

**Connections Public Charter School**

**Governing Board Minutes**

**September 18, 2023**

**Kress Building 3:15 pm**

**Call to Order:** Mr. Garcia called the meeting to order at 3:24pm.

**Members Present:** Romeo Garcia, Kirk Bailey, Pam Thatcher, Damon Murphy, Gerald Taber, Nalu Tufui, Michael Fischer  
(Xiomara Mejia, Recorder)

**Members Absent:** Libby Oshiyama, Anna Madrid, Christina Wilbourn

**Guests:** Cheryl Gravela, Joanna Highstein, Clint Kolyer, Cade Loftin, John Woolverton

**Approval of Agenda:** Members reviewed the draft agenda for the September 18, 2023 meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Bailey to approve the agenda for September 18, 2023 as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Tufui and was approved with consensus.

**Approval of Minutes August 29, 2023 meeting:** Members reviewed the minutes from meeting on August 29, 2023.

A motion was made by Mr. Taber to approve the August 29, 2023 minutes. Members discussed the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Murphy and was approved with consensus. Mr. Fischer abstained due to last month's absence.

**Approval of New Members:**

Mr. Garcia noted the potential board members, parent Joanna Highstein and community representative Clint Kolyer. Members and guest discussed some of the roles required of board members.

Mr. Garcia said he sent the email to all staff to gauge any interest in joining the board, but he did not receive any responses. Since there were no nominations or interest other than Mrs. Thatcher and Ms. Wilbourn, and no votes needed, they will continue to serve on the board.

Mr. Garcia would like to schedule a board training to refresh members of membership requirements.

**Election of Officers:** none

**Food Program Update:** Mr. Murphy reported kitchen is doing well. Looking to hire a farm hand on the property to easier facilitate the kitchens needs.

**Public Input:** none

**Correspondence & Communication:** none

**Commission School Lead Report:** none

## Old Business:

**McRel Update:** Mrs. Thatcher reminded the board that a personalized professional evaluation is being created that will fit the school's vision and mission. Mr. Bailey suggests that the evaluation happens more than once a year, relatively routinely. Administration evaluation will be developed to be used next year. Members and guest discussed.

## New Business:

### **Approval of New Substitute Teachers:**

*Mr. Loftin recommended Kayla Marie Turner and Reese Mokuau, pending paperwork, to be approved at the next meeting.*

### **Review and Revision of Governing Board Policies: Student Dress and Conduct Guideline and Discipline Policy.**

#### *Student Dress and Conduct Guideline:*

*Mr. Woolverton brought forward his final proposal for the Student Dress and Conduct Guidelines. He reminds the board that the biggest thing they wanted to do was to have student buy in. Mr. Woolverton provided the board members with a copy of his proposal before the meeting. Members reviewed and discussed.*

*A motion was made by Mr. Fischer to move forward with implementing the proposed Student Dress and Conduct Guideline, with the striking of line: "cleavage (the hollow between breasts when supported) shall NOT have coverage requirements." The motion was seconded by Mr. Bailey. Members and guest discussed. Mrs. Thatcher asked if administration felt comfortable and able to implement dress guideline, administration believes they are. Mr. Taber states that if this is not something that is feasible after some time, he suggests the school move toward a uniform. The motion to implement the revised Student Dress and Conduct Guideline was approved with a majority vote: Mr. Garcia, Mr. Fischer, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Bailey, Mrs. Thatcher, Ms. Tufui, with Mr. Taber abstaining.*

#### *Discipline Policy:*

*Mr. Woolverton is proposing the use of metal detecting wands, in accordance with Chapter 19, with established probable cause. Members discussed the justification of using metal detecting wands.*

*A motion was made by Ms. Tufui to approve the use of metal detecting wands and updating the discipline policy to reflect this. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fischer and was approved with consensus.*

## Operations Report:

### **Operations Status - Financial Officer's Report:**

*Members reviewed the financial statements for August 2023. Mr. Garcia asked for clarification regarding loss. Ms. Gravela stated that members should note that most months would have a loss because of ebb and flow of when finances are received. Per pupil allocation, which is the main source of income, comes 60% in July and 30% around November, with the remaining 10% coming in early Jun. Therefore, most months will show a loss. Members discussed.*

### **Approval of Financial Statements:**

*A motion was made by Mr. Murphy to approve the Financial Statement for August 2023. The motion was seconded by Mr. Taber and was approved with consensus.*

**Administrator's Report:**

**Current enrollment: 349**

**Title I Report:** School received about \$75,000 extra – they will work on revising the Title I plan.

**Student Achievement Report:** Mrs. Thatcher reported that Renaissance testing numbers were good. This year had the highest number of students tested.

**Kaumana Property Report:** Mr. Murphy gave the guest a recap of what has been happening regarding the property. Still working with AG and waiting to be put on the list to appeal the increase in rent. Momentum will be doing a pre-screen to prepare the school to apply for a USDA grant which will go towards the school build. Mr. Murphy reported that the septic system would be one of the first things to be built.

**Other Items:**

*Mr. Murphy reported that they are currently working on getting the website's soft launch up in 1.5 weeks. There has also been a social media group created, consisting of Kris Kua, Pamela Thatcher, and Selden Piper. They are hoping to use social media to market the school and connect with the public.*

*Mr. Murphy reported on the student incident that occurred on September 15, 2023 at approximately 1pm. Altercation began when the student in question made a comment to a student that was already upset. Altercation escalated, security became involved, student then had an altercation with security. Administration had manifestation and guardians want to take student to Hilo High. Mr. Murphy is in contact with the AG to make sure everything is being handled correctly. Members and guest discussed.*

*Mr. Garcia adjourned the meeting at 5:16*

**Next Meeting:** October 16, 2023 at 3:15 pm.

**Adjournment:** 5:16

**Respectfully submitted by:**

**Mr. Romeo Garcia**

*Connections Governing Board Chair*