



APPROVED 06/21/2021

**Pecos Connections Academy (PCA)
MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING**

Monday, June 7, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

**Held via teleconference due to State Precautions regarding Public Health and Safety
During COVID-19 Pandemic:**

1-877-568-4106; Access Code 963-305-373

<https://www.gotomeet.me/KristinDeGroff/pca-board-meeting>

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Ms. Anderson called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. The meeting was open to the public and held via teleconference due to state precautions regarding public health and safety during the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Anderson conducted a Roll Call.

Board Members Present: Kyla Anderson, Brandy Tillian, Vivian Cullen, and Danielle Johnston (via phone and video conference);

Board Members Absent: Jennifer Sears;

Guests Present: Dr. Kim Hite-Pope, School Leader; Gloria Lopez, School Business Manager; Jonas Nahoum, Board Counsel; One Unidentified Member of the Public; Freda Daugherty and Kelli Loudermilk, School staff; Jenny Dukek, Bryce Adams, Gary Corkran, and Kristin DeGroff, Pearson Virtual Schools staff (via phone and video conference).

II. Public Comment

There were no comments at this time.

III. Routine Business

a. Approval of Agenda

Ms. Anderson asked the Board to review the Agenda distributed prior to the meeting. Ms. Johnston asked a clarifying question regarding Action Item (b) Approval of School Name Change. There being no changes noted, a motion was made by Ms. Tillian and seconded by Ms. Cullen as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Agenda for the June 7, 2021 Pecos Connections Academy, Inc. Board of Directors Meeting, as presented, is hereby approved.

A roll call vote was conducted, the motion passed unanimously.

[An unidentified caller joined the meeting at 4:06 p.m.]

IV. Consent Items

Ms. Anderson asked Board members whether there were any items from the Consent Items that they wished to have moved to Action Items for discussion, or tabled. There being no changes, a motion was made by Ms. Johnston and seconded by Ms. Tillian as follows:

- a. Approval of Minutes from the May 17, 2021 Meeting; are hereby approved.

A roll call vote was conducted, the motion passed unanimously.

V. Action Items

- a. Approval of Agreement for School Services

Ms. Anderson requested that Ms. Lopez present this item. Ms. Lopez reviewed the Request for Proposal process for school services, and advised of the ongoing negotiations with the selected vendor. Board members discussed the RFP process and timeline in detail. Upon advice by Board Counsel, the Board nominated Ms. Anderson to work with Dr. Hite-Pope and Mr. Nahoum to review, finalize, and execute an agreement for school services.

[Ms. Daugherty and the unidentified caller left the meeting at 4:10 p.m.]

Dr. Hite-Pope and Ms. Lopez provided additional clarification regarding the RFP selection committee, and advised that neither had participated in a vote to select the vendor for school services. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Cullen and seconded by Ms. Johnston as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Board Chair as Board Designee to work with the School Leader and Board Counsel to review, finalize, and execute the Agreement for School Services, as discussed, is hereby approved.

A roll call vote was conducted, the motion passed unanimously.

b. Approval of School Name Change

Ms. Anderson presented this item to the Board. She discussed the potential name change of the school from Pecos Connections Academy to Pecos Cyber Academy. Board members held discussion on the process for a name change approval with the school's authorizer and PED. Dr. Hite-Pope provided additional context regarding the use of Pecos to honor the river that flows throughout the state, and advised that it had no connection to the village of Pecos or a specific location within the state. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Cullen and seconded by Ms. Tillian as follows:

RESOLVED, that the School Name Change to Pecos Cyber Academy, as discussed, is hereby approved.

A roll call vote was conducted, the motion passed unanimously.

c. Approval of School Leader to Work with the Business Manager to File all Necessary BARS for the 2020-2021 School Year on Behalf of the School

Ms. Lopez presented this item to the Board. Ms. Lopez requested that the School Leader work with the Business Manager to file all necessary BARS for the 2020-2021 school year on behalf of the school. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Cullen and seconded by Ms. Johnston as follows:

RESOLVED, that the School Leader to Work with the Business Manager to File all Necessary BARS for the 2020-2021 School Year on Behalf of the School, as discussed, is hereby approved.

A roll call vote was conducted, the motion passed unanimously.

VI. Executive Session: pursuant to NMSA 1978 Section 10-15-1(H)(2) to discuss the hiring, promotion, demotion, dismissal, assignment or resignation of or the investigation or consideration of complaints or charges against any individual public employee: School Leader Contract

Upon a motion made by Ms. Johnston and seconded by Ms. Cullen and confirmed via roll call vote of all Board members present, the Board entered into Executive Session at 4:28 p.m. pursuant to NMSA 1978 Section 10-15-1(H)(2) to discuss the hiring, promotion, demotion, dismissal, assignment or resignation of or the investigation or consideration of complaints or charges against any individual public employee: School Leader Contract. Board members present during the Executive Session were: Kyla Anderson, Danielle Johnston, Brandy Tillian, and Vivian Cullen. Guests invited by the Board to attend were: Jonas Nahoum and Gloria Lopez, all having attendance rights. All others left the meeting at this time.

At 5:12 p.m. the Board ended Executive Session and resumed open session at 5:12 p.m. upon a motion being made by Ms. Johnston, seconded by Ms. Cullen and confirmed via roll call vote of all Board members present. No action was taken during Executive Session.

[Ms. DeGroff and Dr. Hite-Pope rejoined the meeting at 5:12 p.m.]

VII. Approval of Action(s) Necessary Based on Executive Session

Ms. Anderson reminded the Board of the topics discussed in Executive Session, noting that the matters discussed pertained only to those included on the agenda. She discussed the Board's desire to change Dr. Hite-Pope's title from School Leader to Executive Director. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Cullen and seconded by Ms Tillian as follows:

RESOLVED, that the School Leader Title Change to Executive Director, as discussed, is hereby approved.

A roll call vote was conducted, the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Anderson further discussed the necessity for a Board designee to negotiate a salary contract for the 2021-2022 school year with the Executive Director. She volunteered as designee and advised that the final contract would be brought to the Board for approval at the next meeting. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Cullen and seconded by Ms. Tillian as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Board Chair as Board Designee to Negotiate and Finalize the Executive Director Contract for the 2021-2022 School Year, as discussed, is hereby approved.

A roll call vote was conducted, the motion passed unanimously.

Additionally, Ms. Anderson discussed the Board's desire to waive monthly in-person office visit requirements for the Executive Director, and the ability for the Executive Director to send a delegate from PCA in her place as necessary. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Cullen and seconded by Ms. Tillian as follows:

RESOLVED, that a Waiver of Monthly In-Person Office Visits for the Executive Director and Discretion to Delegate a School Representative to Attend as Necessary, as discussed, is hereby approved.

A roll call vote was conducted, the motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Adjournment and Confirmation of Annual Meeting Date – June 21, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

Ms. Anderson noted that the Board was at the end of its agenda and that the annual meeting was scheduled to be held on June 21, 2021. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:21 p.m.