

Connections Public Charter School

Governing Board Minutes

August 29, 2023

Kress Building 3:15 pm

Call to Order: Mr. Garcia called the meeting to order at 3:22 pm.

Members Present: Romeo Garcia, Kirk Bailey, Pam Thatcher, Damon Murphy, Christina Wilbourn, Gerald Taber
(Xiomara Mejia, Recorder)

Members Absent: Libby Oshiyama, Anna Madrid, Michael Fischer

Guests: Cade Loftin, Nalu Tufui, John Woolverton

Approval of Agenda: Members reviewed the draft agenda for the August 29, 2023 meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Bailey to approve the agenda for August 29, 2023 as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Murphy and was approved with consensus.

Approval of Minutes July 24, 2023 meeting: Members reviewed the minutes from meeting on July 24, 2023.

A motion was made by Ms. Wilbourn to approve the July 24, 2023 minutes. Members discussed the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Murphy and was approved with consensus, with Mr. Taber abstaining due to last month's absence.

Approval of New Members:

Mr. Murphy recommended parent Nalu Tufui to join the board. Members discussed. A motion was made by Mr. Murphy for Mrs. Tufui to join the board as a new parent member. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bailey and was approved with consensus.

Election of Officers:

Mrs. Thatcher asked for clarification regarding hers and Ms. Wilbourn's roles on the board, as they have now served for their 2-year term. Members discussed. Mr. Garcia will send out an email to staff to gauge the interest in the teacher and support roles.

Mr. Murphy stated that a treasurer is needed on the board and gauged the present member's interest. Members discussed.

Food Program Update:

Mr. Bailey said he spoke with Mr. Salmoiraghi and he reported that today's breakfast was the biggest one they have had so far.

Ms. Wilbourn stated the need to have a wellness committee meeting in order to stay compliant. Members discussed. Mr. Garcia recommended speaking with the head of the committee about meeting before the next governing board meeting.

Public Input: none

Correspondence & Communication: none

Commission School Lead Report: none

Old Business:

McRel Update: Mr. Murphy stated there was nothing to report.

New Business:

Approval of New Substitute Teachers:

Mr. Loftin recommended Cynthia Hathaway and Johnny Anderson who are both on TSEAS, as substitutes pending any paperwork. A motion was made Mr. Bailey to approve Ms. Hathaway and Mr. Anderson as substitutes. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Thatcher and was approved with consensus.

Approval of Staff List SY 23-24:

Mr. Murphy brought forward the Staff List for this school year. Members reviewed and discussed.

A motion was made by Mr. Taber to approve the SY 23-24 Staff List. The motion was seconded by Mr. Murphy and approved with a majority vote from Mr. Garcia, Mr. Bailey, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Taber, Mrs. Thatcher and Mrs. Tufui, with Ms. Wilbourn abstaining.

Review and Revision of Governing Board Policies: Student Dress and Conduct Guideline and Complaint Policy Update.

Student Dress and Conduct Guideline:

Mr. Woolverton brought forward the updated and student led/created dress guideline, which was created using a different school's guidelines as a roadmap. Mr. Murphy clarified the reason he wanted get students involved was because he wanted student input and the current student group seemed capable. Mr. Woolverton proposed that members take the draft guideline home and review it carefully. Mr. Garcia agreed and stated there will be a vote on it at the next meeting.

Complaint Policy Update:

Mr. Murphy is recommending an update to the current complaint policy. Ms. Ka'ai from the Charter School Commission is recommending the reworking of "no anonymous complaints will be received" part of the complaint policy. Mr. Murphy is recommending that it be removed it from the current policy. Members discussed.

A motion was made by Mr. Murphy to approve the updated complaint policy with the removal of "no anonymous complaints will be received." The motion was seconded by Mrs. Thatcher and was approved by consensus.

Operations Report:

Operations Status - Financial Officer's Report:

Members reviewed the financial statements for July 2023. Ms. Gravela discussed the report and addressed members' questions. Items highlighted were from the budget column: Ms. Gravela's first attempt to plug in all things sources of income that will be received. She also clarified that the budget was projected with enrollment at 360, but was actually developed with enrollment at 345. Members discussed.

Approval of Financial Statements:

A motion was made by Mrs. Tufui to approve the Financial Statement for July 2023. The motion was seconded by Ms. Wilbourn and was approved with consensus.

Administrator's Report:

Current enrollment: 346

Title I Report: *Mr. Murphy reminded members that there is a database currently being worked on, as mentioned last meeting.*

Student Achievement Report: none

Kaumana Property Report: *Mr. Murphy reported that the AG is working on getting the school on the list to appeal DLNR raising the rent.*

Mr. Murphy also reported that they're looking at possibly hiring a second person to work on the property starting in October.

Mr. Murphy reported that Mr. Griffin from Momentum will help prepare us apply for a USDA grant to get money towards budling on the property.

Mr. Garcia asked what school activity is happening on Kaumana. There are currently some high school students working up there for credit, with middle school and elementary classes going up as well. Members discussed.

Other Items:

Mr. Murphy reported a complaint from a parent regarding the use of security wands to detect any vape items. He stated that it is only used when there is probable cause and aligns with chapter 19. Mr. Murphy asked the AG advice, who then suggested that board decide to include the use of security wands in the discipline policy. Mr. Murphy will work on changes and bring to next board meeting.

Mr. Woolverton brought forward an update after this month's COVID outbreak. The Department of Health are offering to have someone from the Department come and do a walk-through of the building to make sure it is COVID safe. They are also requiring him to provide information on the students and staff who reported COVID positive. Mr. Woolverton stated that they were stressing this was mandatory. He asked them to clarify and show him that statute that states that – 321-29 epidemiologic investigations. Mr. Woolverton asked the AG if this would violate any FERPA rights. As per AG advice, the state could ask of this, and he would have to report. Mr. Woolverton will ask them for a formal notification in order to provide any information. Members discussed.

Mr. Garcia adjourned the meeting at 5:04pm.

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

Adjournment: 5:04pm

Respectfully submitted by:

Mr. Romeo Garcia

Connections Governing Board Chair