

Connections Public Charter School

Governing Board Minutes

July 24, 2023

Kress Building 3:15 pm

Call to Order: Mr. Bailey called the meeting to order at 3:23pm.

Members Present: Kirk Bailey, Pam Thatcher, Damon Murphy, Christina Wilbourn, Michael Fischer, Anna Madrid
(Xiomara Mejia, Recorder)

Members Absent: Gerald Taber, Libby Oshiyama

Guests: Cheryl Gravela, John Woolverton, Cade Loftin, Romeo Garcia, Debbie Anderson

Approval of Agenda: Members reviewed the draft agenda for the July 24, 2023 meeting.

A motion was made by Ms. Madrid to approve the agenda for July 24, 2023 with the request to amend the agenda's structure, moving the following standing items to the top: Operation Reports, and Old Business - McRel update. The motion was seconded by Ms. Wilbourn and was approved with consensus.

Approval of Minutes June 19, 2023 meeting: Members reviewed the minutes from meeting on June 19, 2023.

A motion was made by Mr. Murphy to approve the June 19, 2023 minutes. Members discussed the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bailey and was approved with consensus, with Ms. Madrid and Ms. Wilbourn abstaining due to last month's absence.

Approval of New Members:

Mr. Bailey made the recommendation for Romeo Garcia as a potential board member. A motion was made by Ms. Madrid to approve Mr. Garcia as a new board member. The motion was seconded by Ms. Wilbourn and was approved with consensus.

Election of Officers:

Mr. Bailey nominated Mike Fischer as Board chair. Members discussed and Mr. Fischer stated that he is unsure if he is able, due to family circumstances. Mr. Murphy asked him if he is willing to be Deputy Chair, and he agreed.

A motion was made by Mr. Bailey to approve Mr. Fischer as Deputy Chair. The motion was seconded by Ms. Wilbourn and was approved with consensus, with Mr. Fischer abstaining.

Mr. Murphy nominated Mr. Garcia for Governing Board Chair. Members discussed. A motion was made by Mr. Murphy to approve Mr. Garcia as Chair. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Thatcher and was approved with consensus, with Mr. Garcia abstaining.

Old Business:

McRel Update:

Mr. Murphy reported that McRel is too expensive and would not give continual help. Danielson was also too expensive. Mr. Murphy reported that Mr. Thatcher is willing to create a unique evaluation

program for Connections and will use aspects of McRel and Marzano as guidance. Mr. Thatcher's fee of \$25,000 is for creating the program, which will include trainings on 3-8 PD days, plus availability to train and assist administrators throughout the school year. This falls in line with the newly bargained HSTA contracts. He will be developing the evaluation with administrators and teachers this year. Members discussed.

A motion was made Mr. Murphy to contract Mr. Thatcher to create evaluation for teachers and administrators. The motion was seconded by Mr. Garcia and approved with consensus, with Mrs. Thatcher abstaining.

Food Program Update:

Ms. Gravela reported that the school kitchen and staff did well in the Administrative Review. Ms. Wilbourn asked for clarification between Farm to School program and kitchen's standards and use regarding any produce from the property. Ms. Gravela clarified that there was not enough equipment to help with the produce cleaning process during summertime, which is why some of the produce was not used. Members discussed.

Public Input: none

Correspondence & Communication: none

Commission School Lead Report: none

New Business:

Approval of New Substitute Teachers:

Mr. Loftin brought Paddy Daly who is TSEAS certified, Anne Liuweichen a prior PPT employee, and Teri Wisdom, pending all paperwork.

A motion was made by Mr. Murphy to approve Mr. Daly, Ms. Liuweichen, and Ms. Wisdom as substitute teachers. The motion was seconded by Mr. Garcia and was approved with consensus.

Review and Revision of Governing Board Policies: Updating Personnel Policy.

Mr. Murphy brought forward an updated Personnel Policy with changes being made in the following sections: employee evaluation, educational frameworks, and confidentiality policies. Members discussed.

Mr. Murphy made a motion to approve updated personnel policy, with the removal of "peer input" on page 13 paragraph I. The motion was seconded by Ms. Wilbourn and was approved with consensus.

Operations Report:

Operations Status - Financial Officer's Report:

Members reviewed the financial statements for June 2023. Ms. Gravela discussed the report and addressed members' questions. Noted that she has not input 10-month salaries that she needs to input from July. She noted that Salary and ESSER were negative in June due to overspending. Ms. Gravela is projecting that there will not be a loss when the report is finalized.

Ms. Gravela briefly discussed the 23-24 SY budgets. Members discussed.

Approval of Financial Statements:

A motion was made by Mr. Murphy to approve the Financial Statement for June 2023. The motion was seconded by Ms. Wilbourn and was approved with consensus.

Administrator's Report:

Current enrollment: 335

Title I Report: Mrs. Thatcher will be taking over Title I reporting this school year.

Student Achievement Report: Mr. Murphy is reporting that Mrs. Thatcher, along with Momentum, will be working on a database where student achievement can be found which will be up and running approximately in January.

Kaumana Property Report: Mr. Murphy is working with the AG to get a time to meet with the DLNR regarding the increase in rent. Starting a new application for the 15 acres with the help of Land Planning Hawaii.

Other Items:

Mr. Murphy brought forward the hiring of Debbie Anderson, a new SpEd teacher who has retired. She is requesting a form to fill out that states that the position is hard to fill, which would allow her to work full time and not lose her medical or pension. A motion was made by Mrs. Thatcher to adopt "Request for Approval of Positions" as the form. The motion was seconded by Mr. Murphy and was approved with consensus.

Mr. Bailey adjourned the meeting at 4:57pm.

Next Meeting: September 18, 2023 at 3:15 pm.

Adjournment: 4:57 pm

Respectfully submitted by:

Mr. Romeo Garcia

Connections Governing Board Chair