

**URBAN CHOICE CHARTER SCHOOL
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING – MINUTES
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2023**

Present: Mubarak Bashir, Zahira Jimenez, Bliss Owen, Taj Smith

Attending Remotely: Miriam Miranda-Jurado, Nicole Reinhardt

Absent/Excused:

Guests: Kirsten Barclay, Esq.

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 3:59 p.m. by Mubarak Bashir and the Mission Statement was shared.

Roll Call: Mubarak Bashir, Zahira Jimenez, Beth Mascitti-Miller, Lynn McCarthy, Miranda-Jurado (Zoom), Bliss Owen, Amy Rawleigh-Schiavi, Nicole Reinhardt (Zoom), Taj Smith

Motion 230203.1 Upon a motion by Bliss Owen and duly seconded by Taj Smith, the following was submitted for approval: **RESOLVED** to approve the January 12, 2023 meeting minutes.

Voting in the affirmative: Mubarak Bashir, Zahira Jimenez, Bliss Owen, Nicole Reinhardt, Taj Smith

Voting in the negative: None

Motion 230203.1 passed 5 to 0

Miriam Miranda-Jurado joined the meeting.

Chair shared the purpose of the Special Board Meeting to seek approval for two resolutions:

Motion 230203.2 Upon a motion by Bliss Owen and duly seconded by Taj Smith, the following was submitted for approval: **RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of Urban Choice Charter School hereby authorizes and directs its legal counsel, BOND Schoeneck King, PLLC to commence litigation against the New York State Department of Education, the Commissioner of the New York State Department of Education, the Board of Regents of the New York State Department of Education, and any additional parties as may be necessary to challenge their process, findings, and/or determinations with respect to Urban Choice Charter School's charter renewal.

Voting in the affirmative: Mubarak Bashir, Zahira Jimenez, Miriam Miranda-Jurado, Bliss Owen, Nicole Reinhardt, Taj Smith

Voting in the negative: None

Motion 230203.2 passed 6 to 0

Motion 230203.3 Upon a motion by Bliss Owen and duly seconded by Taj Smith, the following was submitted for approval: **RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of Urban Choice Charter School hereby amends its 2022-2023 budget to transfer \$750,000 from cash savings into a discretionary budget line in order to meet the personnel needs of the school that may arise as a result of any adverse action taken against the school on the part of its Authorizer, the New York State Department of Education.

Discussion

- Amount to be tiered system for retention money
- Looked at staff employed for five years or more receiving one amount and staff employed five years or less receiving a set amount
 - \$15,000 for staff employed more than five years
 - ✓ 49 staff members currently employed with less than five years
- Covering until June
- Employee has the right to accept or not accept

- A plan for those that do not accept
- Attempting to place certified teachers in positions
- Contracts for non-renewals shared with staff members in April
- Upfront with job applicants/candidates about UCCS's rechartering process
- Working on response to the NYSED letter and will be getting a response out before the February board meeting
 - Subjective comments and remarks
- Attorney recommends approval not to exceed \$750,000 cash transfer

Voting in the affirmative: Mubarak Bashir, Zahira Jimenez, Miriam Miranda-Jurado, Bliss Owen, Nicole Reinhardt, Taj Smith

Voting in the negative: None

Motion 230203.3 passed 6 to 0

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

Motion 230203.4 Upon a motion by Taj Smith and duly seconded by Bliss Owen, the following was submitted for approval: **RESOLVED** to adjourn the meeting at 4:20 p.m.

Voting in the affirmative: Mubarak Bashir, Zahira Jimenez, Miriam Miranda-Jurado, Bliss Owen, Nicole Reinhardt, Taj Smith

Voting in the negative: None

Motion 230203.4 passed 6 to 0

NEXT BOARD MEETING: February 15, 2023