



**APPROVED 11/13/2018**  
**NEVADA CONNECTIONS ACADEMY (NCA)**  
**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
Tuesday, October 16, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. PT

**Held at the following location and via teleconference:**  
Nevada Connections Academy  
555 Double Eagle Court, Suite 2000  
Reno, NV 89521

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**I. Call to Order**

Dr. Harrington called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. when all participants were present and able to hear each other. The school was open for the public to attend the meeting.

**II. Roll Call**

Board Members Present: Scott Harrington, Kelly McGlynn, Naima Benjelloun, Mindi Dagerman, Morgan Jackson and Kevin Arnold (via phone);

Board Members Absent: Amy Cook;

Guests Present: Chris McBride, School Leader and Reva Rindy, School staff (in person); Eraina Porras, Member of the Public; Brian Rosta, Josh Daniels, Mindy Whisman and Laura Coleman, Pearson Online & Blended Learning (POBL) staff (via phone).

**III. Public Hearing on NRS 388A.367 (formerly Assembly Bill 49)**

Mr. Harrington announced the commencement of the public hearing at 6:36 p.m. on NRS 388A.367 (formerly Assembly Bill 49). He asked if there were any members of the public wishing to address NRS 388A.367. Hearing none, the Board asked Dr. McBride to review this item with the Board. Dr. McBride reviewed the actions taken by the school in accordance with NRS 388A.367, including notification to parents and legal guardians of recent reports issued by the Department of Education, providing families with a list of alternate public school options, as well as posting on the school's website. Dr. McBride further reviewed the efforts to improve the school's academic goals. There being no questions from the Board or members of the public, the Board closed the public hearing at 6:39 p.m. and resumed the regular session of the meeting.

[Dr. Harrington left and rejoined at 6:39 p.m.  
[Ms. Porras left at 6:39 p.m.]

**IV. Public Comment**

There were no public comments at this time.

## V. Audit Committee, Committee of the Entire Board

### a. Approval of Authorizing the Board Treasurer to Finalize and Submit all Audit Related Documentation by the October 31 Deadline

Ms. Whisman reviewed the audit process for fiscal year ending June 30, 2018 completed to date, including the Actuary consulted to determine if the school should carry a liability for benefits for future retirees. She further advised that the audit report is due prior to the Board's next meeting. The Board discussed the options to ensure the audit is filed by the due date, and agreed to appoint the Board Treasurer as Board Designee to finalize and submit the audit report. There being no further discussion, Ms. Jackson made a motion and it was seconded by Mr. Arnold as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Board Treasurer as Board Designee to finalize and submit the 2017-2018 school year financial audit, as discussed, is hereby accepted.

The motion passed unanimously.

## VI. Routine Business

### a. Approval of Agenda

Dr. Harrington asked the Board to review the Agenda distributed prior to the meeting. There being no changes noted, Ms. McGlynn made the following motion and it was seconded by Ms. Benjelloun as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Agenda for the October 16, 2018 Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Nevada Connections Academy, as discussed, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

## VII. Oral Reports

### a. School Leader's Report

#### i. Math Time to Talk Update

Dr. McBride reviewed with the Board the participation rates of the Math Time to Talk supplemental program. The Board discussed the program in detail with Dr. McBride. Dr. McBride further advised that he will have more information at future meetings when the program will have more data to analyze.

#### ii. Pupil Enrollment and Attendance Audit (PEAA) Update

Dr. McBride provided the Board with an update on the recent first quarter pupil enrollment and attendance audit. He advised the Board that the preliminary findings were positive and acknowledged the school staff and Pearson Online & Blended Learning (POBL) staff for their preparation and assistance with the audit.

#### iii. Nevada Charter Authority Update

Dr. McBride provided the Board with an update on the recent and upcoming meetings with the Nevada Charter Authority. The Board discussed coordinating Board support for the upcoming meetings in detail with Dr. McBride.

iv. Final Results on 2017-2018 Goals and State Testing Results

Dr. McBride noted he will review the final results on the 2017-2018 goals and state testing within the State of the School Report.

v. State of the School Report

Dr. McBride discussed last year's state testing participation and target enrollment goals as well as final enrollment numbers by grade level with the Board. He further reviewed the current enrollment and school goals. Dr. McBride reminded Board members that the staff worked closely with POBL staff on establishing this year's school goals, and that the school goals represent the major driver for the staff incentive plan. Dr. McBride 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. The Board discussed the staff and student accomplishments over the past year in detail with Dr. McBride.

b. Financial Report

Ms. Whisman reviewed the financial materials included in the Board materials. She reviewed the changes in the financial and forecasted expenses since the last month's statements in detail. She further reviewed the balance sheet and the school's revenue statements with the Board.

### VIII. Consent Agenda

Dr. Harrington asked the Board members whether there were any items from the Consent Items that they wished to have moved to Action Items for discussion, or tabled. There being no changes, Ms. McGlynn made the following motion and it was seconded by Ms. Dagerman as follows:

RESOLVED, the Consent Items:

- a. Approval of Minutes from the September 18, 2018 Board Meeting;
- b. Approval of Minutes from the September 18, 2018 Board Retreat;
- c. Approval of Staffing Report;
- d. Approval of LiveSpeech Invoice(s);
- e. Approval of Connections Education Invoice for September; and
- f. Approval of Revision(s) to the Employee Handbook: Short Term Disability Language for Maternity Leave Policy; are hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

### IX. Action Items

a. Approval of School Focus Goals for 2018-2019 School Year

Dr. McBride reviewed the school focus goals for the 2018-2019 school year, included in the Board package with the Board. He advised that the staff worked closely with school leadership and POBL on establishing the school goals. He further reiterated that the school goals represent the major driver for the staff incentive plan. The Board discussed the goals with Dr. McBride. There being no further discussion, Mr. Arnold made the following motion and it was seconded by Ms. McGlynn as follows:

RESOLVED, that the school focus goals for the 2018-2019 school year, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

## X. Information Items

### a. State & Strategic Client Relations Update

Mr. Daniels updated the Board on the recent legislative activities in Nevada, which may impact the school. He further provided the Board with additional background on the Monthly School Report data as included in the Board meeting materials. The Board discussed the data in detail with Mr. Daniels.

#### i. Charter Authority Legal Compliance Questionnaire for Audit

Mr. Daniels reviewed with the Board the optional legal compliance questionnaire the Charter Authority is requesting charter school Boards complete in conjunction with their audit.

### b. Partner School Leadership Team (PSLT) Update

Dr. Rosta presented an update to the Board on behalf of Pearson Online & Blended Learning's (POBL) Partner School Leadership Team.

#### i. School Operations Metrics

Dr. Rosta reviewed the first quarter school operations metrics included in the Board materials, highlighting the school's performance as compared with other POBL partnering schools of similar size and years in operation.

#### ii. Graduation Rate Improvement Plans throughout Connections Update

Dr. Rosta reviewed with the Board the upcoming POBL study across Connections Academy schools comparing graduation rates in an effort to compare processes and identify best practices.

### c. Board Recruitment Update

Dr. Harrington reminded the Board of the continued search for potential new Board members. Board members discussed Board composition, as well as preferred background and credentials for the next candidate for the Board. The Board further discussed outlets to identify future potential Board members.

### d. Education Management Organization (EMO) Evaluation Update

Dr. Harrington reviewed the results of the Board members' recently completed Educational Management Organization (EMO) evaluation for the 2017-2018 school year. The Board noted that the results were consistent with those in the past and that there were no significant items requiring further discussion.

### e. Board Retreat Feedback and Discussion

Dr. Harrington sought Board feedback and discussion on the following items.

#### i. Learning Coach Support Update

There was no further discussion on this item.

#### ii. State Testing Incentives Update

There was no further discussion on this item.

iii. Strategic Planning Timing

The Board expressed a desire to hold a Strategic Planning Session, tentatively scheduled for July 1, 2019 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

**XI. Public Comment (as detailed previously in agenda)**

There were no public comments.

**XII. Adjournment and Confirmation of Next Meeting and Training – Tuesday, November 13, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. PT**

Dr. Harrington noted that the Board was at the end of its agenda and that the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 13, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.