



APPROVED 7/6/2016
Reach Cyber Charter School
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Wednesday, June 1, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.

Held via teleconference

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Mr. Taylor called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. when all participants were present and able to hear each other.

Board Members Present: David Taylor, Gail Hawkins-Bush, Paul Donecker, Alex Schuh and Joe Harford (via phone);

Board Members Absent: Brian Leinhauser;

Guests via Phone: Patricia Hennessy, Board Counsel; Mike Whisman, Charter Choices; Dennis Tulli, Connections Consultant; Jay W. Ragley, Rachel Graver, Shon Hocker, Shawn Soltz, Jennifer Schmidt, Marjorie Rofel and Megann Arthur, Connections staff (all via phone).

II. Public Comment

There were no public comments made at this time.

III. Routine Business

a. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Taylor asked the Board to review the Agenda distributed prior to the meeting. The Board added an Executive Session to the agenda, for the purpose of considering a School Principal candidate for the school. There being no changes, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Agenda for the June 1, 2016 meeting of the Reach Cyber Charter School Board of Directors, as amended, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session

The Board entered into an Executive Session at 9:06 a.m. The Board cited the following for entering into the Executive Session: to discuss the appointment of a Principal candidate for the school (65 PA CSA § 708(a)(1)). Board members entered into the Executive Session via a roll call vote. All meeting attendees present remained for the Executive Session.

Open Session resumed at 9:19 a.m. via a roll call vote. No action was taken during Executive Session.

Mr. Taylor reminded the Board of the discussion during Executive Session. There being no further discussion, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Hiring of Jane Swan as School Principal and appointment of Board President as Board Designee to work with Connections to negotiate and finalize the School Principal compensation, as discussed, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Oral Reports

a. Preparations for Opening of School

i. Update on Facility

Ms. Graver provided the Board with an update on the work to identify a school facility. She advised that the team was planning to move forward with the property on East Park Drive, and reviewed the expected timing for the finalization of a lease.

ii. Update on Staff Recruitment

Ms. Graver reviewed the current progress in staff recruitment, indicating that many strong applications had been received and that positions were being filled.

iii. Update on Enrollment

Ms. Graver provided the Board with an update on the most up-to-date enrollment numbers for the school. She related that, as of the time of the meeting, there were 129 students enrolled in the school and many more in the application stages.

b. Financial Update

Mr. Soltz provided the Board with an introduction to the financial services the Board will be receiving from Connections, as well as the anticipated timeline the school should expect funding to begin from the state.

i. Update on Charter Choices

Mr. Soltz reminded the Board of the work done to date by Charter Choices as a financial consultant to the school, and invited Mr. Whisman to provide some additional information. Mr. Whisman briefly updated the Board on their recent review of the proposed budget for the 2016-2017 school year.

V. Consent Items

Mr. Taylor asked the Board Members whether there were any items from the Consent Items that they wanted moved to Action Items for discussion, or tabled. There being no items moved, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, the Consent Items:

- a. Approval of Minutes from the May 18, 2016 Board Meeting; and
- b. Approval of Board Meeting Schedule for the 2016-2017 School Year; are hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Action Items

a. Ratification of Draft Documents Contained Within the Previously Approved Charter Application

Mr. Ragley presented this item to the Board, providing background on the timing of the application and required submissions to date. He advised the Board regarding minor changes made to the charter application in cooperation with the Board President, as have been necessary to meet deadlines and answer inquiries. The Board discussed the draft and final documents included in the charter application. There being no further discussion, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, that the draft documents contained within the previously approved charter application, as discussed, are hereby ratified.

The motion passed unanimously.

b. Approval of Revised School Calendar for the 2016-2017 School Year

Ms. Graver presented this item to the Board. She reviewed the revised school calendar, as included in the Board materials, and advised the Board regarding the background to the revisions since the original calendar was included in the charter application. There being no further discussion, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Revised School Calendar for the 2016-2017 school year, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Revisions to State Specific Handbook

Ms. Graver reviewed the proposed revisions to the previously Board approved state specific school handbook. There being no further discussion, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, that the revisions to the State Specific School Handbook, as presented, are hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

[Ms. Schmidt joined the meeting at 9:37 a.m.]

c. Review and Approval of Employee Health Care Benefit Offerings and Approval of a Board Designee to Finalize Health Care Benefit Options for the 2016-2017 School Year

Ms. Schmidt reviewed with the Board the options for employee health care benefits, as outlined in the Board meeting materials. She provided some background to the comparisons provided, as well as the research done to date on all options available for benefits to school staff members. The Board discussed the potential benefits options in detail. There being no further discussion, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Connections Education employee health care benefit plan offering Board President as Board Designee to finalize all documentation regarding health care benefit options for the 2016-2017 school year, as discussed, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Budget for the 2016-2017 School Year

Mr. Soltz presented this item to the Board. He reviewed the proposed 2016-2017 school year budget outline and Budget Notes documents with the Board, also reminding them of the budget development process to date that included the school leader, Board Treasurer and/or other Designee(s) and Connections staff. He further reviewed the fee schedule for services from Connections, as enumerated in the Educational Products and Services Agreement (EPSA), and that the basis for all charges is drawn directly from the Budget. Board members discussed the budget, including related staffing, outreach and other specific expenses for the school, as well as the fee schedule and all services provided by Connections under the schedule.

[Ms. Rofel joined the meeting and Mr. Taylor left the meeting at 9:52 a.m. Mr. Taylor requested that Mr. Harford assume the duties of chairing the meeting in his absence.]

Mr. Whisman advised the Board that Charter Choices had reviewed the budget and had no issues with assumptions contained therein. There being no further discussion, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, that the budget for the 2016-2017 school year, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

[Mr. Ragley, Mr. Hocker and Mr. Whisman left the meeting at 9:59 a.m.]

d. Approval of Special Education Services Plan

Ms. Rofel presented this item to the Board. She reviewed the proposed contract with Connections Education for the management of the school's Special Education program, including the specific services to be offered and the in-state expertise of personnel working with the school. Board members discussed the proposal, as included in the Board materials, and expressed their support of the services being offered. There being no further discussion, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Special Education Services Plan, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

[Ms. Rofel and Ms. Schmidt left the meeting at 10:05 a.m.]

e. Approval of Directors and Officers for the 2016-2017 School Year

Ms. Arthur advised the Board that all Board members terms were up for renewal at this meeting. Following their confirmation that they wished to continue on the Board, discussion was held on the renewal of their terms. There being no further discussion, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, that the appointment of David Taylor, Gail Hawkins-Bush, Paul Donecker, Alex Schuh, Brian Leinhauser and Joe Harford to the Reach Cyber Charter School Board of Directors through the 2017 Annual meeting, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Arthur reviewed with the Board each Officer position as set out in the Board-adopted Bylaws, and advised the Board that all positions would be for a term until the Annual Meeting 2017. Nominations were opened for each position. Following the closure of nominations, and there being no further discussion, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, that the appointment of:

David Taylor, Board President;
Brian Leinhauser, Board Treasurer; and
Joseph Harford, Board Secretary, as presented, is hereby approved.

The motion was approved unanimously.

f. Approval of Revisions to State Specific Handbook

This item was considered earlier in the meeting.

g. Approval of Budget for the 2016-2017 School Year

This item was considered earlier in the meeting.

VII. Information Items

a. Legislative Update

In Mr. Ragley's absence, Ms. Graver provided the Board with a brief update on recent legislative activities in the state, which may impact the school.

b. Update on Website and Board Member Bios

Ms. Arthur provided the Board with a reminder of the request for submission of Board member bios and photos for inclusion on the school's website.

VIII. Adjournment and Confirmation of Next Meeting - Wednesday, July 6, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.

Mr. Taylor inquired if there was any other business or discussion. There being no further business or discussion, he noted that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday, July 6, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. The Board being at the end of its agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 10:14 a.m.