

**Connections Public Charter School**

**Governing Board Minutes**

**January 15, 2025**

**Kress Building 3:15 pm**

**Call to Order:** Mr. Garcia called the meeting to order at 3:25 pm.

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

**Members Absent:** Michael Fischer, Clint Kolyer, Joanna Highstein

**Guests:** Cheryl Gravela, Cade Loftin, John Woolverton, Romona Ridley, Xiomara Mejia (recorder)

**Public Comment:** None

**Approval of Agenda:** Members reviewed the agenda for the January 15, 2025 meeting.

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

**Approval of Minutes for November 20, 2024 meeting:** Members reviewed the minutes from meeting on November 20, 2024.

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

**Approval of New Members:** none

**Elections of Officers:** None

**Food Program Update:** Mr. Murphy reported that Mr. Schwerdtfeger, the kitchen manager, is currently working with the Kaumana property employees on planning which fresh fruits and vegetables they're able to provide. Members discussed.

**Correspondence & Communication:** Mr. Murphy received communication from the Department of the Attorney General regarding the new AG for labor: Elbridge Z. Smith. He will reach out to him to set up an introduction.

**Commission School Lead Report:** None

**Old Business:** Mr. Murphy gave members an update regarding the grievance about our DOE paid teachers not receiving their \$2500 probationary period bonus after their 3<sup>rd</sup> year. All teachers that qualified have now received the bonus. He is hoping this brings the grievance closer to resolution. Members discussed.

## New Business:

**Approval of New Substitute Teachers: Mr. Loftin is requesting approval for two potential new hires as substitute teachers: Kai Melendez, Andrea Bonilla. Pending paperwork, Mr. Loftin is asking for approval for substituting positions.**

*A motion was made by Mrs. Thatcher to approve Kai Melendez and Andrea Bonilla as substitutes. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Wilbourn and was approved by consensus.*

**Mr. Murphy informed members of his recent connections with OK farms.**

*He is working with them regarding internships for students with the potential of becoming paid positions. Mr. Murphy has already been able to place one student in the internship program.*

**Approval of SY25-26 Calendar**

*Mr. Murphy gave members each a copy of the proposed calendar for SY25-26. Members discussed. A motion was made by Mrs. McDaniel to approve the SY25-26 Calendar as shown. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Thatcher and was approved with consensus.*

**Approval of SY24-25 Calendar Revision: Commencement Date**

*Mr. Murphy gave members each a copy of the revised proposed calendar for SY24-25. The revision is the date for Commencement from May 17, 2025 to May 18, 2025. This change of date is due to the unavailability of the Afook-Chinen Civic Auditorium on May 17, 2025. Members discussed.*

*A motion was made by Ms. Tufui to approve the revised SY24-25 calendar, with the changed commencement date from May 17, 2025 to May 18, 2025. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Thatcher and was approved with consensus.*

## Operations Report:

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

*Members reviewed the financial statements for November and December 2024. Ms. Gravela discussed the report with members. She highlighted a few items, beginning with the receipt of the second per pupil, as well as the receipt of Impact Aid, which was \$17,000 more than originally expected. Under Expenses – Title I chrome books and laptops in student expenses: purchased approximately 20 laptops, 74 chrome books. Extra-curricular – Variety Show, Imiloa trip, and PBIS. Ms. Gravela also updated members about the incoming TANF grant. They had to reschedule the initial meeting to next week to get clarification on grant. Once they receive clarification, all sports will fall under TANF. Members discussed*

**Approval of Financial Statements:**

*A motion was made by Ms. Tufui to approve the November and December 2024 financial statements. The motion was seconded by Mrs. McDaniel and was approved with consensus.*

**Security Camera Replacement and Upgrade: Mr. Murphy presented a proposal to update the Security System.**

*Mr. Murphy gave members each a copy of a proposal from Thatchtech to update the school's security system. Justification for this is that the current software is very difficult to work with. The proposed software will also be compatible with the now updated Network. Mr. Murphy stated the software is more user friendly and accessible. He also stated that there is a possibility for an extra cost due to Mr. Woolverton's request to have a camera facing the Bayfront parking lot. The current camera items can be used at the property once the network there has been set up. Members discussed*

*A motion was made by Mrs. Wilbourn to approve the proposal from Thatchtech for \$18,000 for the Security Camera Replacement and Upgrade. Members discussed. The motion was seconded by Ms. Tufui and was approved with consensus, with Mrs. Thatcher recusing herself.*

### **Administrator's Report:**

**Current enrollment: 353.** Regarding enrollment, Mr. Murphy is wanting to adjust incoming potential students' tours to include an interview setting to see if the school is a good fit for the student and if we would be able to correctly provide any accommodations. Members discussed.

#### **Title I Report/Student Achievement Report:**

*Mrs. Thatcher informed members that Title I report is going well, she is working Indicator 1 and 4. She also reported that according to Title I reports, there has been a decrease in reading scores compared to last school year. They are implementing more reading intervention and completing more testing.*

#### **Other Items:**

**Mr. Murphy** advised members that starting on January 21, 2025, Gabriella Bush, a licensed counselor, will begin her employment. He believes that she will be a great asset to the staff and students. Ms. Bush will need a secure area, so he is working on getting a small cubicle like structure that will have soundproofing. Mrs. Wilbourn shared a concern about possibility of the soundproofing not working. Members discussed.

**Kaumana Property Report:** Mr. Murphy reported that there are 2 students that have hit the 10-day exclusion mark, and they are now at the property throughout the day. Mr. White is working with them on curriculum and building geodesical domes. Members discussed.

**Mr. Murphy** informed members that the flat-nose bus has once again broken down and is being serviced. Ms. Gravela informed members that she is waiting on a quote from a school bus contact for a new bus. If this plan does not work, Mr. Murphy would like to look into purchasing new van. Members discussed.

**Mr. Murphy** is trying to get in contact with John Pippin to set up second open house at the property. He is planning on holding it by the end of February.

**Mr. Garcia** informed members that a reporter from Tribune Herald emailed wanting to get some answers regarding the property. Mr. Murphy is currently working on getting those questions answered.

**Murphy** had an inquiry from a past employee regarding if those that received the Temporary Hazard Pay will receive a W-2. Ms. Gravela stated that they will all receive a W-2 as THP was a form of payment.

**Mr. Murphy** received a request from a student asking if they were able to bring their service dog to campus, beginning this Friday. The service dog is currently in training and is being trained to cue the student to stop stimming. Mrs. Wilbourn believes that dog must be fully trained. Mr. Murphy will reach out to the AG for a consult. His concern is other students with phobias or dog allergies. The two options Mr. Murphy is considering are: 1. present to the AG and go along with his suggestion, or 2. allow the student to bring the service dog in on Friday but be limited to a specific area. Members and guest discussed. Mr. Murphy and members agree that option 1 will be the best option with the timing of the situation.

**Mr. Murphy asked Ms. Ridley to share some updates on APC contractual information and dates. She gave each of the members an information sheet which included information regarding teacher protection, transfers, teaching lines, and a tentative master schedule. Ms. Ridley also informed members that she is trying to get Tiffany Dela Cruz at the next APC meeting, to clarify any questions. Members and guest discussed.**

**Mr. Garcia adjourned the meeting at 4:47.**

**Next Meeting: February 19 at 3:15 pm.**

**Adjournment: 4:47 pm**

**Respectfully submitted by:**

**Mr. Romeo Garcia**

***Connections Governing Board Chair***