

Uwharrie Charter Academy
Board of Directors Meeting
September 9, 2021; 6:30 pm Central Office
Minutes

Board Member Present

Carter Bills	Angela Kern	Eric Ward
Kristian Allen	Aaryn Slafky	Wanda Pegg
David Van Derveer	Chelsey Butler	Maxine Wright
Greg Zephir	Johnathan Thill	

Others Present

Dr. Sharon Castelli
Ryan Nelson
Charity Shore
Chris Wheat
Jodi Smith
Suzanne Bryant
Kaye Williams

UCA Board Ethics Statement

Uwharrie Charter Academy will make decisions that are morally sound, environmentally responsible, fiscally fit, safe for the community, adaptable and promote the development of its students, always with integrity.

Call to Order

Mr. Bills called the meeting to order at 6:38 P.M.

Public comment

No public comment.

E3 Awards

Teacher Recipient High School - Chris Murdock: Our E3 award goes to a math teacher at our high school. He is always a student favorite on the math hall. His personality makes math as fun as it can possibly be for his students. Mr. Murdock is always willing to help the administration and other teachers. He has given up his room to other teachers and covered for others at a moment's notice. Mr. Murdock is an integral part of our math department and our school. We nominated him for this award to show him how much we appreciate all his doing for our students.

Student Recipient High School – Regan Hill: The student E3 winner this month from the high school is Reagan Hill. Reagan has been volunteering her time in the front office each morning. She is very intelligent, and her bright personality never goes unnoticed by our students and staff. Ms. Hill studies

her 3 RCC college classes as she helps students out. She is a jack of all trades & we are very proud to have her helping us in the High School Front office.

Teacher Recipient Middle School – Hillary Ross: Ms. Hillary Ross joined our school last year and she has been a great addition to our faculty. She has been working with one of our subs creating lesson plans for another ELA class while also working to make plans for her brand-new Cosmetology STEAM, which has been a big hit. She has worked hard to make sure that the 8th grade students and her STEAM students have engaging and interesting lessons. She has spent countless hours preparing for her STEAM class and she is truly an asset to UCA!!

Student Recipient Middle School – Mica Weatherly: The middle school is pleased to award Mica Weatherly with our first E3 award of the year. She is a new student at UCA and has done an outstanding job of taking on what it means to be an eagle. Her teachers report that when another new student came to school 2 weeks after school started, she took him under her wing and helped him get adjusted to school. She worked with him and helped him to understand the material that he missed. She also helped him to find the classes he needed to find and where he needed to go at the end of the day. Thank you to Mica for showing kindness to a new student and being a great example for others.

Teacher Recipient Elementary School – Jamielle Orrell: Mrs. Orrell has been a tremendously huge help to admin, her colleagues, and her team especially. She has been so positive, and that positivity radiates through all she does. Mrs. Orrell is a wonderful teacher, and the kids always look forward to art! One of our new teachers commented "wow, I can't believe what my kid learns in art now and the things he brings home are awesome!" We are so thankful to have her in the UCA Fam!

Student Recipient Elementary School – Bayleigh Ford: Bayleigh is a wonderful student and is a role model for her peers. She is kind, caring, and helpful to all. She is particularly helpful with a student who needs help getting onto and off the bus. Bayleigh is a lovely, responsible young lady and we are so proud of her.

Consent Agenda-

A motion was made by Mr. Thill, seconded by Ms. Allen, to approve the Consent Agenda, Superintendent's Report, Assistant Superintendent's report, Treasurer's Report, CFO Report, August Minutes, and August 21 Called Meeting minutes. Vote taken by roll call. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

Finance/ Facilities (30 Minutes)

1. Finance Committee Report- Finance Committee Report was uploaded and available for review.
2. Shelco Update with Trades Presentation (Shelco and Mr. Wheat)-
 - a. Shelco representative, Mike Rhodes, presented the board with updates regarding construction of the new high school. The current estimates for square footage include 85k square feet designated for high school, and 22.5k square feet designated for trades school. Mr. Rhodes shared that the current overall budget sits around \$31,773,386. However, more updates and changes will be forthcoming as Shelco works with UCA to stay within set plan and budget range.
 - b. Mr. Wheat spoke about the trades building philosophy and what will be prioritized with regard to space. He shared that the trades curriculum will be promoted and accessible to all students (not just at-risk) and will be designed to integrate seamlessly with core

class schedules. Mr. Wheat also shared that the trades building will be connected to the new high school.

3. Groundskeeper Contract- Executive staff has selected Grass Works to handle maintenance and upkeep for all three school grounds. The annual contract cost is expected to exceed \$10,000. A motion was made by Mr. Ward, seconded by Mr. Zephir, to approve a contract with Grass Works to maintain grounds at elementary, middle and high schools. Vote taken by roll call. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

Governance (10 Minutes)

1. Governance Committee Report- Ms. Allen shared that the Governance Committee met on August 19, and reviewed the employee and student handbooks.
2. Employee Handbook- Ms. Allen reported that the only major change to the employee handbook was additional information concerning employee benefits. A motion was made by Ms. Allen, seconded by Ms. Slafky, to adopt the changes as uploaded the employee handbook. Vote taken by roll call. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.
3. Student/Parent Handbook- Ms. Allen explained that response COVID-19 and public safety, changes were made to the absence policy, regarding excused and unexcused absences. Students were previously automatically required to engage in the waiver process after 10 unexcused absences, that threshold has since been changed to fifteen unexcused absences. Dr. Castelli shared that these changes exist to encourage students and parents to feel comfortable with allowing students to stay at home if not feeling well. A motion was made by Ms. Allen, seconded by Ms. Pegg, to adopt the parent/student handbook with amendments to attendance policy. Vote taken by roll call. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.
4. Board Manual (*vote needed*)- A motion was made by Mr. Ward, seconded by Mr. Zephir, to adopt changes as uploaded to the board manual. Vote taken by roll call. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.
5. Recruitment Update- Ms. Allen reported that the Governance Committee is recruiting three new members. Applications will remain available via the UCA website through October 31. Recommendations for board seats, and new officer nominations, will take place during the January 2022 meeting. New officer recommendations are due to the Governance Committee by October 31.

Academic Excellence (30 Minutes)

1. Academic Excellence Report – Dr. Kern reported that Academic Excellence met on August 31. Academic Excellence is excited to announce that Mrs. Beth Kearns is the new principal at the high school. Ms. Monica Bass will be taking over as the new assistant principal at the middle school. Dr. Kern shared that Academic Excellence will meet again at 3pm on September 23.
2. COVID - 19 Update – Dr. Castelli shared that she has remained in regular communication with Randolph County Public Health. She reported that last week

Randolph County was at an 11.9% positive COVID rate. Dr. Castelli shared that UCA has 15 total COVID cases and 62 students at home currently.

3. UCA mask/quarantine update (*Vote Needed*)- Dr. Castelli's recommendation is that UCA remain within the current masking mandate schedule. She plans to look review the data again in October to formulate a threshold that would need to be reached in order to remove the mask mandate. Randolph County Public Health's recommendation would be a community-wide positive rate of 5% or less. A motion was made by Mr. Zephir, seconded by Ms. Kern, to continue in current masking mandate schedule as laid out in the August board meeting with no changes. Vote taken by roll call. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

Other Business/New Business

1. Mr. Wheat shared that he has been working with Servco to ensure that all punch list items are completed. He is excited to share that all contractual duties have been completed to satisfaction with regard to the elementary school expansion project. There was a net savings of \$4,000 from the original estimate. A motion was made by Eric Ward, seconded from Greg Zephir, to approve a final payment to Servco. Vote taken by roll call. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carries.
2. Mr. Nelson shared that he believes it would be advantageous for finance committee and board to consider a "magic number" or threshold amount that should remain available in accounts. His example was six months of operating finances.

Board Exercise

1. Strategic Planning with Leadership

Closed Session – Personnel GS143-318.11 (a)(6)

A motion was made by Thill, seconded by Allen to go into Closed Session as notified in the agenda for the reason of discussion around Personnel GS143-318.11 (a)(6). Vote taken by roll call. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried. The Open Meeting concluded at 8:55 P.M.

Mr. Nelson, Ms. Shore, Mr. Wheat, Ms. Smith, Ms. Bryant, Ms. Williams and members of the public left the meeting.

Mr. Bills called the Closed Session to order at 9:08 P.M.

A motion was made by Mr. Ward, seconded by Dr. Kern, to come out of closed session at 8:55 pm. Vote taken by roll call. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Dr. Kern, seconded by Mr. Ward, to adjourn. Vote taken by roll call. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

UCA Board Vision Statement

Uwharrie Charter Academy is the model of innovative learning environments where curiosity, adaptability, and critical thinking are inspired through transformative methods and passionate educators preparing graduates for the rapidly evolving world