

**Connections Public Charter School**

**Governing Board Minutes**

**July 16, 2025**

**Kress Building 3:15 pm**

**Call to Order:** Mr. Garcia called the meeting to order at 3:34 pm

**Members Present:** Romeo Garcia, Damon Murphy, Christina Wilbourn, Clint Kolyer, Heather McDaniel, Sherri Kolman, Nalu Tufui

**Members Absent:** Joanna Highstein, Pam Thatcher

**Guests:** Cheryl Gravela, John Thatcher

**Recorder:** Minutes for today's meeting are recorded by Mrs. McDaniel.

**Public Comment:** none

**Approval of Agenda:** Members reviewed the agenda for the July 16, 2025 meeting.

*A motion was made by Ms. Kolman to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Wilbourn and was approved with consensus.*

**Approval of Minutes for June 18, 2025 meeting:** Members reviewed the minutes from the meeting on June 18, 2025.

*A motion was made by Ms. Kolman to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kolyer and was approved with consensus.*

**Approval of New Members:** None

**Elections of Officers:** None

**Food Program Update:** Mr. Murphy reported that the summer food service program has been successful, and changes in personnel are working out well.

**Correspondence & Communication:**

Mr. Murphy reported on correspondence from HSTA:

Withdrawal of a grievance due to the issue being resolved.

Entering into arbitration regarding HSTA representatives on campus without administrative permission.

Mr. Murphy also reported on a violation of teacher contracts by those picketing. A complaint will be filed.

**Commission School Lead Report:** None

**Old Business:** Mr. Garcia introduced Mr. Thatcher to give an update on information regarding accreditation. An in-depth overview outlining a contract extension proposal integrating teacher performance, school growth, and accreditation was provided to members. Mr. Thatcher explained the details of the proposed contract. Members had their questions answered.

*A motion was made by Mr. Kolyer to enter into the contract extension with Mr. Thatcher to implement the three-pronged proposal integrating performance, growth and accreditation, covering the period of June 16, 2025 to June 30, 2026. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kolman and was approved with consensus.*  
*A motion was made by Ms. Kolman to formally adopt and implement the Hawaii DOE standard Educator Effectiveness System (EES) for teacher evaluations, as stipulated in the HSTA Master Agreement. The motion was seconded by Ms. Wilbourn and was approved with consensus.*  
*A motion was made by Ms. Tufui to move forward with the Cognia membership and accreditation pursuit. The motion was seconded by Mrs. McDaniel and was approved with consensus.*

**Mr. Garcia acknowledged the successful work that has already been done by Mr. Thatcher with the Scratch Program last school year. Mr Thatcher reported that the work will continue, including continued assessment and monitoring of the program.**

#### **New Business:**

**Approval of New Substitute Teachers: none**

#### **Operations Report:**

**Financial Report:** Ms. Gravela presented the financial reports, and reported on notable items.

**Operations Status - Financial Officer's Report:** Ms. Gravela reported that the statements provided are pre-audit entries, and subject to revision.

**The new bus down-payment and freight have been paid. Arrival is expected by the end of August, and the bus will be in service by the end of September following State registration and paperwork.**

**Members discussed contingency possibilities for potential Federal funding cuts.**

*A motion was made by Ms. Tufui to accept the Financial Report for June 30, 2025. The motion was seconded by Ms. Wilbourn and was approved with consensus.*

*A motion was made by Ms. Kolyer to approve the temporary forecasts for 2025-2026. The motion was seconded by Ms. Wilbourn and was approved with consensus.*

#### **Administrator's Report:**

**Current enrollment: 341**

**Title I Report: none**

**Student Achievement Report:** Charter School Commission representatives' visit yesterday was helpful.

**Kaumana Property Report:** A math teacher is facilitating project-based, cross-curriculum learning with students. Entrepreneurship and e-sports projects are being developed. These endeavors will support family engagement.

#### **Other Items:**

**Mr. Murphy and Ms. Gravela presented members with a proposal for support in training staff. Mrs. McDaniel recused from the discussion and the vote.**

*A motion was made by Ms. Kolman to approve expenditure of a stipend up to \$5,000 for Mrs. McDaniel to train new enrollment staff and office staff, to begin this month. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kolyer, and was approved with consensus.*

**Mr. Garcia adjourned the meeting at 5:29pm.**

**Next Meeting:** August 20, 2025 at 3:15 pm.

**Adjournment:**

**Respectfully submitted by:**

**Mr. Romeo Garcia**

***Connections Governing Board Chair***