

Connections Public Charter School

Governing Board Minutes

June 18, 2025

Kress Building 3:15 pm

Call to Order: Mr. Garcia called the meeting to order at 3:29 pm

Members Present: Romeo Garcia, Damon Murphy(online), Pam Thatcher, Christina Wilbourn(online), Clint Kolyer, Joanna Highstein, Nalu Tufui,

Members Absent: Michael Fischer, Heather McDaniel

Guests: John Woolverton, Sherri Kolman, Cheryl Gravela

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

Public Comment: No public comment

Approval of Agenda: Members reviewed the agenda for the June 18, 2025 meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Murphy to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Highstein and was approved with consensus.

Approval of Minutes for May 21, 2025 meeting: Members reviewed the minutes from the meeting on May 21, 2025.

A motion was made by Mr. Kolyer to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Murphy and was approved with consensus. Ms. Tufui and Ms. Highstein abstained because they were not present on May 21, 2025.

Approval of New Members: Ms. Kolman was seated as a community representative, replacing Mr. Fischer who moved out of state.

A motion was made by Mr. Kolyer to seat Ms. Kolman. The motion was seconded by Ms. Wilbourn and was approved with consensus.

Elections of Officers: None

Food Program Update: Meals are being served for summer school through July 17, 2025.

Correspondence & Communication: Mr. Murphy continues to meet with HSTA to discuss multiple complaints. Also, the request for a county permit of the 15-acre parcel at the Kaumana property was returned for a few revisions.

Commission School Lead Report: None

Old Business: Mr. Murphy passed out the final reports from Mr. Thatcher for his two contracts. Further discussion will take place at the next board meeting.

New Business:

Mr. Murphy will present staff recommendations during Executive Session.

A motion was made by Mr. Murphy to go into Executive Session to discuss staff recommendations for SY2025-2026. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Thatcher and was approved with consensus. A motion was made by Mr. Murphy to conclude Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Thatcher and was approved with consensus.

High School Bell Schedule: Mr. Murphy will honor the faculty vote of 66% in favor of keeping the same high school bell schedule for school year 2025-26

Operations Report:

Operations Status - Financial Officer's Report: Ms. Gravela reported on notable items in her report, provided to members for their review.

Ms. Gravela also reported that the school has purchased a brand-new Thomas bus for under \$200,000. Board members approved a spending cap of \$250, 000 at the last board meeting. The new school year will begin with the old bus until the new one arrives.

Financial Report: *A motion was made by Ms. Tufui to accept the Financial Report. The motion was seconded by Ms. Highstein and was approved with consensus.*

Administrator's Report:

Current enrollment: 320

Title I Report: Mrs. Thatcher reported that the professional development session held June 3-6 was successful. Teachers and staff worked on curriculum and mission alignment.

Kaumana Property Report: 10 students will be working at the Kaumana property this summer. They are learning job skills and converting the donated bus into a classroom.

Discipline Policy: Mr. Woolverton discussed the discipline policy and proposed a change. The Class C 3rd consequence will change from 5-9 days suspension to 3-9 days suspension.

A motion was made by Mr. Kolyer to approve the change. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Thatcher and approved with consensus.

Other Items: Mr. Murphy and Ms. Highstein will meet with the robotics coach from Waiakea in July. He is interested in helping us get started. Mr. Prose is willing to help.

Mr. Garcia announced that the Hawaii Charter School Conference is July 23-24, 2025

Mr. Murphy reminded board members to use school email addresses for governing board business.

Mrs. Wilbourn reminded role groups to send emails for board seats for the 2025-26 school year.

Mr. Woolverton announced that Connections and Laupahoehoe will be able to collaborate and field teams together in hard-to-fill sports for BIIF competition. Teams must compete under a new name, Paliku Pack.

Next Meeting: July 16, 2025 at 3:15 pm.

Adjournment: 4:43 pm

Respectfully submitted by:

Mr. Romeo Garcia

Connections Governing Board Chair