

Connections Public Charter School

Governing Board Minutes

January 21, 2026

Kress Building 3:15 pm

Call to Order: Ms. Wilbourn called the meeting to order at 3:42 pm

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

Members Absent: Joanna Highstein, Romeo Garcia, Clint Kolyer

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 January 21, 2026 meeting.

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

Approval of Minutes for December 17, 2025 meeting: Members reviewed the minutes from the meeting on December 17, 2025.

A motion was made by Ms. Kolman to approve the December 17, 2025 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Thatcher and was approved with consensus.

Correspondence & Communication:

Mr. Murphy reported on-communication with the AG concerning-UPW events:

1: The Settlement Hearing is scheduled for tomorrow for a claim by a former employee for whom two prior settlements have been made.

2: Mr. Murphy will be prepped for deposition by AG on January 26, for the complaint to the HLRB. Date TBD for arbitration on Oahu.

Mr. Murphy reported that HSTA items and dates are still pending.

Commission School Lead Report: none

Old Business: none

New Business:

Approval of New Substitute Teachers: none

Review of Governing Board Policies: Ms. Wilbourn asked about student assignment requirement for students who are not on campus due to disciplinary action. Members agreed that this is a management issue and does not require a Board policy.

Operations Report:

Financial Officer's Report: Ms. Gravela provided the financial reports. Notable items were addressed, and members discussed the items.

Members recessed for 10 minutes. 4:10-4:20

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

Administrator's Report:

Current enrollment: 344

Mr. Murphy presented the proposed SY 2026-2027 Calendar. Members had received the draft prior to the meeting for review.

A motion was made by Mrs. McDaniel to approve the SY 2026-2027 Calendar. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kolman and was approved with consensus.

Title I Report: Mrs. Thatcher reported that the CSI plan was approved by the federal monitor. Some details of the plan were shared and discussed. Goals for growth from Fall to Winter were met. Funds have been allocated, and an application for funds for our plan will be submitted, based on the \$107,000 estimate. Mr. Murphy, Ms. Gravela and Mrs. Thatcher will meet to develop a budget on January 29.

Student Achievement Report: Mr. Murphy referred to the Title I Report.

Kaumana Property Report: Mr. Murphy reported on farm challenges. Improvement is needed for student participation. Development of bee project is being explored. The Micronesian Alliance project is set to start this week. The Hydroponic Project is underway.

Food Service Program Update: none

Performance, Growth and Accreditation Initiatives Report: Mr. Murphy reported that Cognia may join WASC. Mr. Murphy met with our accreditation contact from Cognia, and will meet again.

Administrators' Evaluations Report: Mr. Murphy provided the Professional Development Plans (PDPs) for each of the four administrators. Members reviewed and discussed the plans.

A motion was made Ms. Kolman to approve the PDP for Director (currently Mr. Murphy). The motion was seconded by Ms. Wilbourn and was approved with consensus.

A motion was made by Mrs. McDaniel to approve the PDP for Deputy Director of Business Management (currently Ms. Gravela). The motion was seconded by Ms. Tufui and was approved with consensus.

A motion was made by Ms. Wilbourn to approve the PDP for Deputy Director of Organizational and Extracurricular Programs (currently Mr. Woolverton). The motion was seconded by Ms. Kolman and was approved with consensus.

A motion was made by Ms. Tufui to approve the PDP for Deputy Director of Special Education (currently Mr. Loftin). The motion was seconded by Ms. Wilbourn and was approved with consensus.

Mr. Murphy abstained from the voting.

Other Items: Land Planning Partners group, with whom we have been working toward development of the Kaumana Property, has dissolved. John Pippin from the group will continue with the project. The new contract was provided for signature and Mr. Murphy signed it as designee for Mr. Garcia on behalf of the Board.

Next Meeting: February 18, 2026 at 3:15 pm.

Adjournment: Ms. Wilbourn adjourned the meeting at 5:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Mr. Romeo Garcia

Connections Governing Board Chair