

Connections Public Charter School

Governing Board Minutes

February 20, 2024

Kress Building 3:15 pm

Call to Order: Mr. Garcia called the meeting to order at 3:23pm.

Members Present: Romeo Garcia, Pam Thatcher, Damon Murphy, Nalu Tufui, Christina Wilbourn, Joanna Highstein

Members Absent: Michael Fischer, Clint Kolyer

Guests: John Woolverton, Piper Selden, Michelle Maliniak, Asia Helfrich, Debbie Anderson, Cade Loftin (Xiomara Mejia as Recorder)

Approval of Agenda: Members reviewed the draft agenda for the February 20, 2024 meeting. *A motion was made by Mrs. Thatcher to approve the agenda for February 20, 2024 as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Tufui and was approved with consensus.*

Approval of Minutes January 22, 2024 meeting: Members reviewed the minutes from meeting on January 22, 2024.

A motion was made by Mrs. Wilbourn to approve the January 22, 2024 minutes as presented. Members discussed the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Highstein and was approved with consensus.

Approval of New Members: No new members. Mr. Garcia asked members to see if they knew of anyone interested in joining the board.

Election of Officers: none

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: Mr. Loftin requested the board's approval for a new substitute teacher: Jonah Waters. Mr. Waters is a TSEAS sub and is available to begin as soon as needed. Mr. Loftin also mentioned an interest from Naveed Hassan to substitute, pending paperwork, and will come back to ask for board approval.

A motion was made by Ms. Highstein to approve John Waters as a new substitute teacher. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Thatcher and was approved with consensus.

Review and Revision of Governing Board Policies: Active Threat Policy Proposal

Mr. Woolverton reported that while the policy is not yet complete, an employee from the Homeland Federal Department came to visit the school to provide insight. He also reported that a school safety security team will be created and will consist of teachers, security, and support staff. Members discussed.

Mr. Murphy reported that he is still working on putting an EEOC policy in the employee handbook.

Operations Report:

Operations Status - Financial Officer's Report:

Members reviewed the financial statements for January 2024. Mr. Garcia stated there was nothing of concern noted. Members discussed.

Approval of Financial Statements:

A motion was made by Ms. Tufui to approve the Financial Statement for January 2024. The motion was seconded by Ms. Wilbourn and was approved with consensus.

Administrator's Report:

Current enrollment: 355

Title I Report: Mrs. Thatcher reported that a Title I audit was just completed, and one of the follow items was regarding the purchase of laptops for e-sports and makery programs. Although the total cost was over \$10,000, each laptop only cost \$999 plus tax, therefore did not require multiple quotes. Mrs. Thatcher recommends clarifying the language in the procurement policy number 5, specifically changing the word "expenditure" to "item."

A motion was made by Mrs. Highstein to change the language of the procurement policy from "the school recognizes that a large purchase is an expenditure", to "the school recognizes that a large purchase is an item." Members discussed. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Wilbourn and approved with consensus.

Student Achievement Report: none

Kaumana Property Report: Ms. Gravela and Mr. Murphy went to visit the property, as Connections is looking to find more yield. There are not enough people to work the property, so Mr. Murphy is working on finding more. Ms. Helfrich stated she knows some people who may be willing to volunteer, will speak to Mr. Murphy about it further. She also suggested a community and/or staff day to get people to help at the property with various projects. Members discussed.

Mr. Murphy advised that the permit application for the 15acre has been submitted.

Other Items:

Mr. Garcia informed members that Mr. Taber resigned as of January 22, 2024.

Parking – There continues to be a conflict with parking and other businesses. Administration has reminded staff to park across the street. Mr. Woolverton also has security making sure no other staff members are parking in the lot.

Mr. Woolverton introduced members of staff that wanted to review the dress code. Ms. Selden wants to find a way to rework the dress code to accommodate students at this school regarding gender fluidity and inclusivity. Ms. Selden shared some of the student's feedback regarding their feelings about being wrongly dress coded. Main concern is the over enforcement of certain students, while under enforcing of others. Ms. Helfrich also shared some concern regarding the language in the dress code policy and stated some of it is contradictions. Mr. Garcia asked board members for suggestions regarding language. Members discussed.

A motion was made by Mrs. Highstein to change the language of the dress code found on page 2 paragraph 1, "Basic principle" from: "shall NOT be visible either directly or through tight-fitting clothing from any angle at any time." to: "shall NOT be directly visible from any angle at any time." Members discussed. The motion was seconded by Ms. Tufui and was approved with yes' from Mr. Garcia, Mr. Murphy, Mrs. Highstein, and Ms. Tufui. Mrs. Wilbourn and Mrs. Thatcher abstained from voting.

Mr. Garcia inquired about computer availability for students. Chromebooks are available to check out in the front office.

Mr. Garcia adjourned the meeting at 4:35pm.

Next Meeting: March 25, 2024 at 3:15 pm.

Adjournment: 4:35 pm

Respectfully submitted by:

Mr. Romeo Garcia

Connections Governing Board Chair