

**Uwharrie Charter Academy  
Board of Directors Meeting  
August 11, 2022; 6:30pm Middle School Gym  
Minutes**

**Board Members Present**

Jonathan Thill	Ryan Terry	David Van Derveer
Greg Zephir	Rebecca Meade	Kristian Allen
Chelsey Butler	Eric Ward	Carter Bills

**Board Members Absent**

John Reid

**Others Present**

Teacher Rep ES – Jessica Hoffmire (ES TOY)  
Teacher Rep MS – Sherry Ficquette  
Teacher Rep HS – JT Trogdon  
Michelle Barfield  
Ryan Nelson  
Chris Wheat  
Sharon Castelli  
Elizabeth & Edward Farmer (HS TOY & Guest)  
Melissa Hicks (MS TOY)

**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 student, always with integrity.*

**Call To Order**

Mr. Bills called the meeting to order at 6:36pm

**Public Comment**

No Public Comment

**E3 Awards**

This month's E3 winners are our Teachers of the Year. All three of these ladies are exceptional. During our interview process for the district Teacher of the Year, they all noted relationships with their students must come first before learning can begin. They also noted a word of advice for new teachers is not to give up and look for a mentor.

First, we have Ms. Jessica Hoffmire. Ms. Hoffmire took a leap of faith last year and trusted us when she was asked to become the Elementary School STEAM teacher. She went from working with 4<sup>th</sup> grade to working with all the children. She also serves as a true leader and a voice for the staff and always comes with options. When I asked students about Ms. Hoffmire, here were their responses: Good-thinking, helping, brave, polite, problem-solving, kind, not afraid to try, creative-thinker, and best STEAM teacher.

Next, we have Ms. Melissa Hicks. Ms. Hicks serves as an EC resource teacher at the Middle School and also took a leap of faith when she was asked to serve as the EC Coordinator for the MS, assisting me and her school with services, interventions, resources, and compliance. Her students said she was: kind, considerate, thoughtful, and caring.

Finally, we have Ms. Elizabeth Farmer. Ms. Farmer is our AG teacher at the HS and the FFA leader. She developed this program from the ground up and her partnerships and relationships with the community is one to be modeled after. Her students said she was: fun, nice, understanding, kind, amazing, inspirational, and mindful.

UCA is blessed to have all three of these ladies represent their school and our district as a whole. And I have to be honest in saying that this had to have been the hardest and closest interview I have ever been a part of. They are devoted to UCA and to our children and they also advocate for their staff as well. But more importantly when you think about who they are as a person, we heard words and phrases from each about how “once my student, always my student”, and I am so proud when I see them graduate knowing how hard they worked or “before I begin a lesson, I need to know how they feel first”, and finally how one noted that “the kids that are looking for a place to belong, are the kids that belong to me”. Again, it is an honor for us to have them but as our Teachers of the Year, and we are excited to announce that Ms. Elizabeth Farmer is our UCA District Teacher of the Year. Congratulations to all three of these inspirational teachers.

### **Consent Agenda**

A motion was made by Dr. Thill, seconded by Ms. Butler to approve the Superintendent’s Report, Assistant Superintendent’s Report, Treasurer’s Report, CFO’s Report, and June 9, 2022 Minutes. Vote taken by roll call. All in favor. None opposed. Motion Carried.

### **Finance/Facilities**

1. Finance Committee Report – Mr. Nelson said that UCA finished the year financially strong. Regarding the audit process, he feels good and thinks it should be completed soon. Ryan said that a one- and three-year comparison of fund balances were included in the board member’s packets. HS and MS will have control of their own finances with support from Central Office and finance as needed this semester. ES will have control next semester. Mr. Ward said that each individual school has an independent account. There will be no access to general funds or other overarching school accounts.

Dr. Thill asked if individual schools would have autonomy over budgets or if this would still be a responsibility of Central office. Ryan said that while schools would still have access to specific funds, for right now central office would still be preparing the budget with much input from schools as pertaining to their budget.

2. Construction Update - Mr. Wheat says that the HS Construction project is on time and on budget as of today, the staff continues to be happy with Shelco and the progress being made. Completion timeline has moved back due to a sewer issue. In process of negotiating with the state, to get permit to move forward with build knowing that Randolph County will be upgrading the Ulah pump nearby.

## **Governance**

1. Governance Committee Report- Governance did not meet in July.

2. Review of Board of Directors Manual - 2022-2023 - new members were added for information, volunteer policy has changed. Volunteer policy has changed board members can act in a lay coach position, but not head coach capacity. Motion to approve by Ms. Allen, seconded by Ms. Mead. Vote taken by roll call. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

3. Parent/Student Handbook- 3/6/10 Letters, attendance policy will go back to a closer model of what is was. Cyber bullying was added into policy, as well as disruption of school. Admins have ability to act on that within their school. Technology policies updated. Absence policy updated - you have three days to provide an executed absence note. More similar to pre-covid structure. Motion to approve by Ms. Allen, seconded by Mr. Van Derveer. Vote taken by roll call. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

4. Employee Handbook - Changed bereavement policy, changed to include biological grandparents. Extended family is three-day bereavement. Added a category of poor performance into non-renew policy. Motion to approve by Ms. Allen, seconded by Dr.Thill. Vote taken by roll call. All in favor. None opposed. Motion Carried.

5. UCA Partnership Proposal - Creation of ad-hoc committee

6. Academic Excellence - 100% fully staffed. Discussed rigor, vitality, social/emotional health of children. This year's theme is "Crossing the Line, focused on the North Star."

Teacher Representatives all reported varied success with opening of schools. Overall good energy, students and staff happy to be back in the building.

## **New Business**

There is an executive order about meetings via zoom. Dr. Castelli has reached out to UCA's counsel and will update board as she finds out more.

Ms. Allen discussed an EKG2 film that targets student safety that is targeted to 7<sup>th</sup> grade students and is DPI approved. Work is being done to create a 9<sup>th</sup> grade film as well.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Terry, seconded by Dr. Thill to go into closed session as notified in the agenda for the reason of discussion around Personnel GS143-3811 (a)(6). Vote taken by roll call. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

All attendees left the meeting except Dr. Castelli and the members of the Board.

## **Adjourn**

A motion was made by Mr. Ward, seconded by Mr. Zephir 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.*