

**URBAN CHOICE CHARTER SCHOOL
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING – MINUTES
THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2021**

Present: Shakeel Armstrong, Duwaine Bascoe, Mubarak Bashir, Michael Kohlhagen, Miriam Miranda-Jurado

Absent: Felicia Dees, Bliss Owen

Guests: Kirsten Barclay, Esq., Dr. Alice Bartley and Taj Smith, Prospective Board Member

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

The Board Meeting was called to order by Mubarak Bashir at 6:02 p.m. and the Mission Statement was shared. All attendees introduced themselves.

Motion 210408.1 Upon a motion by Michael Kohlhagen and duly seconded by Miriam Miranda-Jurado, the following was submitted for approval:
RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees approve the February 11, 2021 minutes.

Voting in the affirmative: Shakeel Armstrong, Duwaine Bascoe, Mubarak Bashir, Michael Kohlhagen, Miriam Miranda-Jurado

Voting in the negative: None

Motion 210408.1 passed 5 to 0

CEO's REPORT – Lynn McCarthy

➤ Dashboard Review – March 2021:

Benchmark 9: Enrollment, Recruitment

- Enrollment is at 396 students

- ✓ One student added in the month of March
- Wait list for 2020-21 is at 358 students
 - ✓ Grade seven has the largest number on list
- 51 students left UCCS from September to date
- Lottery applications were down
 - ✓ Applications are down for all charter schools this year
 - ✓ 311 applications
 - ✓ 38 kindergarten openings
 - ✓ One third grade opening
 - ✓ Full at 400
 - ✓ Have not been made aware of any students leaving UCCS
 - ✓ Questioned if the weighting change for the lottery had any impact
 - Data will be analyzed and presented at the next BoT meeting
 - ✓ Ten of the kindergarten applicants were siblings
- Attendance increased 73%
 - ✓ Kindergarten increased

Benchmark 3: Culture, Climate, and Student and Family Engagement

- Five home visits
- School activity – delivered Chromebooks promised to graduating students from last year
- Discipline data
 - ✓ Overall 5th grade still higher with Help Zone Visits
 - ✓ ATS
 - ✓ No out of school suspensions
- Hired staff
 - ✓ One position open
- All classrooms opened to two classes per grade level
- Art Teacher added
- 34 teaching staff members with 30 certified
- New staff members hired are all fully certified
- ELA State Assessments
 - ✓ Session One of the ELA timeframe 4/18-4/29
 - ✓ Math 5/3-5/14
 - ✓ Session one is multiple choice
 - ✓ Training with the staff this past Wednesday
 - Kelly presented to the staff
 - ✓ Looking at Book Two options
 - Will meet again to discuss - including Dr. Alice Bartley

Chris Vernon:

➤ ELA

- Grade 5 Reading Results, Part 2 – highlight some of the points from our second iReady Test:
 - ✓ Looking for growth and changes in the right direction
 - ✓ Overall placement percentage
 - ✓ Tier One – on grade level
 - ✓ Tier Two – below and up to a grade level
 - ✓ Tier Three – below two or more grade levels
 - ✓ Want to see Tier One go up and Tier Three go down
 - ❖ Results show there is not a significant change, but it is in the right direction
 - ❖ Reading and testing in five different domains
 - ❖ Third grade increased in Tier One while Tier Three is unchanged
 - ❖ Fifth grade is trending in the right direction
 - ✓ Phonics deficiencies are holding our students back
 - ❖ Another iReady test planned in the coming weeks
 - ❖ Breakdown and all of the relevant teachers have now had separate meetings with Macheal Spencer-Edwards
 - ❖ Kelly has worked with first and second grade reading groups using this data and now have a group of teachers trained to Fountas and Pinnell assessments – guided reading groups
 - ❖ Anthony Volforte put together a host of recommendations for what we need to put in place for next year such as purchasing a phonics program
 - Foundations is an established phonics program for K-2
 - Guided reading model and investing in level books to assist guided reading all the way through the school
 - Literacy intervention kits

Benchmark 3 (Addition):

Carl Parris:

- E-Sports – a wonderful opportunity through CEI to engage our students
 - In collaboration with CEI and Project Boost, introduced the E-Sports program
 - ✓ March Madness Theme
 - ✓ Comprehensive Program
 - ✓ Overview of gaming industry
 - ✓ Themed lessons
 - ✓ Introduced major players and what is involved
 - ✓ Built in social/emotional teamwork with day-to-day life skills
 - ✓ Music industry and pop culture coming together
 - ❖ Languages geared specifically for these young people

- ✓ Meet in Media Center
- ✓ Discussions with others via Zoom
 - ❖ Planning additional speakers and players
- ✓ Open to boys and girls in grades 6, 7 & 8
- ✓ Attendance was at 11 today and 10 yesterday – looking to average 12 students per day
- ✓ Engage in innovative approaches
- ✓ One-hour presentations including skill building
- ✓ Portable systems and partner vs. other gamers in healthy and non-violent ways
- ✓ Basketball court and introduction to the real live game of basketball

Other Accomplishments and Highlights:

- \$5K donation received from the Kennedy Foundation for technology:
 - 25 wireless blue tooth headphones for remote students having difficulty locating a quiet spot within their homes for work
 - Portable mice for Chromebooks
 - 30 replacement chargers for Lenova Chromebooks
 - Additional Chromebooks
- Upcoming event planned for mid-May
 - In place of Winter Store which could not be held due to pandemic
 - ✓ Gift items were purchased through the Kennedy Foundation
 - ✓ Will honor Mother’s Day/Father’s Day
 - ✓ Students will select a gift to honor an important female and male in their lives
 - ✓ Wrapping gifts
 - ✓ Experience of being able to give to someone else

CEI’s REPORT – Michael Kohlhausen:

- Meeting with Dr. Alice Bartley every Thursday for 90 minutes
 - Asking questions of the Team
 - Ending the school year strong
 - Review of indicators of progress within the building
 - New ELA and new Math curriculum
 - Progress while doing the units in the modules – teachers have done a good job with the pacing

- There is a need for work to implement growth
- Brand new curriculum – Leadership Team made the decision to allow teachers to concentrate on either ELA or Math
 - Math/Science or ELA/Social Studies
 - Kelly Walker – K-2 ELA teachers sharing practice based on data analysis
 - Working in Professional Learning Communities
 - Analyzing data together
 - Teacher visitations

Carl Parris:

- Team is meeting regularly
 - Supporting and meeting with students weekly
- Focus on reducing behavior issues and altercations that can be disruptive
- Data connectivity
 - Every student enrolled has a working device
 - Devices available for new students that enroll
 - More technology is coming
 - Moving in the right direction
- We have engaged the Math Team extensively – analyzing and taking a deeper look at future developments
 - What are students missing?
 - What areas are students not proficient?
 - What skills are needed to move forward?
 - Fully engaging the teachers in Professional Development

TREASURER'S COMMITTEE REPORT – No Detailed Report

- Financials are consistent and stable

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE REPORT – Miriam Miranda-Jurado

- Completed face-to-face teacher meetings
- Teacher Survey will be distributed tomorrow
 - A full report will be compiled with results
- We are communicating with the users and consumers of a program
 - Sharing positive suggestions for moving forward
- There is a lot of work to complete

- A comprehensive self-analysis was completed and delivered to Mubarak and Miriam
 - Will deliver and present at a special meeting in approximately a week followed by a presentation to the full board for review

Motion 210408.2

Upon a motion by Miriam Miranda-Jurado and duly seconded by Shakeel Armstrong, the following was submitted for approval: **RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees, having conducted a thorough criminal history record check via fingerprinting which is deemed acceptable by NYSED, and having discovered no State or Federal criminal history, or having provided information regarding such history to NYSED, if found, and having verified that any academic and/or professional credential or qualification presented by the proposed member is genuine, has voted to select Taj Smith as a member to its Board of Trustees, with a term expiring on June 30, 2024, pending approval by NYSED. The resolution approving Taj Smith is adopted upon NYSED's approval.

Voting in the affirmative: Shakeel Armstrong, Duwaine Bascoe, Mubarak Bashir, Michael Kohlhausen, Miriam Miranda-Jurado

Voting in the negative: None

Motion 210408.2 passed 5 to 0

CHAIR REPORT – Mubarak Bashir

- Acknowledged that UCCS has secured a charter
 - There is a need to get the message out and show the community that UCCS is doing great work and that the school is open
- Discussed the Rochester Beacon - an online publication
- New Regent on the Board of Regents
 - Will work with Lynn M. to set up meeting and build a relationship before the school year ends

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Discussion related to revising the UCCS Mission Statement
 - Any changes need to align with standards requested by NYSED
- Encouraging board members to contact the CEO to schedule a visit/tour of the school

Motion 210408.3 Upon a motion by Miriam Miranda-Jurado and duly seconded by Michael Kohlhagen, the following was submitted for approval: **RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees adjourn the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

Voting in the affirmative: Shakeel Armstrong, Duwaine Bascoe, Mubarak Bashir, Michael Kohlhagen, Miriam Miranda-Jurado

Voting in the negative: None

Motion 210408.3 passed 5 to 0

NEXT BOARD MEETING: May 20, 2021