Connections Public Charter School

Governing Board Minutes

July 22, 2026

Kress Building 3:15 pm

Call to Order: Mr. Garcia called the meeting to order at 3:36 pm

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

Members Absent: Joanna Highstein

Guests: Kathleen Booth

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

Public Input: none

Approval of Agenda: *A motion was made by Mr. Kolyer to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Thatcher and was approved with consensus.*

Approval of Minutes for June 10, 2026 meeting: Members reviewed the minutes from the meeting on June 10, 2026.
A motion was made by Ms. Tufui to approve the June 10, 2026 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Wilbourn and was approved with consensus.

Correspondence & Communication: none

Commission School Lead Report: none

New Business:

Seating of Board Members for SY 2026-2027: Members discussed nominations for role group members.
A motion was made by Mrs. McDaniel to approve the following role group representatives for SY 2026-2027:
Romeo Garcia , Community Representative
Damon Murphy, Director (non-voting)
Christina Wilbourn, Support Staff Representative
Sherri Kolman, Community Representative
Nalu Tufui, Parent Representative
Clint Kolyer, Community Representative
Heather McDaniel, Community Representative
Kathy Booth, Teacher Representative
The motion was seconded by Ms. Wilbourn and was approved with consensus.
The administrative representative is pending further discussion at the August meeting.

Seating of Board Officers for SY 2026-2027: Members discussed nominations for officers.

A motion was made by Ms. Tufui to seat Mr. Garcia as Board Chair for SY 2026-2027. The motion was seconded by Mrs. McDaniel and was approved with consensus.

A motion was made by Mrs. McDaniel to seat Ms. Tufui as Board Financial Officer for SY 2026-2027. The motion was seconded by Ms. Wilbourn and was approved with consensus.

A motion was made by Ms. Tufui to seat Mrs. McDaniel as Board Secretary for SY 2026-2027. The motion was seconded by Ms. Wilbourn and was approved with consensus.

Members heard from two candidates for Vice Chair and took a vote, which ended in a tie. Another vote will be taken at the next meeting in August.

Approval of New Substitute Teachers: Ms. Wilbourn brought three candidates for adding to the list of substitute teachers: Tiare Llacuna, Hayley Kocur-Ford, Emily Spadaccino.
A motion was made by Ms. Wilbourn to add the three names to the list of substitute teachers, pending appropriate background check results. The motion was seconded by Ms. Tufui and was approved with consensus.

Review of Governing Board Policies: Ms. Wilbourn presented a revision to the Attendance Policy, to provide clarification current policy, align with CSI and Strive High points, and encourage better attendance.
A motion was made by Ms*. Kolman to approve the Attendance Policy Revision. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kolyer. Mr. Garcia discussed processes in place regarding administrative court appearance protocols, and what interventions are being implemented prior to court intervention. The motion was approved with consensus.*

Continuing Business: none

Operations Report:

Financial Officer's Report: Financial documents have been reviewed by Governing Board Financial Officer Ms. Tufui. Ms. Gravela provided the Operations Statements for May and June, and addressed notable items. Also presented was the projected budget for SY26-27. Notable items were addressed and discussed, particularly the proposed budget as enrollment will affect the funding..
A motion was made by Ms. Kolman to approve the Financial Statements for May, 2026. The motion was seconded by Ms. Tufui and was approved with consensus.
A motion was made by Ms. Wilbourn to approve the Financial Statements for June, 2026. The motion was seconded by Mrs. McDaniel and was approved with consensus.
A motion was made by Ms. Kolman to approve the Projected Budget for SY 2026-2027. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Booth and was approved with consensus.

Administrator's Report:

Current enrollment: 298

Charter Schools Board Training Report: Mr. Murphy reported on notable potential changes to financial practices and board membership, and more frequent reports from the director.

Mr. Kolyer reported that he recognized that there is more that he would like to know about Board participation.
Ms. Tufui reported that she has a better understanding of the distinction between management and governance, and of how important it is to be familiarwith the Board's Bylaws.
Mrs. Booth expressed greater appreciation for the role of Director, and the need to learn more about operations and Board governance.
Mr. Garcia Romeo: expressed recognizing the value of Dr. Carpenter's handbook of best practices.
Ms. Wilbourn (who was unable to attend at the last minute due to illness, but has participated in online Board trainings) expressed the importance of members' familiarity with union contracts.

Charter Schools Network Report: Mr. Murphy reported on CPCS awards for Due Diligence, for Kuleana for financial responsibility, and for taking part in the Commission's Score Card.

Federal Programs Report: Mrs. Thatcher reported the CSI report was submitted and is pending approval. Funds requested: $160,000.

Student Achievement Report: Mrs. Thatcher reported science scores and math scores have increased, and ELA scores are down. Essential points are improving attendance, improving math and ELA performance, and maintaining positive graduation rate.

Performance, Growth and Accreditation Initiatives Report: Mr. Murphy reported that we have a new representative for COGNIA, and will meet next week. Connections will be pursuing a two year process.

Administrators' Evaluations Report: *Mr. Murphy made a motion to go into executive session at 5:29 for the purpose of presenting the administrative evaluation summaries for Mr. Woolverton, Mr. Loftin and Ms. Gravela. The motion was seconded by Ms. Wilbourn and was approved with consensus.*
A motion was made by Mr. Murphy to go out of executive session at 5:34. The motion was seconded by Ms. Wilbourn and was approved with consensus.
Mr. Garcia is conducting the evaluation of Mr. Murphy, which will conclude after the opening of the new school year (one of the metrics for that role).

Next Meeting: August 19, 2026 at 3:15 pm.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:35pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Mr. Romeo Garcia

Connections Governing Board Chair