

Connections Public Charter School

Governing Board Minutes

December 18, 2023

Kress Building 3:15 pm

Call to Order: Mr. Garcia called the meeting to order at 3:19pm.

Members Present: Romeo Garcia, Pam Thatcher, Damon Murphy, Nalu Tufui, Joanna Highstein, Clint Kolyer

Members Absent: Gerald Taber, Michael Fischer, Christina Wilbourn

Guests: Cheryl Gravela, John Woolverton, (Xiomara Mejia as Recorder)

Approval of Agenda: Members reviewed the draft agenda for the December 18, 2023 meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Kolyer to approve the agenda for December 18, 2023 as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Thatcher and was approved with consensus.

Approval of Minutes November 20, 2023 meeting: Members reviewed the minutes from meeting on November 20, 2023.

A motion was made by Mrs. Highstein to approve the November 20, 2023 minutes as presented. Members discussed the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Tufui and was approved with consensus. Mrs. Thatcher abstained due to absence from last month's meeting.

Approval of New Members: none

Election of Officers: none

Food Program Update: none

Public Input: none

Correspondence & Communication: none

Commission School Lead Report: none

Old Business: none

New Business:

Approval of New Substitute Teachers: none

Review and Revision of Governing Board Policies: Mr. Murphy and Ms. Gravela presented a request for a change in the current Procurement Policy. They are suggesting a revision to language in sections 6-8 to state "more than \$10,000" rather than "\$10,000 or more", to have a consistency of wording in sections 5-8. Members discussed justification for this change.

A motion was made by Mr. Kolyer to approve to change in language to the Procurement Policy, sections 6-8, with the change being “more than \$10,000.” The motion was seconded by Mrs. Highstein and was approved with consensus.

Operations Report:

Operations Status - Financial Officer’s Report:

Members reviewed the financial statements for November 2023. Ms. Gravela stated there was nothing of concern and answered members questions. Members discussed.

Approval of Financial Statements:

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

Ms. Gravela presented updated lists of check signers for approval. The new signers for the Account 90-034820: Damon Murphy, Brian Herr, Pamela Thatcher, Kristen Kua, Travis Prose, Cade Loftin, and Jason Schwerdtfeger.

The new signers for Account 90-061984: Cade Loftin, John Woolverton, Shinji Salmoiraghi, and Damon Murphy.

A motion was made by Mrs. Highstein to approve the list as presented by Ms. Gravela. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kolyer and was approved with consensus.

Administrator's Report:

Current enrollment: 341

Title I Report: Mr. Murphy reported that tomorrow, December 19 2023, there will be a meeting to begin the review of items submitted under Title I.

Student Achievement Report: none

Kaumana Property Report: none

Other Items:

Mr. Murphy reported that he and Mr. Garcia both met with the EEOC regarding the ethic complaints about previous administrators. Mr. Murphy and Mr. Garcia both reported the meeting went well, and they will continue to work with the EEOC.

Mr. Murphy highlighted that Connections was in the paper because of the Phoenix Rising Variety Show and reported that the show did well. He also reported that Connections wrestling team had a meet on Saturday and they did well, along with the paddling team, who placed 3rd in their race.

Mr. Murphy stated that they are looking to start teams for both basketball and volleyball next semester.

Mr. Murphy also reported that Gustave Highstein is willing to do a ping pong class for free. They are working out the logistical aspects of the plan.

Mr. Murphy also reported that Mallory Sankofa will be taking the Social Studies teaching position for next semester. She will begin in January. Mr. Murphy thanked Mrs. Wilbourn who has been working really hard to help students keep learning.

Mr. Garcia thanked the Staff and students who were involved in the Variety show last week.

Mr. Garcia noted that at the next meeting we will be going over the SRO proposal to use a police officer as a resource. Mrs. Anderson, one of Connections' SpEd teachers, will be submitting the proposal prior to the January meeting.

Mr. Garcia adjourned the meeting 3:55pm

Next Meeting: January 22, 2024 at 3:15 pm.

Adjournment: 3:55pm

Respectfully submitted by:

Mr. Romeo Garcia

Connections Governing Board Chair