

Connections Public Charter School

Governing Board Minutes *DRAFT*

October 15, 2025

Kress Building 3:15 pm

Call to Order: Mr. Garcia called the meeting to order at 3:32 pm

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

Members Absent: Heather McDaniel, Joanna Highstein

Guests: Cheryl Gravela, Tey Murphy

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

Public Comment: None

Approval of Agenda: Members reviewed the agenda for the October 15, 2025 meeting.

A request was received to change the order of the agenda to move all financial items up to number 7. A motion was made by Sherri Kolman to approve the agenda with changes to the order of items. The motion was seconded by Christina Wilbourn and was approved with consensus.

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

A motion was made by Sherri Kolman to approve the September 17, 2025 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Christina Wilbourn and was approved with consensus.

Correspondence & Communication:

Mr. Murphy reported on a request from HSTA to meet regarding budget and visitations. Mr. Murphy's expectation is still that the union representatives follow the contract as is expected of Connections. Discussion included that the budget is discussed and approved at every board meeting, and all meetings are public. Possible ideas include a specific board meeting to discuss and plan the budget for the upcoming year.

Commission School Lead Report: no one present from the commission

Operations Report:

Financial Report: Ms. Gravela provided the financial reports. She noted that the new bus has been capitalized. Also, at count day, our enrollment was 352, so the projected budget was adjusted from 360 down to 352.

A motion was made by Sherri Kolman to accept the financial report. The motion was seconded by Clint Kolyer and was approved with consensus.

Operations Status - Financial Officer's Report: Ms. Gravela reported that another temporary hazard payment will be made during the next payroll, the 3rd made to 7 employees who qualified. She also presented the updated Financial Manual, last revised in 2015. Ms. Gravela explained each chapter.

A motion was made by Nalu Tufui to accept the newly updated Financial Manual. The motion was seconded by Clint Kolyer and was approved with consensus.

Old Business: none

New Business:

Approval of New Substitute Teachers: None

Review of Governing Board Policies: None

Administrator's Report:

Current enrollment: 352

Title I Report: Mrs. Thatcher reported that Connections is in Comprehensive Support & Improvement—Graduation Rate status. There will be focus groups and surveys to gather input to inform the new Comprehensive Needs Assessment and 3-year plan.

Student Achievement Report: Mrs. Thatcher reported that there is a decline in Smarter Balanced scores as the percentage of students with special needs increases.

Kaumana Property Report: Mr. Murphy reported on Mr. Raffiyy's program with kids who will work on a plot. There is a new project in the works to grow alfalfa.

Food Service Program Update: Mr. Murphy reported that TANF grant is funding culinary classes after school.

Performance, Growth and Accreditation Initiatives Report: Mr. Murphy reported that accreditation with Cognia is moving forward and could be finished this year.

Other Items:

An administrative designee is needed for IEP & 504 meetings. Mr. Murphy recommended that our SSC, Stephanie Olson-Moore, be appointed as administrative designee for these meetings.

A motion to approve SSC Stephanie Olson-Moore as administrative designee was made by Christina Wilbourn. The motion was seconded by Clint Kolyer and approved with consensus.

Technology Café: Tey Murphy shared that we are participating in an outreach with a sister school in Cambodia. A video to say aloha and share encouraging words was made with Romeo Garcia.

Mr. Garcia adjourned the meeting at 4:45 pm.

Next Meeting: November 19, 2025 at 3:15 pm.

Adjournment:

Respectfully submitted by:

Mr. Romeo Garcia

Connections Governing Board Chair