

Connections Public Charter School

Governing Board Minutes

September 25, 2024

Kress Building 3:15 pm

Call to Order: Mr. Murphy called the meeting to order at 3:23 pm.

Members Present: Romeo Garcia, Damon Murphy, Clint Kolyer, Nalu Tufui, Pam Thatcher, Christina Wilbourn

Members Absent: Michael Fischer, Joanna Highstein,

Guests: Cheryl Gravela, Cade Loftin, PJ Foehr, John (JP) Thoma, John Woolverton (Xiomara Mejia as Recorder)

Public Comment: None

Approval of Agenda: Members reviewed the draft agenda for the September 25, 2024 meeting. *A motion was made by Mr. Kolyer to approve the agenda with the following amendment: moving the operations report to administrative report for September 25, 2024. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Tufui and was approved with consensus. Mrs. Wilbourn abstained.*

Approval of Minutes August 14, 2024 meeting: Members reviewed the minutes from meeting on August 14, 2024.

A motion was made by Mr. Murphy to approve the August 14, 2024 minutes as presented. Members discussed the minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Tufui and was approved with consensus. Ms. Wilbourn and Mr. Garcia abstained.

Approval of New Members: None. Mr. Thoma, one of today's guest, is interested in joining the board. He would be a community representative. Mr. Thoma introduced himself to the members. Members discussed.

Election of Officers: Mr. Garcia is recommending Ms. Tufui serve as board treasurer.

A motion was made by Mr. Murphy to approve Ms. Tufui as treasurer. Members discussed. Ms. Tufui informed the members that she interested in taking the position and has already started working with Ms. Gravela on reviewing financials. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kolyer and was approved with consensus. Mrs. Wilbourn abstained.

Food Program Update: None

Public Input: None.

Correspondence & Communication: Mr. Murphy received a letter from HSTA regarding a grievance against Connections PCS. The letter states that HSTA has filed a grievance regarding the missed payments to our DOE teachers. Members discussed. Mr. Foehr recommends that Mr. Murphy reach out to the AG Thomason regarding this matter.

Commission School Lead Report: Mr. Foehr informed members that the Framework teams have begun their school visits. Mr. Foehr, per Mrs. Thatcher's request for clarification, informed members that any

queries regarding labor should be directed to AG Thomason, and all other queries should be directed to AG Richardson.

Old Business: none

New Business:

Approval of New Substitute Teachers: Mr. Loftin is requesting approval for Sara Nolan and Cassie Gault, pending verification of paperwork, as general education substitutes. He is also requesting approval for Kaleinani Kahananui, currently a TSEAS sub, as a general education substitute.

A motion was made by Mrs. Thatcher to approve Sara Nola, Cassie Gault, and Kaleinani Kahananui as substitutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Murphy and approved with consensus. Mrs. Wilbourn

Review and Revision of Governing Board Policies: none

Administrator Evaluation: Mr. Garcia reported that Mr. Loftin, Mr. Murphy, and Mr. Woolverton had their evaluations completed. They all received favorable evaluations. Members discussed.

A motion was made by Ms. Tufui to accept and approve the evaluations for Mr. Loftin, Mr. Murphy, and Mr. Woolverton. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kolyer and was approved with consensus. Mrs. Thatcher abstained.

Computer Science report: Mr. Murphy updated members on Scratch. State has mandated that computer science be offered to K-12. Mr. Thatcher has come in and spent time with teachers and student the program to get everyone acclimated. Elementary teachers have given great feedback regarding the program, and secondary is still working on it. A technology committee was created in response to a secondary teacher suggesting Scratch might be too easy for secondary students.

A motion was made by Mr. Murphy to approve the continual use of Scratch, reaffirming the board's approval, as it aligns with the HSTA contract Article XIII under the Academic Freedom section. Members and guest discussed. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kolyer and was approved with consensus. Mrs. Wilbourn abstained.

Administrator's Report:

Current enrollment: 358, with a possibility of 7 more coming in.

Title I Report: Mrs. Thatcher reported they just had a Title I meeting. Ms. Gravela reported that they were notified of the actual allocation, so she will revise the budget. Mrs. Thatcher is working on a report due next week for last school year. She also gave an overview on attendance and states that there is a huge improvement with student attendance this year.

Student Achievement Report: None, but future meetings will include more student achievement data.

Kaumana Property Report:

Mr. Murphy informed members that he just had a meeting with Mr. Kua and John Pippin, from Land Planning Hawaii regarding the Kaumana Community Meeting taking place tomorrow, September 26, 2024 at 5:30pm. Mr. Garcia, Mr. Murphy and Mr. Kua will be in

attendance. This meeting will serve as a time to communicate with the community where we are with the Kaumana property plans. In the future, they would like to have an open house at the property so community members can see the property for themselves. Members discussed.

Mr. Silva, the farm manager, was hurt trying to clear out the horse's hoof. Tagi Gorg, a PPT, has some husbandry experience, and is willing to help. Mr. Murphy is thinking about contracting her out to begin the horse's continual care.

Other Items: Mr. Murphy reported that Mr. Woolverton is working on growing school sports. The school colors have been finalized: brown, light green, and silver. The school mascot is an 'io. Mr. Woolverton will work on implementing these changes into the various sports uniforms.

Mr. Murphy informed members that there are a lot of referral being submitted. They are working with the complex district on getting Ci3t, a tiered intervention program, rolled out soon.

Mr. Murphy informed members that there are currently 4 complex employees rotating through the school to help with the behavioral issues taking place.

Operations Report:

Operations Status - Financial Officer's Report:

Members reviewed the financial statements for August 2024. Ms. Gravela went over the report with members. She highlighted staff travel – Mr. Murphy, another staff member and a student, will be going to St Paul, MN for RemixED conference. This is the school that we are working with regarding building a recording studio in the building in the future. Ms. Gravela highlighted a couple negatives. First, in reimbursables, informed members that this is a refund for the cabling E-rate project. Received \$42,049 back, only spent about \$9,545 in updating the network system. Second, in networking / telecommunication took out \$9545 and capitalized network cabling project as a building improvement. Ms. Gravela informed members that student transportation was high because they had to take the bus in again to get fixed. She is recommending purchasing a new bus soon. Will be receiving a HCNP grant of \$18,000 – purchased a nigiri maker and will be reimbursed once the grant money comes in.

Approval of Financial Statements:

A motion was made by Mr. Murphy to approve the August 2024 financial statements. The motion was seconded by Ms. Tufui and was approved with consensus. Mrs. Wilbourn abstained.

Mr. Garcia adjourned the meeting at 4:58 pm.

Next Meeting: October 16, 2024 at 3:15 pm.

Adjournment: 4:58 pm

Respectfully submitted by:

Mr. Romeo Garcia

Connections Governing Board Chair