

URBAN CHOICE CHARTER SCHOOL
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING – MINUTES
THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2024
ZOOM

Present: Mubarak Bashir, Jeff Clark, Denise Friedman, Nicole Reinhardt, Taj Smith

Absent/Excused:

Media Notification: The Democrat and Chronicle was notified of the March 14, 2024 meeting on March 8, 2024 with notice posted on the UCCS website.

BOARD MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mubarak Bashir.

Roll Call: Kirsten Barclay, Esq., Mubarak Bashir, Jeff Clark, Denise Friedman, Lynn McCarthy, Nicole Reinhardt, Taj Smith

Motion 240314.1 Upon a motion by Jeff Clark and duly seconded by Taj Smith, the following was submitted for approval: **RESOLVED** to approve the March 14, 2024 meeting agenda.

Voting in the affirmative: Mubarak Bashir, Jeff Clark, Denise Friedman, Nicole Reinhardt, Taj Smith

Voting in the negative: None

Motion 240314.1 passed 5 to 0

Motion 240314.2 Upon a motion by Jeff Clark and duly seconded by Nicole Reinhardt, the following was submitted for approval: **RESOLVED** to approve the September 14, 2023 meeting minutes.

Voting in the affirmative: Mubarak Bashir, Jeff Clark, Denise Friedman, Nicole Reinhardt, Taj Smith

Voting in the negative: None

Motion 240314.2 passed 5 to 0

Motion 240314.3 Upon a motion by Nicole Reinhardt and duly seconded by Taj Smith, the following was submitted for approval: **RESOLVED** to approve the November 9, 2023 meeting minutes.

Voting in the affirmative: Mubarak Bashir, Jeff Clark, Denise Friedman, Nicole Reinhardt, Taj Smith

Voting in the negative: None

Motion 240314.3 passed 5 to 0

PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE REPORT – Nicole Reinhardt

- Nothing to report at this time

TREASURER’S REPORT – Denise Friedman

- Balance Sheet:
 - From June 30 to end of February, we have collected most if not all A/R
 - State Aid had been approved and received
 - Overall cash has decreased
 - Collected Grants Receivables
 - Have not taken depreciation on the assets to date

- Will settle with bus
 - A/P has decreased
 - Paid off everything
 - CEI litigation was settled and paid
 - HSA payable – any outstanding was added to W-2
 - Deferred revenue – none since we have no students
- Income Statement:
- Some changes year over year
 - Sweep account interest through January
 - Expenditures from supplies that were paid out this year – no supplies this year
 - Personnel – paid more in unemployment than budgeted resulting in the overage
 - Kept maintenance and office staff on board until mid-August
 - Professional fees
 - ✓ Payroll service, legal fees primarily related to CEI litigation, CPA/audit fees – have not been billed for all of the audit to date
 - IT specialist is on for security for two staff members and accounts – monthly fee to manage
 - ✓ Program defender on two laptops
 - Contracted services – extra cleaning not budgeted
 - Management fee – settlement of litigation for piece written off
 - Legal expenses related to school closing
 - Depreciation – not recording until the school bus is gone
 - Facilities are over for rent due to being in building for an extra two weeks
 - \$10K less than budgeted for utilities
 - Insurance costs – less since policies have changed since the school is no longer operational
 - ✓ We did keep some intact for some matters
 - Office supplies in line with budget
 - Revenue – operating at a deficit because we are not operational
 - ✓ We have the cash to fund
 - Options for cash when closed

Lynn McCarthy:

- A number of reports were due
- Filed on 2.27.24
 - ✓ Student characteristics, type of instruction
 - ✓ Discipline
 - Confirmed receipt
 - Educational Stabilization Fund
 - ✓ Submitted on 3.11.24
 - Comprehensive report counting all money spent
 - Filed final expenditure for ARP homeless money

- ✓ Submitted and approved
 - Working on one more with many requests
 - The Charter School Office received the financials
 - Sent the letter from Child Nutrition – participation has been terminated
 - Bus
 - Sent letter to the RCSD Superintendent informing that the bus will be put up for auction (per the CSO closing procedures)
 - Non-profits will be informed on 3.21.24 via prepared correspondence
 - ✓ Created a list of all charter schools along with a comprehensive list of community-based organizations and non-profit service providers
 - ✓ Will send list to BoT members for review for additions
 - Bids will be accepted until 4.30.24
 - Payment for bus will be in cash or bank transfer
 - Value of bus is \$3,500
 - Outstanding bills and refunds
 - Received \$28K refund for a prepayment for a week of arbitration that was not used
 - Verizon account is closed
 - Overpayment on a credit card refunded – account closed
 - Spectrum – looking for over \$11K due to broken contract – settled for just over \$3K – account closed
 - Excellus Health and Dental \$9K for the overpayment – will be closed at the end of March and will bill for April, May and June
 - CEO is providing recommendations for former staff members looking for jobs and PhD programs
 - Former School Principal is also completing recommendations for former staff members
 - Employee verification paperwork continues
 - Filed with NYS Department of Labor for investigations – four being audited – able to collect unemployment in July – paperwork has been completed

CHAIR REPORT – Mubarak Bashir

- Nothing to report at this time

UPDATE FROM ATTORNEY KIRSTEN BARCLAY

- Revisited discussions from the past regarding the idea that when the education corporation is dissolved, we may be able to take the position that the school's assets should go to other charter schools vs. the RCSD
 - Charter Agreement was changed
 - Put together an opinion letter
 - Consult with a non-profit attorney

- UCCS is the first school to close with meaningful assets
- Regents meet monthly
 - Read notes and one grants permission for Oracle Charter School in Buffalo to file for judicial dissolution
 - Closed in 2018 and filed with Regents a year ago and taking action
 - Might want guidance on obligation for board members to stay engaged with a longer term strategy to wind down
- Will plan to meet in May to review all

DISCUSSION ITEMS: None

Motion 240314.4 Upon a motion by Taj Smith and duly seconded by Jeff Clark, the following was submitted for approval: **RESOLVED** to adjourn the meeting.

Voting in the affirmative: Mubarak Bashir, Jeff Clark, Denise Friedman, Nicole Reinhardt, Taj Smith

Voting in the negative: None

Motion 240314.4 passed 5 to 0

NEXT BOARD MEETING: May