

Family Connection-Communities In Schools of Athens
DRAFT Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Meeting date & location: February 23, 2023, Neighborhood Leaders Hub and Zoom

Draft minutes to be presented at next Board meeting by: Secretary Joan Bertsch

A quorum was in attendance.

Board members present: Alexia Ridley (presiding), Gary Bertsch, Joan Bertsch, David Bradley, Shannon Brooks, Daniel Epting, Jack Frierson, Kelly Girtz, Donarell Green, Lizette Guevara, Patrick Howard, Michaela Lawrence Jeffery, Alice Kinman, Paul Kurtz, Keri Massey, Denise Spangler, and Erin Thompson Podvin, and Jennifer Zwirn

Board members absent: Aseel Mansour, Stephen Nobles, Greg Roseboro, and Hadiza Saar

On leave from Board: Courtney Davis

Staff present: Executive Director Tim Johnson, Administrative Manager Cheri Smithson, Neighborhood Leaders Director Terris Thomas, and Neighborhood Leaders Patrick Howard and Lizette Guevara (who are nonvoting Board members)

Voting items & reports	
Agenda item	Motion/action or report
Opening	Kelly and Terris shared bright spots.
Program/Project Report	Tim shared about our FY 2024 Athens Annual Plan for Children, submitted in early February and subsequently reviewed by a Georgia Family Connection team with Tim and Dr. Jaime Moore (Chair of our Early Care & Learning Strategic Action Team). The plan was very well received. It is in final draft in the online database, awaiting confirmation of the FY 2024 funding amount to be finalized by the Georgia General Assembly. It was emailed to all Board members.
Staff and Committee reports	Written reports were provided from Board committees and staff, in hard copy and emailed.
Minutes	Minutes from the November Board meeting (previously circulated) were provided. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to adopt the Minutes as circulated.
Finance Committee	Keri updated the Board on work to have the books ready for the audit. She provided a Finance Report through January showing that overall we're doing well financially. There is an intention to consolidate our finances into a single bank account once the logistics of different funders e-depositing into the accounts we wish to close are resolved.
Board Development Committee	Gary reported that the Board Development Committee is reaching out to potential Board members and encourages all Board members to do so, especially focusing on individuals who can be leaders in resource development. He asked for suggestions in advance of the next Board Development Committee meeting, scheduled for March 7 th . He also encouraged Board members to invite prospects to the Changing the Picture for Athens Children Awards Dinner.
Strategic Planning and Executive Director Succession Committee	Shannon reported that strategic planning and successor planning are well under way. She clarified that organizational strategic planning (which the committee is leading, with consultant Sayge Medlin) is different from the community strategic planning that we facilitate (e.g. the Annual Plan for

	<p>Children that Tim shared). The Committee identified the steps in strategic planning and is implementing those. Sayge is conducting an environmental scan for the planning, including an online survey, focus groups, and interviews with Neighborhood Leaders, other staff, elected officials, partners, and Board members. Board members are encouraged to respond to the survey, which takes about 5 minutes, and to share it with others: https://tinyurl.com/582x8jps</p> <p>A new organizational chart, job description, and other documents are being developed. The organization is complex, and the Committee hopes to make it easier to understand.</p> <p>A Subcommittee was established to work specifically on logistics and specifics for executive director succession, parallel and interactive with the organizational strategic planning. The goal is to have the draft job description completed for Board review at its April meeting.</p> <p>She shared that the Succession Subcommittee recommends that at its April meeting, the Board discuss possibly removing a bylaws provision requiring that the executive director live in Athens-Clarke County. The cost of housing is a barrier, some suggested “preferred” rather than required, and some expressed that such specific job requirements would be in policy and in the job description rather than in the bylaws. It will be reviewed at the April Board meeting.</p> <p>The Committee plans for the plans to be completed by May.</p> <p>The goal is to advertise the position starting September 1 and to have the person start March 1, 2024. Tim’s final day is June 30, 2024.</p> <p>The Succession Subcommittee will meet again via Zoom on March 14 at 11:45 a.m.</p> <p>The full Strategic Planning Committee will have two mini-retreats, each from 9am to 12 noon on March 17 and March 31 in the Neighborhood Leaders Hub. Shannon added that any Board members are welcome, even if not on the Committee.</p>
Focus conversation:	<p>The Changing the Picture for Athens Children Awards Dinner is 9 days away. More than \$36,000 in sponsorships and donations have been secured, with Jack, Gary, and Paul being Board champions at getting multiple sponsorships. All were urged to continue to solicit sponsorships. Individual tickets are \$100 and can be ordered online. A run of show is in Google docs; Cheri will share it with the Board. Alexia will “MC” the evening. A slide show will be running during the reception. The evening will include brief presentations (3 to 5 minutes each) for each of our areas of work (collaboration, site coordinators, and Neighborhood Leaders). Individually appropriate introducers for each honoree will have up to 3 minutes. Gary will introduce the Patels. Tim has individuals in mind for Pastor Mosley and for Charles Peck; suggestions were made in case those don’t work out.</p>
Other	<p>Daniel raised the prospect of FC-CIS objecting to the renaming of two elementary schools (recently approved by the Board of Education). There was discussion and most who spoke, including Tim, did not want to do so. There was a commitment to ask Superintendent Hooker how we can best support him and the District for the success of all students. Tim will follow up with Dr. Hooker.</p>
Adjournment	<p>Alexia adjourned the meeting at 9:50 a.m.</p>