

Connections Public Charter School

Governing Board Minutes

February 18, 2026

Kress Building 3:15 pm

Call to Order: Ms. Wilbourn called the meeting to order at 3:38 pm

Members Present: Damon Murphy, Christina Wilbourn, Nalu Tufui, Pam Thatcher, Heather McDaniel

Members Absent: Joanna Highstein, Romeo Garcia, Clint Kolyer, Sherri Kolman

Guests: Cheryl Gravela

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

Public Comment: none

Approval of Agenda: Members reviewed the agenda for the February 18, 2026 meeting.

A motion was made by Mrs. Thatcher to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Tufui and was approved with consensus.

Approval of Minutes for January 21, 2026 meeting: Members reviewed the minutes from the meeting on January 21, 2026.

A motion was made by Mrs. Thatcher to approve the January 21, 2026 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Tufui and was approved with consensus.

Correspondence & Communication:

Mr. Murphy reported on communication with the AG concerning UPW events. He is standing by until called on to participate.

Commission School Lead Report: none

Old Business: none

New Business:

Approval of New Substitute Teachers: Mr. Murphy provided names of Art Sherry, Carrie Edgil, and Kaylee Kawa'ahau to be added to the list of substitute teachers, pending acceptable background checks.

A motion was made by Mrs. McDaniel to add three people to the list of substitute teachers, pending acceptable background checks. The motion was seconded by Ms. Wilbourn and was approved with consensus.

Review of Governing Board Policies: none

Operations Report:

Financial Officer's Report: Ms. Gravela provided the financial reports. Notable items were addressed, including new funds. Members discussed the items.

A motion was made by Ms. Wilbourn to accept the financial report. The motion was seconded by Mrs. McDaniel and was approved with consensus.

Administrator's Report:

Current enrollment: 330. Mr. Murphy provided information on strategies in place to increase enrollment.

Federal Programs Report: Mrs. Thatcher reported that funds were approved for CSI.

Student Achievement Report: Mrs. Thatcher reported on STAR testing challenges, and some suggestions for alternate testing platforms. Mr. Murphy reported on some new initiatives.

Kaumana Property Report: none

Performance, Growth and Accreditation Initiatives Report: Mr. Murphy reported that the Cognia report is near completion.

Administrators' Evaluations Report: Mr. Murphy provided a letter from Mr. Thatcher proposing that the Board rescind the motion from the November 2025 Governing Board meeting regarding administrative evaluations, and a recommendation to consider and discuss a motion with language better aligned with the Cognia agreement, and with Governing Board Bylaws.

A motion was made by Mrs. McDaniel to rescind the following motion from the November Board meeting:

“Administrators' Evaluations: Mr. Thatcher reported on the C-CESSA (Connections-Comprehensive Evaluation System for School Administrators) instrument for the Governing Board to evaluate administrators. Details will be available in a link provided by Mr. Garcia.

A motion was made by Ms. Wilbourn to approve implementation of a subcommittee of the Governing Board to make evaluation recommendations to the full Board, consisting of Mr. Garcia, Mr. Kolyer and Ms. Kolman. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kolman and was approved by majority vote, with Mr. Murphy recusing.”

The motion to rescind the prior motion was seconded by Ms. Tufui, and was approved with consensus.

A motion was made by Ms. Tufui to approve the implementation of a subcommittee of the Governing Board, headed by Board Chair Mr. Garcia, to make evaluation recommendations regarding the Chief Educational Officer/Director of Operations (Damon Murphy) to the full Board. The Director of Operations will evaluate Deputy Directors. The motion was seconded by Ms. Wilbourn and was approved with consensus.

Other Items: none

Next Meeting: March 25, 2026 at 3:15 pm.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Mr. Romeo Garcia

Connections Governing Board Chair