all participants were able to hear each other. Ms. Walden Ford conducted a Roll Call.

Board Members Present: Virginia Walden Ford, Carla Hartwell, David Hartman and Hailey Maloney (via phone);

Board Members Absent: Dennis Beck;

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

II. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

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 June 16, 2020 Arkansas Connections Academy, Inc. Annual 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, as included in the Board materials. She further introduced Ms. Hurd, the new Elementary Assistant Principal and Ms. Peterson, the new Middle School Principal.

i. End of Year Celebrations

Ms. Gardner provided the Board with an update on end of year celebrations and activities at the school. She updated the Board on the success of the recent virtual talent show, which included students and staff members. Ms. Gardner further updated the Board on the school's recent virtual graduation ceremony, noting the overwhelmingly positive feedback she has received from students and their families.

She further noted the school's high graduation rate for the 2019-2020 school year. The Board congratulated Ms. Gardner on the successful ceremony and thanked her and the school staff for their hard work. Ms. Gardner further noted that school staff is currently attending OBL's virtual Summer Leadership Academy.

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

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 discussion or changes, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, the Consent Items:

- a. Approval of Minutes from the May 19, 2020 Board Meeting;
- b. Approval of Staffing Report;
- c. Approval of Online & Blended Learning Invoice(s) for May;
- d. Approval of Board Meeting Schedule for the 2020- 2021 School Year; and
- e. Approval of Revision(s) to Employee Handbook; are hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Action Items

- a. Approval of Second Amendment to Statement of Agreement with Pearson Online & Blended Learning (OBL)

Mr. Adams presented this item to the Board. He reviewed the revisions to the Statement of Agreement, noting that the amendment includes adding English Learner (ELL) services to the provision of Special Education services to better support the school's growing ELL population. There being no further discussion, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, that the second amendment to Statement of Agreement with Pearson Online & Blended Learning (OBL), as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

b. Approval of MOU with Southern Arkansas University: Concurrent Enrollment Courses

Ms. Gardner presented this item to the Board. She advised that an extension of the school's current MOU with Southern Arkansas University is required in order for ARCA students to continue to take advantage of the courses offered through the university. There being no further discussion, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, that the MOU with Southern Arkansas University: Concurrent Enrollment Courses, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

c. Approval of Directors

Ms. Cardenas advised the Board that two (2) Board members' terms were up for renewal at this meeting, Dennis Beck and David Hartman. Following Dr. Beck and Mr. Hartman's confirmations that they wished to continue their service on the Board, discussion was held on the renewal of their terms. There being no further discussion, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, that the re-appointments of Dennis Beck and David Hartman to the Arkansas Connections Academy Board of Directors, as Class 2 Directors, for a term of three (3) years to the 2023 Annual Meeting, as discussed, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

d. Approval of Officers for the 2020-2021 School Year

Ms. Cardenas presented this item to the Board. She reviewed with the Board each Officer position as set out in the Board-adopted Bylaws, and advised the Board that all positions would be for a term until the Annual Meeting 2021. Nominations were opened for each position. Following the closure of nominations, and there being no further discussion, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, that the appointment of:

Dennis Beck, Board President;
Virginia Walden Ford, Board Treasurer; and

Carla Hartwell, Board Secretary, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion was approved unanimously.

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.

i. OBL Agreement/Charter Renewal Timeline Update

Mr. Adams presented this item to the Board and advised that the Charter Renewal application should be released in the coming months. He further congratulated Ms. Gardner on the school's successful graduation rate.

b. Partner School Leadership Team (PSLT) Update

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

i. School Facility Re-opening Guidance Update

Ms. Clements advised the Board of OBL's ongoing assistance to the School Leader regarding the re-opening of the school office(s). She highlighted key points in a guidance document sent to school leadership describing work being completed with landlords to ensure safety, minimize associated risks with re-opening and confirm all spaces are ready for occupancy. She further outlined all the support OBL's Facilities Team, as well as PSLT, are providing to the school throughout the coming months as their school leadership determines appropriate re-opening measures.

c. Results of the Parent Satisfaction Survey

Ms. Gardner presented this item to the Board. She noted that a third party independent vendor conducted the survey. The Board reviewed the results in detail, a copy of which was included in the Board materials. Board members had discussion on the results and the data included.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION: pursuant to Arkansas Freedom of Information Act of 1967 Section 5-19-106(c)(1) for the purpose of considering employment, appointment, promotion, demotion, disciplining, or resignation of any public officer or employee: School Leader End of Year Review

The Board entered into Executive Session at 10:40 a.m. The Board cited the following for entering into the Executive Session: pursuant to Arkansas Freedom of Information Act of 1967 Section 5-19-106(c)(1) for the purpose of considering employment, appointment, promotion, demotion, disciplining, or resignation of any public officer or employee: School Leader End of Year Review. Board members entered into the Executive Session via a roll call vote. Board members present included: Virginia Walden Ford, Hailey Maloney, David Hartman and Carla Hartwell. Invited guests included: Kristie Clements and Whitney Cardenas. All others left the meeting at this time.

Open Session resumed at 10:55 a.m. via a roll call vote. No action was taken during Executive Session.

IX. Approval of School Leader Compensation for the 2020-2021 School Year

Ms. Walden Ford reminded the Board of the discussion held in executive session regarding the School Leader's annual evaluation as well as proposed compensation for the next school year. There being no further discussion, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, that the School Leader compensation for the 2020-2021 school year in the amount of \$109,603.00, as discussed, is hereby approved.

The motion was approved unanimously.

X. Adjournment and Confirmation of Next Meeting Date – July 21, 2020 at 10:00 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 July 21, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. At 10:58 a.m. the Board made and seconded the following motion:

RESOLVED, that the adjournment of the Arkansas Connections Academy, Inc. June 16, 2020 Annual Board meeting, is hereby approved.

The motion was approved unanimously.