

Connections Public Charter School

Governing Board Minutes

April 15, 2024

Kress Building 3:15 pm

Call to Order: Mr. Garcia called the meeting to order at 3:21pm.

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

Members Absent: Michael Fischer, Christina Wilbourn

Guests: John Woolverton, Cheryl Gravela (Xiomara Mejia as Recorder)

Approval of Agenda: Members reviewed the draft agenda for the April 15, 2024 meeting.

A motion was made by Mrs. Thatcher to approve the agenda for April 15, 2024 as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Tufui and was approved with consensus.

Approval of Minutes March 25, 2024 meeting: Members reviewed the minutes from meeting on March 25, 2024.

A motion was made by Mrs. Thatcher to approve the March 25, 2024 minutes as presented. Members discussed the minutes. The motion was seconded Mrs. Highstein and was approved with consensus.

Approval of New Members: None

Election of Officers: None. Mr. Garcia will still look for someone to take on the role of treasurer.

Food Program Update: none

Public Input: none

Correspondence & Communication: none

Commission School Lead Report: none

Old Business: none

New Business:

Approval of New Substitute Teachers: none

Active Threat Policy: Mr. Woolverton submitted the proposal to members. He mentioned that the school safety committee has not met yet and will meet by end of the month, therefore they may have changes to suggest. He is asking the board for approval on a preliminary basis. Mr. Woolverton went over the policy. Members discussed.

A motion was made by Ms. Tufui to approve the Situation/Incident: Active Threat/Active Shooter Policy. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kolyer and was approved with consensus.

Operations Report:

Operations Status - Financial Officer's Report:

Members reviewed the financial statements for February and March 2024. Ms. Gravela went over the report with members. Noted there was nothing of concern but clarified a few things for members from the February report such as Title IV stipends and administrative travel.

Ms. Gravela also noted that in the March report, members will see that the remainder of the ESSER funds have been given to the school by the commission. Ms. Gravela is asking the board to approve to move \$20,000 from contingency into student travel for further trips. Members discussed.

Approval of Financial Statements:

A motion was made by Mrs. Highstein to approve the transfer of \$20,000 from contingency into student travel budget. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kolyer and approved with consensus.

A motion was made by Ms. Tufui to approve the February and March financial statements. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Highstein and approved with consensus.

Network Upgrade

Mr. Murphy updated members on the current plan for upgrading network. The school has applied for E-Rate, which is a federal program. Ms. Gravela reported that one group from California bid on application, currently waiting on approval. Members discussed.

Administrator's Report:

Current enrollment: 347

Title I Report: Mrs. Thatcher reported that the CAN that went in on March 22, 2024, is used to fill out the CAP, which was due today. Financial report is coming up in May.

Student Achievement Report: none

Kaumana Property Report: Mr. Murphy reported that each summer, labor department gives 10 slots for student workers. He will place 6 students up at the property and they will work 40 hours a week. Mr. Silva, the farm manager, will be overseeing these students. Another thing to note, a craigslist ad will be put out this week because Mr. McDaniel, who works at the property, is retiring this July. Mr. Murphy reported that Mrs. Ebersole is trying to help him get a meeting with someone about an AG program. Members discussed.

Other Items:

Mr. Murphy asked members to review the current staff list. He states that he will be asking for board approval in the next coming months. Employee return is contingent to evaluations.

A motion was made by Mr. Kolyer to go into Executive Session at 4:13 pm and include the following people as guest: Mr. Woolverton, Ms. Gravela, and Ms. Mejia, as recorder. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Highstein and approved with consensus.

A motion was made by Ms. Tufui to go out of Executive Session at 4:25 pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kolyer and approved with consensus.

Mr. Murphy reported on status of the evaluation of teachers and reminded the board of previous approval in creating an individualized evaluation system. Currently, the MOU is still waiting to be approved by the union. Mr. Murphy reported that there is currently no administrator certified to evaluate teachers. He is hoping that next year, the MOU would be signed, so Mr. Thatcher can begin that evaluation process and trainings. In order to have some sort of evaluation system, Mr. Murphy is recommending that the board approve Mr. Thatcher to only evaluate teachers who fit the following criteria: those renewing licenses, probationary teachers, and teachers that received a less than effective rating. Mr. Murphy informed the board that per union contract, if teachers are not evaluated, they cannot receive a raise. Members discussed.

A motion was made by Mrs. Highstein to approve Mr. Thatcher to only evaluate teachers who fit the following criteria: those renewing licenses, probationary teachers, and teachers that received a less than effective rating. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kolyer and approved with consensus. Mrs. Thatcher recused herself from the vote.

A motion was made by Mrs. Highstein to not evaluate teachers if they are not recommended for next school year. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kolyer and was approved with consensus. Mrs. Thatcher recused herself from the vote.

Mr. Garcia adjourned the meeting at 4:40pm.

Next Meeting: May 20, 2024 at 3:15 pm.

Adjournment: 4:40pm

Respectfully submitted by:

Mr. Romeo Garcia

Connections Governing Board Chair