

Connections Public Charter School
Governing Board Minutes
September 14, 2020
Kress Building and via googlemeeets 3:30 pm

Call to Order: Mr. Salmoiraghi called the meeting to order at 3:35 pm.

Members Present: John Thatcher, Shinji Salmoiraghi, Elsie Hayashi, Kirk Bailey, Libby Oshiyama, Alvina Kaho'onei, Jerri Potter, Cheryl Gravela (Heather McDaniel, Recorder)

Members Absent: Jonelle Fukushima

Guests: Romeo Garcia, Samantha Kapele, Cat Spina, Karen Xavier, Pua Ka'ai

Approval of Agenda:

A motion was made by Mr. Bailey to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Potter and was approved with consensus.

Approval of Minutes for August 14, 2020 meeting: Members reviewed minutes from the August 14, 2020 meeting.

A motion was made by Ms. Kaho'onei to accept the minutes from the August 14, 2020 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Thatcher and was approved with consensus.

Public Input: none

Correspondence & Communication: none

Commission School Lead Report: Ms. Ka'ai noted that a Kauai charter school is also open and doing well. She thanked the board for the student achievement report.

Operations Report:

Operations Status: Ms. Gravela noted instructional Title 1 expenditures, and equipment (air purifiers) purchased with Federal CARES funds.

Financial Officer's Report: Members reviewed and discussed the August 2020 Operations Statement. A motion was made by Mr. Bailey to approve the Operations Statements for August 2020. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hayashi and was approved with consensus.

Ms. Gravela presented four budget scenarios, based on potential student counts and possible State funding cuts possibilities.

A motion was made by Mrs. Hayashi to submit the SY 20-21 budget scenario at 360 students with a 20% budget cut to submit to the Commission by tomorrow's deadline. The motion was seconded by Ms. Potter.

Discussion: Mr. Thatcher explained the furlough possibilities of furloughs and layoffs if we had to shut down. Ms. Potter asked if we would encourage less spending.

The motion was approved with consensus.

Title I/Student Achievement Report:

- **Title I Report:** Mr. Thatcher reported on the SY 20-21 plan.
- **Student Achievement:** Ms. Kapele noted participation in the STAR testing and Renaissance testing. Results did not show gains for summer school students, who mostly attended for enrichment rather

than credit recovery. Smarter Balance testing may not take place this year. Statistics were reported regarding student participation for online students. Ms. Kapele's report is available upon request. Mr. Thatcher recommended two more test sessions this school year. Ms. Kapele reported two test dates (this Winter, and after Spring Break).

Administrator's Report:

- **Current enrollment: 340** Projected enrollment is 360. Families requesting exits to “homeschool” are advised to transfer to their district school. The AG is now reconsidering having Charter schools take on the responsibility for homeschooled students, regardless of no funding for those students.
- **Reopening Plan Status Report:** Connections remains open. There have been no positive Covid cases among students or staff. A few staff/students have been tested, with negative results. All protocols are being followed (temperature checks, mandatory masks, and distancing). Students have been very cooperative. Future options: The current status is school closure with any positive case. *Mr. Thatcher recommends that the closure and strictly distance learning should be for the period of at least three weeks. Another suggestion is that the Big Island community 5% percent-positive data be used to make the determination for community-driven closure. Reopening would be considered when the percent-positive goes below 5%.

A motion was made by Mr. Bailey to approve the criteria above for determining school closure. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kaho'onei and was approved with consensus.

The updated policy will be shared with the school community.

- **Other Items:** Kaumana property use is progressing. Alton Kimura, USDA representative, will meet with Mr. Thatcher and First Hawaiian Bank to discuss funding for property development. Mr. Thatcher recommends that the Board consider earmarking school funds for property development, starting with water catchment to service wastewater (toilets, etc) and agriculture. Mr. Thatcher recommends earmarking \$100,000.

A motion was made by Mr. Thatcher to earmark \$100,000 for Kaumana property development. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kaho'onei.

Discussion: Mr. Salmoiraghi: There will be a need for roof structures to catch the water. Mr. Thatcher: Three bids will be solicited to purchase a water catchment system. Mr/. Bailey: What is the status of the appeal for use of the property? Mr. Thatcher: Intermediate court should be scheduling the hearing soon. Ms. Potter: Is there a committee for use of the property? Mr. Thatcher: after the hearing at the Planning Comm, the State Land Use Commission will review the decision. Then we can discuss forming a committee. Mr. Salmoiraghi: We may want to consider a National Resource Conservation Services partnership. There may be funds available. However, Federal conservation laws may cause delays.

The motion was approved with consensus.

- **Teacher evaluations:**

A motion was made by Ms. Potter to approve the teacher evaluation rubric recommended by Mr. Thatcher, available upon request. The motion was seconded by Libby and was approved with consensus.

Old Business

- **Administrator Evaluation Process:** Mr. Salmoiraghi reported that an email went out at 3pm to outline MCREL instrument. It will be used as a basis for the evaluation. The notes are available upon request. A refined draft will be presented at the next meeting.

New Business:

- **Approval of New Substitute Teachers:** none
- **Review and Revision of Governing Board Policies:** tabled.
- **Staff Recommendations:** Mr. Thatcher presented a Staff Recommendations list for SY 20-21.

A motion was made by Mr. Bailey to approve the SY 20-21 Staff Recommendations list. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hayashi and was approved with consensus.

Next Meeting: October 12, 2020 at 3:30pm.

Adjournment: 5:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
Shinji Salmoiraghi
Connections Governing Board Chair