



Uwharrie Charter Academy  
Board of Directors *Called Meeting*  
December 14, 2021; 6:30 pm  
Public Record Minutes

**Board Member Present:**

Chelsey Butler  
Wanda Pegg  
Maxine Wright

Eric Ward  
Carter Bills  
Angela Kern

Kristian Allen  
Jonathan Thill

**Not Present:**

Greg Zephir

Aaryn Slafky

David Van Derveer

**Others Present:**

Sharon Castelli  
Ryan Nelson  
Shelly Fossati  
Rick DeLauncy  
Christopher Wheat  
Colleen Saunders  
Members of public (13 total, 2 speakers)

**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**

Carter Bills called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM.

**Public Comment**

Mr. Jonathan Burress and Mrs. Kaye Williams (UCA Elementary School Teacher Representative), both spoke during the public comment period.



Mr. Buresse raised concerns over a writing assignment that was recently given to students regarding the electoral college. He feels that teachers are overstepping classroom boundaries by “forcing beliefs on fragile minds without authority or consent.” Mr. Buresse would like to see the board do more to embrace the UCA code of Ethics.

Mrs. Williams presented board members with a spreadsheet detailing hours and money spent in the classroom of nineteen UCA elementary school teachers. Elementary school teachers have concerns about the number of materials they are personally providing for classrooms, limited storage space, and feel that there is a lack of provided curriculum materials. Mrs. Williams noted that although things have improved tremendously over the last year under Dr. Castelli’s leadership, there is still a significant time lapse between asking and receiving materials. Teachers also raised concerns that other local school systems recently received a bonus, and are hoping that they will also receive a bonus.



### **1) Guaranteed Max Price for Capital Project and proposed Bond structure (voted needed)**

Mr. Wheat presented the following updated timeline for the new high school construction project.

- Confirm guaranteed max price for project on December 14th.
- Complete bond issuance and closing, January 2022
- Break ground for construction, late January or early February 2022
- Construction completion, March/April 2023
- Furnish new high school, May/June 2023
- Move elementary school to existing high school, June/July 2023
- Grand opening for both elementary school and high school, August 2023

Mr. Wheat shared that the board had previously approved the \$32.5 bond issuance during the November board meeting. The guaranteed max price for construction is \$31.5 million (leaving \$1 million for closing and debt reserve). This price excludes a projected \$700,000 in sales tax that will be periodically reimbursed throughout the duration of the build. This cost also preserves the current timeline and total square footage of the new high school, Career Academy/Trades Academy, and Central Office.

Mr. Wheat shared that the next step in the process is contract development.

Mr. Thill asked if there was any chance that fluctuation of material prices due to unforeseeable circumstances would change the guaranteed max price. Mr. Wheat confirmed that the guaranteed max price would not change under any circumstances.

Mr. Ward shared that this information had been thoroughly vetted by the Finance Committee and commended UCA executive staff for their significant contributions thus far to this project.

A motion was made by Mr. Ward, seconded by Mrs. Allen, to approve the guaranteed max price for the high school capital project and proposed bond structure for the amount of \$31.5 million. Vote taken by roll call. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

### **2) SOP on Political Activities and Classroom Displays (vote needed)**

Mrs. Allen reported that the Governance Committee had thoroughly reviewed and approved the Political Activities Policy.

Dr. Castelli went over the highlights of the new policy.

A motion was made by Mrs. Allen, seconded by Mrs. Pegg, to approve the SOP on Political Activities and Classroom Displays. Vote taken by roll call. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.



**Adjourn**

A motion was made by Mr. Ward, seconded by Ms. Pegg, to adjourn at 7:00 pm. 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.*