Connections Public Charter School

Governing Board Minutes

August 20, 2025

Kress Building 3:15 pm

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

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

Members Absent: Sherri Kolman

Guests: none

Recorder: Minutes for today's meeting are recorded by Mrs. McDaniel.

Public Comment: none

Approval of Agenda: Members reviewed the agenda for the August 20, 2025 meeting.
A motion was made by Mr. Kolyer to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Highstein and was approved with consensus.

Approval of Minutes for July 16, 2025 meeting: Members reviewed the minutes from the meeting on July 16, 2025.
A motion was made by Ms.Wilbourn to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kolyer and was approved with majority. Mrs. Thatcher and Ms. Highstein abstained as they were not in attendance at the July meeting.

Approval of Members SY 25-26: Members discussed role group representatives for SY 2025-2026.
A motion was made by Mrs. McDaniel to approve the following role group representatives for SY 2025-2026: Community Representatives Sherri Kolman, Clint Kolyer, Romeo Garcia and Heather McDaniel; Parent Representatives Nalu Tufui and Joanna Highstein; Faculty Representative Pamela Thatcher; Administrative Representative Damon Murphy: Support Staff Representative Christine Wilbourn. The motion was seconded by Ms. Tufui and was approved with consensus.

Elections of Officers SY 25-26: Members discussed options for Governing Board Officers for SY 2025-2026.
A motion was made by Ms. Highstein to approve the following as officers for SY25-26: Chairperson Romeo Garcia; Vice Chairperson Christina Wilbourn ; Secretary HeatherMcDaniel ; Financial Officer Nalu Tufui. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Thatcher and was approved with consensus.

Correspondence & Communication:
Mr. Murphy reported on an email from HSTA regarding arbitration for a teacher who was not rehired. HSTA is adamant about adhering to the contract, and that has been Connections' direction. Mr. Murphy has been consulting with the Attorney General in this regard.
Mr. Murphy reported that the HSTA contract states teachers are restricted from picketing. A petition generated by teachers is being contested. A complaint has been filed with HLRB. An HSTA

representative was on campus without permission, and protested being denied access, in front of students.
Mr. Murphy reported on an overview regarding ICE interventions on campus. Guidance protocols are in place from the Charter School Commission. The current protocol is that Mr. Murphy and Mr.Woolverton would be called to intervene. Judicial warrant is firm, but an administrative warrant is not.
Mr. Murphy reported on communication from the Planning Department regarding our application for permit on the Kaumana property : The application is in, and we are following processes.

<u>Commission School Lead Report:</u> None

<u>Old Business:</u> None

<u>New Business</u>:

Approval of New Substitute Teachers: Alicia Williams and Kai (Fae) Melendez, both currently employed as PPTs at Connections, were considered as additions to the list of substitute teachers.
A motion was made by Mr Murphy to add Alicia Williams and Kai (Fae) Melenedez to the list of substitute teachers. The motion was seconded by Ms. Highstein and was approved with consensus.

Governing Board Policies Revisions Proposals: Mrs. Thatcher presented the list of meeting dates for this year, as well as revision proposals to three current policies.
A motion was made by Ms. Wilbourn to approve the proposed CPCS Governing Board Meeting Calendar for SY 25-26. The motion was seconded by Ms. Highstein and was approved with consensus.
A motion was made by Mr. Kolyer to approve the proposed Tobacco-Free and Electronic Smoking Device-Free Policy. The motion was seconded by Ms. Highstein and was approved with consensus.
A motion was made by Mrs. McDaniel to approve the Policy For Reporting Child Abuse or Neglect/Policy For Reporting of Crime-Related Incidents. The motion was seconded by Ms. Wilbourn and was approved with consensus.
A motion was made by Ms. Highstein to approve the updated Connections PCS Technology Use Policy. The motion was seconded by Ms. Wilbourn and was approved with consensus.

Ms. Tufui left the meeting at 4:07.

Mr. Murphy presented a proposed STUDENT PHONE/PHONE ADJACENT POLICY AND GUIDELINES.
A motion was made by Mrs. McDaniel to approve the proposed STUDENT PHONE/PHONE ADJACENT POLICY AND GUIDELINES. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kolyer.
Discussion: Ms. Wilbourn suggested removing "AND GUIDELINES" from the policy title, and changing the protocol regarding confiscation of devices.
A motion was made by Mr. Murphy to approve the STUDENT PHONE/PHONE ADJACENT POLICY with suggested changes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kolyer and was approved with consensus.

The CPCS Governing Board meeting calendar, and new and revised policies, have been posted to the school website.

Mr Murphy reported that adult (staff) phone use will be more closely restricted and monitored. An addendum to the Personnel Policy will be presented at the next meeting for approval. Employees will be asked to sign off on that addendum.

<u>Operations Report</u>:

Financial Report: Ms. Gravela (absent) provided the financial reports. TANF reimbursements are not complete. TANF funds will be disbursed this year.
Mr. Murphy reported that the new bus has arrived, paperwork is pending within the next month.
Mr. Murphy reported on some ideas for the farm: a USDA program for at risk students program. Research is underway for an off-road vehicle to replace the Kawasaki Mule.

Operations Status - Financial Officer's Report: tabled.

A motion was made by Mr. Kolyer to accept the Financial Report forJuly, 2025. The motion was seconded by Ms. Wilbourn and was approved with consensus.

<u>Administrator's Report</u>:

Current enrollment: 346. Enrollment are still very fluid as it is early in the school year.

Title I Report: Mrs. Thatcher reported that growth in STAR scores increased from the Spring report. Scores in Math have increased. Smarter Balance reports are pending

Student Achievement Report: Student standardized testing is coming up. The testing coordinator is working on a kindergarted test. ELL testing is pending.

Kaumana Property Report:
Mr. Murphy reported on some ideas for the farm: a USDA program for at risk students program. Research is underway for an off-road vehicle to replace the Kawasaki Mule. He will be meeting with Ms. Gravela regarding additional staffing. The secondary after school program is developing plans for a School To Community Farmers' Market .
Mrs. Thatcher reported that cameras will be installed to help with recent intrusions and theft.

Food Service Program Update: The launch into this school year has been successful. Farm to School efforts will be pursued to promote production at the Kaumana Farm.

Performance Report: The Cognia accreditation process may be able to be accelerated. CPCS is due for Charter renewal June 2027. Accreditation and improved test scores will be helpful in the process.

Other Items: Mr. Murphy reported on an increase in IDEA population. The current number of identified students is 118

Mr. Garcia adjourned the meeting at 5pm.

<u>Next Meeting</u>: September 17, 2025 at 3:15 pm.

<u>Adjournment</u>:

Respectfully submitted by:

Mr. Romeo Garcia

Connections Governing Board Chair