

Connections Public Charter School

Governing Board Minutes

March 25, 2024

Kress Building 3:15 pm

Call to Order: Mr. Garcia called the meeting to order at 3:24pm.

Members Present: Romeo Garcia, Pam Thatcher, Damon Murphy, Nalu Tufui, Clint Kolyer, Joanna Highstein

Members Absent: Michael Fischer, Christina Wilbourn

Guests: John Woolverton, Cade Loftin, (Xiomara Mejia as Recorder)

Approval of Agenda: Members reviewed the draft agenda for the March 25, 2024 meeting.

A motion was made by Ms. Tufui to approve the agenda for March 25, 2024 as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Highstein and was approved with consensus.

Approval of Minutes February 20, 2024 meeting: Members reviewed the minutes from meeting on February 20, 2024.

A motion was made by Ms. Tufui to approve the February 20, 2024 minutes as presented. Members discussed the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Highstein and was approved with consensus. Mr. Kolyer abstained due to last month's absence.

Approval of New Members: none

Election of Officers: none

Food Program Update: none

Public Input: none

Correspondence & Communication: none

Commission School Lead Report: none

Old Business: Mr. Woolverton quickly updated members that since last month's dress code guideline revision, things have been working well.

New Business:

Approval of New Substitute Teachers: Mr. Loftin is requesting approval for the following substitute teachers: Lauren Selden, Johnny Rivera, Cheri Web, and Joshua Fay.

A motion was made by Mrs. Highstein to approve Ms. Selden, Mr. Rivera, Ms. Web, and Mr. Fay as substitute teachers. The motion was seconded by Mr. Murphy and was approved with consensus.

Mr. Woolverton is still working on active threat policy and is about 90% finished. He plans for it to be ready and in PDF form within the next few days. He went over the draft briefly with members. Members discussed.

Operations Report:

Operations Status - Financial Officer's Report: None

Administrator's Report:

Current enrollment: 352. Mr. Murphy informed members that instead of spending money on radio advertisement, he will get together with media team, and use social media to advertise for SY24-25 enrollment.

Title I Report: Mrs. Thatcher briefly went over the final audit report – their one suggestion was changing the language (changing “expenditure” to “item”), which was done at the last meeting. Mrs. Thatcher reported that the next thing she will be working on is the CAP (Comprehensive Academic Plan), which is due April 15, 2024.

Student Achievement Report: Mr. Murphy reported that 2 reading interventionist were hired this school year, and because of that, reading numbers have greatly improved. Mr. Murphy is looking at finding a math interventionist for next school year. Members discussed.

Kaumana Property Report: Mr. Murphy met with the Chair of School of Education at UH Hilo, Michelle Ebersole, and was given information about an AG program. The program would help to grow the Kaumana Agricultural program by initiating a relationship with UH Hilo and their resources.

Other Items:

In his meeting with Mrs. Ebersole, Mr. Murphy was given information on who to contact regarding requesting parking in the UH Hilo Small Business parking lot.

Mr. Murphy is requesting the purchase for a mulcher needed for Kaumana property. The mulcher would cost \$17,801.04. Justification for this item is that it will make working on clearing acreage quicker on the property. The more invasive vegetation that is cleared, the more funds the school can receive from our current program through the USDA. Members discussed. A motion was made by Mrs. Thatcher to approve the purchase of a 2022 Valleytoo FX26 Mulcher for \$17,801.04. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kolyer and was approved by consensus.

Mr. Garcia shared that he, Mr. Murphy and Mrs. Thatcher attended the Welcome Reception for the new Charter School Commission Director, Dr. Ed Noh.

Mr. Woolverton attended the Police Commission meeting on March 8, 2024. He believes that he made a good argument regarding the benefits of School Resource Office. He will write an email to the mayor and councilwoman to continue to work towards this.

Mr. Woolverton reported that the plan to begin the next school year 30 minutes earlier is still being worked out. Support staff will be surveyed this week.

Mr. Woolverton updated members on the new school mascot 'io logo competition. The requirements: must have head, wings, body and kukui nut lei. Proposed school colors would be black and purple.

Mr. Garcia adjourned the meeting at 4:35pm.

Next Meeting: April 15, 2024 at 3:15 pm.

Adjournment: 4:35 pm

Respectfully submitted by:

Mr. Romeo Garcia

Connections Governing Board Chair