

Connections Public Charter School

Governing Board Minutes

May 21, 2025

Kress Building 3:15 pm

Call to Order: Mr. Garcia called the meeting to order at 3:26 pm

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

Members Absent: Michael Fischer, Nalu Tufui, Joanna Highstein

Guests: Cade Loftin, John Woolverton, Sherri Kolman, Todd Selden, Piper Selden, Deborah Anderson, Cheryl Gravela, Jay Flinkfelt

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

Public Comment: Ms. Anderson had comments regarding procurement, and the process for awarding contracts. Her comments also addressed the process for teacher evaluations. Her concerns were clarified by Ms. Gravela, referencing CPCS Procurement Policy.

Approval of Agenda: Members reviewed the agenda for the April 23, 2025 meeting.

A motion was made by Mrs. McDaniel to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kolyer and was approved with consensus.

Approval of Minutes for March 12, 2025 meeting: Members reviewed the minutes from the meeting on March 12, 2025.

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

Approval of New Members: None. Ms. Kolman was introduced and has interest in serving as a community representative.

Elections of Officers: None

Food Program Update: The program's head cook is resigning. Interviews for replacements are ongoing.

Correspondence & Communication: HSTA emailed notification of visitors to the school. They were not on the Uniserv list and were not entertained to visit that day.

Commission School Lead Report: None

Old Business: Charter School Accreditation. Mr. Murphy reviewed that the board agreed to explore Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) for accreditation. Another possible accreditor is Cognia. Expenses will be incurred with either option. Information about both organizations was shared with members. Mr. Murphy will bring an update to the next meeting.

New Business:

Approval of New Substitute Teachers: Mr. Loftin interviewed and recommended Akila Cuddalore and Kai (Fae) Melendez.

A motion was made by Mr. Kolyer to approve adding Akila Cuddalore and Kai (Fae) Melendez to Connections' substitute teacher list. The motion was seconded by Ms. Wilbourn and was approved with consensus.

SY 2025-2026 Staff Recommendations: Mr. Murphy will present the list in Executive Session. Non-members were excused.

Executive session: *A motion was made by Ms. Wilbourn at 3:55 pm to go into executive session to review and discuss the Staff Recommendations list for SY2025-2026. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Thatcher and was approved with consensus.*

A motion was made by Ms. Wilbourn at 4:31 to conclude the Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Murphy and was approved with consensus. There was no action out of the Executive Session. The list will be reviewed for approval at the June 2025 meeting.

Guest comments: Ms. Anderson reported on an email and letter she provided to Mr. Murphy. She spoke on behalf of an employee.

Ms. Selden spoke on behalf of an employee.

Student Jay Flinkfelt presented a student petition in support of an employee, and spoke on behalf of that employee.

High School Bell Schedule: Mr. Murphy shared information regarding bell schedule options for next school year. Members discussed the options. Ms. Selden commented on faculty polling regarding the bell schedule options, expressing preference for the block schedule. Ms. Anderson shared opinions on preference for existing block schedule. The block schedule will be retained according to faculty preference, in adherence to the teachers' contract.

Operations Report:

Operations Status - Financial Officer's Report: Ms. Gravela reported on notable items in her report, provided to members for their review. Mr. Garcia expressed concerns about potential upcoming Federal budget cuts, and recommended considering those possibilities for SY25-26 and future budgets.

Ms. Gravela reviewed options for a new bus. Members discussed the options.

A motion was made by Mrs. McDaniel to authorize Mr. Murphy to make a decision regarding purchase of a new bus within a timeline that allows the purchase in time to start the new school year, with a spending cap of \$250,000, using the information provided by Ms. Gravela and reviewed by members. The motion was seconded by Ms. Wilbourn and was approved with consensus.

Financial Report: *A motion was made by Mr. Murphy to accept the Financial Report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kolyer and was approved with consensus.*

Administrator's Report:

Current enrollment: 354

Title I Report: Mrs. Thatcher provided reports and deadlines that have been met.

Student Achievement Report: Mrs. Thatcher reported that currently test scores indicate a decline. More results are pending for the final report. Mr. Murphy met with Frameworks Team, and noted their support.

Kaumana Property Report: Pig damage has been extreme. Fencing is being repaired. Commercial farming will be starting soon. Geodesic dome is complete. A used bus is being converted for use as a computer lab. Internet capability is scheduled.

Other Items: Mr. Murphy reported on the evaluations process and the contract with a consultant, Mr. Thatcher. Faculty has expressed opposition to alternate processes. Evaluations for SY24-25 have not been completed.

A motion was made by Mr. Kolyer to extend the SY23-24 evaluations to SY24-25, resuming the process for new evaluations next school year. The motion was seconded by Ms. Wilbourn and was approved with consensus.

A motion was made by Mrs. McDaniel to approve the contract for Mr. Thatcher as sole source provider based on the programs the Board has selected, for implementing the evaluation process. The motion was seconded by Ms. Wilbourn, and approved with consensus of remaining members, with Mrs. Thatcher recusing herself from the vote.

Mr. Murphy shared some options for continuing the computer science curriculum. Program evaluations will be conducted, and he will provide a proposal at the June meeting.

Mr. Woolverton reported that there will be an Athletics Programs Awards Banquet on June 28 at the Kress Building.

Mr. Garcia adjourned the meeting at 5:55 pm

Next Meeting: June 18, 2025 at 3:15 pm.

Adjournment:

Respectfully submitted by:

Mr. Romeo Garcia

Connections Governing Board Chair