

Connections Public Charter School

Governing Board Minutes

April 12, 2021

Via googlemeet 3:00 pm

Call to Order: Mr. Salmoiraghi called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm.

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

Members Absent: Jonelle Fukushima, Alvina Kahoonei

Guests: Romeo Garcia, Pua Ka'ai

Approval of Agenda:

A motion was made by Dr, Oshiyama to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Potter and was approved with consensus.

Approval of Minutes for February 25, 2021 meeting: Members reviewed minutes from the February 25, 2021 meeting: tabled

Public Input:

Correspondence & Communication: A written complaint was made by a representative from the Department of Accounting and General Services regarding a driver of a school vehicle. The complaint was investigated by Mr. Thatcher and was addressed.

New Business:

- **Approval of New Substitute Teachers:** Two employees were recommended to be added to the list of approved substitutes.

A motion was made by Ms. Potter to add two employees to the list of approved substitutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bailey and was approved with consensus.

- **Review and Revision of Governing Board Policies:** tabled

Commission School Lead Report: Ms. Ka'ai did not provide a report, and did express appreciation for school leadership and processes.

Operations Report:

Operations Status: Ms. Gravela provided the Financial Statements, including a list requested by auditors of Regular Expenses Not Requiring Purchase Orders. Ms. Potter requested a more specific average dollar amount for the items rather than a cost range.

Financial Officer's Report: Dr. Oshiyama reported that she has reviewed expenditures and found them to be appropriate.

Approval of Financial Statements: Members reviewed the Operations Statement.

A motion was made by Dr. Oshiyama to accept the February and March 2021 Operations Statements.

The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hayashi. Discussion: Dr. Oshiyama acknowledges that she, as Financial Officer, is not the optimal member to make a motion to approve the Financial Statements. The motion was approved with consensus.

- **Approval of Typical Expenses Report for Auditor:** Ms. Gravela provided the Financial Statements, including a list requested by auditors of Regular Expenses Not Requiring Purchase Orders. Ms. Potter requested a more specific average dollar amount for the items rather than a cost range. Ms. Gravela reported that she would provide more specific information regarding Regular Expenses at the next meeting. Ms. Gravela recommended that items on the list requiring larger amounts should require purchase orders even though they are among the regular expenses.

A motion was made by Mr. Bailey to accept the list of Regular Expenses. The motion was seconded by Ms. Potter and was approved with consensus.

A motion was made by Ms. Potter to require purchase orders for the regular expenses with higher costs. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bailey and was approved with consensus.

Title I/Student Achievement Report:

- **Status of Title I Plan SY 21-22:** Mr. Thatcher reported on the SY 20-22 plan. The CAP report was provided to members for review. Ms. Ka'ai explained the process and thanked Mr. Thatcher for his attention to the correct process.

A motion was made by Ms. Potter to accept the CAP report. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hayashi and was approved with consensus.

- **Student Achievement:** Mr. Thatcher reported that testing is ongoing. Many students are returning to campus for tests. Members and Ms. Ka'ai discussed current test validity in regards to changes in instruction and testing scenarios this school year.

Administrator's Report:

- **Current enrollment:** 372
- **SY 20-21 Covid Emergency Plan Status Report:** Mr. Thatcher recommended that this item be renamed. Mr. Garcia suggested Covid Health and Safety Plan. Members discussed the option of modifying the plan to allow for 3' distancing as recommended by the CDC. Staff input has been solicited and considered. There was no opposition to revising the distancing requirement.

A motion was made by Ms. Potter to modify the Covid Health and Safety Plan to allow for 3' distance except when eating with masks off, which would remain 6'. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bailey. Discussion Mr. Thatcher suggested that teachers may request keeping with the 6' guidance. He reminded members that the Board has followed CDC guidance since last March, and recommended continuing to follow that guidance. Mrs. Hayashi suggested continued caution. The motion was passed with a majority vote, with Mrs. Hayashi opposed..

Members discussed maintaining the hybrid model with students divided into two groups and scheduled to attend on an alternating basis.

A motion was made by Ms. Potter to allow administrators Mr. Thatcher and Mr. Garcia to make further decisions regarding modifying the learning models for the remainder of the year. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bailey. Discussion: Ms. Potter mentioned that the testing schedule would be impacted by a return to having all students on campus. It was recommended that a change should be postponed until after the testing window. Mr. Bailey asked how parents would get the information in order to make a choice. Mr. Thatcher reported that we have had families mostly request to return in person, not have less time on campus. Ms. Potter stated that elementary students K-2 are already attending four days a week. Mr. Bailey asked if all staff had been vaccinated. Mr. Thatcher reported that all who wanted the vaccine have been accommodated. The motion was passed with consensus.

Members discussed whether to continue the policy regarding school closure following a positive case among students or staff.

A motion was made by Ms. Potter to authorize Mr. Thatcher and Mr. Garcia to make decisions on a case by case basis regarding school closure in the event of a student or staff testing positive, based on presence on campus. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bailey and was approved with consensus.

Members discussed whether to follow the county requirements for interisland travel.

A motion was made by Ms. Potter to follow the County requirements for interisland travel. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hayashi. Discussion: Ms. Gravela had concerns about post-testing exposure following a test 72 hours prior to travel. Mr. Thatcher stated that we could follow the 10 day quarantine requirement without a test or honor a negative test result. The motion was passed with a majority vote, with Ms. Gravela abstaining.

- Kaumana Property Report: Mr. Thatcher reported that we are awaiting scheduling on the Planning Commission's agenda for the Special Use Permit.

- **Other Items:**

Mr. Thatcher reported on the resignation of Jonelle Fukushima.

A motion was made to accept the resignation of Parent Representative Jonelle Fukushima. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bailey and was approved with consensus.

Mr. Thatcher reported on the upcoming expiration of the CPCS lease with CBESS for space in the Kress Building. The only change is a dedicated space previously used by Connections, now for CBESS office operations, unaccessible by other tenants.

A motion was made by Mrs. Hayashi to authorize Mr. Thatcher or Mr. Salmoiraghi to sign a lease renewal with CBESS for space in the Kress Building. The motion was seconded by Ms. Potter and was approved with consensus.

Old Business

- **Administrator Evaluation Process: Mr. Salmoiraghi reported on modifying the evaluation instrument from the 21 MCREL responsibilities to 5 components affecting student achievement (attached).**

A motion was made by Mr. Bailey to approve the use of the Five Responsibilities from MCREL for next year's Administrator Evaluation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Potter. Discussion: Mr. Bailey asked about the reason for the one year duration of the evaluation instrument. Mr. Salmoiraghi explained that it is a first step in developing the process. Members will also continue discussions on how to involve other stakeholders. The motion was approved with consensus.

Next Meeting: May 17, 2021 at 3:00 pm.

Adjournment: 5:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
Shinji Salmoiraghi
Connections Governing Board Chair