

Connections Public Charter School

Governing Board Minutes

February 25, 2021

Via googlemeets 3:00 pm

Call to Order: Mr. Salmoiraghi called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm.

Members Present: John Thatcher, Kirk Bailey, Libby Oshiyama, Jerri Potter, Cheryl Gravela, Shinji Salmoiraghi, (Heather McDaniel, Recorder)

Members Absent: Alvina Kahoonei, Elsie Hayashi, Jonelle Fukushima,

Guests: Romeo Garcia, Pua Ka'ai, Tiffany Hunt, Alex Pascua, Carol Gray

Approval of Agenda:

A motion was made by Mr. Thatcher to approve the agenda, with one change: SY 20-21 Covid Emergency Plan Status Report is moved up after Public Input. The motion was seconded by Ms. Potter and was approved with consensus.

Approval of Minutes for January 11, 2021 meeting: Members reviewed minutes from the January 11, 2021 meeting.

A motion was made by Ms. Potter to accept the minutes from the January 11, 2021 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bailey and was approved with consensus.

Public Input: Tiffany Hunt gave input regarding her interest in charter schools weighing in on the recent Hawaii County Planning Director nomination. As a charter school parent, she shared her concern about charters' lack of facilities funding.

SY 20-21 Covid Emergency Plan Status Report: Mr. Thatcher reviewed the current Covid Emergency Plan and discussed possible modifications. Members discussed parent, classroom, community and state scenarios. Mr. Boyd discussed ideas about how to allow more student movement and use of common areas while maintaining the 6' distance protocol. Mr. Garcia discussed classroom supervision challenges and possible solutions. Mr. Thatcher and Mr. Garcia will guide transitions to less restrictive use of space, while maintaining the current policy requirements.

Correspondence & Communication: none

New Business:

- **Approval of New Substitute Teachers:** none
- **Review and Revision of Governing Board Policies:** tabled

Commission School Lead Report: Ms. Ka'ai appreciated the discussion about reopening safely.

Operations Report:

Operations Status: Ms. Gravela reported that the UpLink Grant funds were added to the budget, and that Title II funds will be added in the next report. The bottom line will be unchanged.

Financial Officer's Report: Dr. Oshiyama reported that she has reviewed expenditures and found them to be appropriate.

- **Approval of Financial Statements:** Members reviewed the Operations Statement. Mr. Thatcher reported that the BOE approved the allocation of \$9 million of CARES Act funds for charters, calculating about \$740 per pupil (about \$260,000). There may be restrictions on how the funds can be used within the school's budget. The last 10% of the SY 20-21 per pupil allotment is still in question. The 10% budget cut was restored, and SpEd funds were restored. Ms. Gravela reported that the Federal Impact Aid funds were received.
A motion was made by Ms. Potter to accept the January 2021 Operations Statement. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bailey and was approved with consensus.
- **Approval of Typical Expenses Report for Auditor:** tabled until March.

Title I/Student Achievement Report:

- **Status of Title I Plan SY 20-21:** Mr. Thatcher reported on the SY 20-21 plan. The Comprehensive Needs Assessment is due, and will be submitted by Monday.
- **Student Achievement:** Mr. Thatcher reported that relevancy is key. Teachers need to be developing different strategies.

Administrator's Report:

- **Current enrollment:** 368. We will continue to enroll new students as long as there is space available. Mr. Thatcher will be researching the school's transiency rate. Current testing has been completed.
- **Kaumana Property Report:** Mr. Thatcher reported on the arrival of an excavator for clearing. Results on the Farm To School grant application are pending.

- **Other Items: Mr. Thatcher requested that members go into executive session to discuss legal matters.**
A motion was made by Mr. Bailey at 4:05 pm to go into executive session to discuss a legal matter, and to allow Mr. Garcia and Mrs. McDaniel to remain in attendance. The motion was seconded by Ms. Potter and was approved with consensus.
A motion was made by Ms. Potter at 4:32 pm to go out of executive session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bailey and was approved with consensus. No actions were reported.

Old Business

- **Administrator Evaluation Process:** Mr. Salmoiraghi reported that he met with Mrs. Hayashi to discuss the process. They will be developing a more defined understanding of the principal's job description, and to identify stakeholders for balanced input. The committee will meet with Mr. Thatcher and Mr. Garcia to define the current job description, and will summarize and report to members.

Next Meeting: March 12, 2021 at 3:00 pm.

Adjournment: 4:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
Shinji Salmoiraghi
Connections Governing Board Chair