



APPROVED 10/14/2025

Arkansas Connections Academy (ARCA)

Board Meeting Agenda

September 16, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

1009 Beau Terre Drive, Building O, Bentonville, AR 72712

Dial-in: +1 888 998 2469 PIN: 67894002#

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Dr. Beck called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. when all participants were able to hear each other.

Board Members Present: Dennis Beck, Melissa Cruise, and Virginia Walden Ford (via videoconference);

Board Members Absent: Kelly O'Brien;

Guests Present: Nicole Stephens, School Leader (at the school location); Erin Lieblong, Savannah Mizell, School staff; Laura Johnson, Steve O'Brien, and Diana Johnson Teague, Pearson Virtual Schools staff (via videoconference).

II. Public Comment

There were no public comments at this time.

III. Routine Business

a. Approval of Agenda

Dr. Beck asked the Board members whether there were any changes necessary to the Agenda that has been posted in accordance with Arkansas Open Meeting law. There being no further changes noted, a motion was made and seconded as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Agenda for September 16, 2025, Arkansas Connections Academy, Inc. Board Meeting, is hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Oral Reports

a. School Leader Report

1. Update on Enrollment and Staffing

Ms. Stephens reviewed the school's current enrollment numbers with the Board as well as recent trends in enrollment. She reported that the school continues to see significant enrollment growth and a decline in the withdrawal rate, as compared to the same period last year. She reviewed student onboarding activities and provided an update on the fall testing period. Ms. Stephens also shared highlights from the Value-Added Growth Report recently published by the state, celebrating gains in all math subjects.

Ms. Stephens advised the Board that the school is hiring staff across all departments to support the growth in enrollment.

b. Director of School Operations Update

1. Teacher Professional Development Products and Services for the 2025-2026 School Year

Dr. Rosta reviewed the Professional Learning Catalog for the 2025-2026 school year, as included in the Board meeting materials. He noted the professional learning offerings are research-based, flexible, and customizable, and they provide an opportunity for teachers to share best practices. He reviewed the professional learning paths, including intervention and student support, instructional coaching, and counseling and career readiness.

c. Financial Report

Mr. O'Brien reviewed the financial information contained in the Board meeting materials. He highlighted key aspects in the school's revenue and expense statements, as well as the current financial forecast. Mr. O'Brien reviewed the fund balance expectations in detail.

1. Update on APSCN Budget

Mr. O'Brien discussed the APSCN Budget update, as included in the Board meeting materials, noting the document is based on the budget approved by the Board in May and is presented in the state-required format.

2. Review of Revisions to Fiscal Controls Policy

Mr. O'Brien reviewed the revisions to the Fiscal Controls Policy, as included in the Board meeting materials. He advised that the policy is reviewed annually to ensure alignment with current guidance and industry standards, and he noted the updates reflect consistency and transparency across all financial practices.

V. Consent Items

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

RESOLVED, the Consent Items:

- a. Approval of Minutes from the August 19, 2025 Board Meeting;
- b. Approval of Staffing Report;
- c. Approval of 2025-2026 Base Salaries and Incentive Percentage and Career Ladder Positions;
- d. Approval of Pearson Invoice for August;
- e. Approval of Pearson Fee Allocation for State Reporting; and
- f. Approval of Revised Fiscal Controls Policy; are hereby approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Action Items

There were no action items at this time.

VII. Information Items

- a. Pearson Virtual Schools (PVS) Update

Ms. Johnson commended the school leadership team and staff for the work done to support the increase in enrollment. She advised the Board that preparations are underway to support the school with the charter renewal process, particularly with compilation of data needed to support the renewal. She also reviewed recent platform and curriculum enhancements.

VIII. Adjournment and Confirmation of Next Meeting Date - October 14, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

Dr. Beck noted that the Board was at the end of its agenda and that the next meeting was scheduled to be held on October 14, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. At 10:25 a.m. a motion was made and seconded

RESOLVED, that the adjournment of the Arkansas Connections Academy, Inc. September 16, 2025, Board meeting, is hereby approved.

The motion was approved unanimously.