

**Uwharrie Charter Academy  
Board of Directors Meeting Agenda  
September 14th 6:30pm Central Gym  
Minutes**

**Board Members Present**

Becca Mead     John Reid     Regina Rush  
  
Chelsey Butler  
  
Greg Zephir     Jonathan Thill (online)  
  
Kristian Allen     Valerie Dambreville (online)

**Board Member Absent**

Ryan Terry     Carter Bills     Eric Ward

**Administration Present**

Michelle Barfield     Chris Wheat  
  
Sharon Castelli     Cody Fracheur

**Teachers Present**

Tony Martin (HS)     Sherry Ficquette (MS)     Colleen Stanley (ES)

**Call to Order**

- Chairperson Chelsey Butler called the meeting to order at 6:32pm.

**Public Comment**

- No public comment

**E3 Awards**

- This past Monday marked the 22nd Anniversary of 9/11 as it is recognized as Patriot Day to honor all of our first responders. With that said, last Friday, one of our students was involved in a terrible car accident after dismissal and it was our own SROs Officer Jordan Williams and Officer Todd Blakely who were the first on the scene. They immediately saw our student and notified us while pulling the other driver from his vehicle to safety. They stayed with our student until the administration arrived. While the student was being lifted into the ambulance, a civilian began screaming at our student and these two SROs immediately intervened. These two officers not only keep our students and staff safe but they are truly members of our UCA family and we are blessed and honored to have them. Thank you again, Officer Williams and Blakely for your service.

**Consent agenda**

- A motion was made by John Reid, seconded by Becca Mead to approve the Superintendent's Report, Assistant Superintendent's Report, Treasurer's Report, CFO

Report, August 10, 2023 and Board of Directors Retreat, August 25, 2023 Meeting Minutes. Vote taken by Voice. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

### **Finance/Facilities**

- Finance Committee Report: Dr. Castelli presented on behalf of Mr. Ryan Nelson and Mr. Eric Ward. Not much movement from July 31<sup>st</sup> until now. Dr. Castelli reported various account balances.
- Construction Update: Mr. Wheat presented that all our students are in the buildings, and Learning Cottages. The only thing that remains on the Learning Cottages is the skirting, and then landscaping/erosion will be attended to next. Our inspector was gracious with allowing furniture to get into the building, along with Volunteers helping to get classrooms set up. Modular Unit set up at the Middle School for the Media Center. Golden Leaf – about 2/3rds of the funds have been spent, and is working to spend the remaining funds on the Career Academy. The Roundabout has a projected started of Oct 2, and is scheduled to take 6-8 weeks with traffic control at all times. Once the roundabout is completed we will get a full fledge certificate of occupancy.
- EC Fencing at ES: Mr. Wheat presented an additional project that is currently needed at the ES – it is a safety priority. The long-term plan is an inclusive playground, but for the time being is we need to contain this area for safety reasons for students who are currently in the mobile unit in this area. Finance committee felt the 5ft high residential grade fencing, and the recommendation was Able Fencing. Mr. Reid asked about the bars being spaced for children's heads getting through. There is a Safety Grant that Dr. Castelli has applied for where \$10,000 would be allocated to this project. All three companies said that residential grade fencing would be sufficient for this project vs. commercial grade fencing. Ms. Stanley said that this area would also be utilized as an outdoor learning space as well.
  - i. Motion to approve contract with Able Fencing for EC Fencing at Elementary School Campus for a total of \$14,549. Motion by Kristian Allen, seconded by John Reid. Vote taken by Voice. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carries.
- Septic Update: The timeline has been extended, and we allocated approx. \$70K, and if it is pushed back it could cost us almost \$120K. However, the County Commissioners will look to take over this cost, and they will meet at the Oct 2 meeting to discuss this item.

### **Governance**

- Governance Committee Report: Ms. Mead reported that the Board Member Application is online, and we will be looking to fill 3 positions. Will look to get this information on Social Media. Our attorney, Kristian Allen is rolling off, along with Carter Bills and Eric Ward.

### **Academic Excellence**

- Academic Excellence Committee Report: Ms. Ficquette reported that they are fully staffed, and Mr. Samples, the new AP will be starting on Monday, Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>. Mr.

Grindstaff is the Educator of the Week for FOX8. The Media Center has a lot of books, and so full that the book fair cannot be held in there at the moment with all the boxes! Ms. Bryant, our librarian, was awarded a literacy grant in the amount of \$2K. Steam got started last week. Students completed their diagnostics for iReady. 6<sup>th</sup> grade scores are looking good. Flex Day is coming up. Ms. Stanley reported that it is busy at the ES, with all students and now including 5<sup>th</sup> grade! They appreciate having a playground, bathrooms, and windows – all the great things that came with moving into this building! They have 12 new staff members (including the 5<sup>th</sup> grade team that has joined the building). mClass has begun along with iReady to get their baseline data. 5<sup>th</sup> Grade has started their Dare program. They had an author visit today. All classrooms have a calm down corner, and the staff is working on a sensory activity tomorrow. BOG has also been completed! Mr. Martin is new to UCA, he is a part of the Career Academy. The Academy is doing really well, having started from Ground Zero, tremendous support. Carpentry is doing well, and they are mentoring the Metals teacher as he is new to teaching and UCA.

#### **Other Business/New Business**

- Ad Hoc Committee – Football -- Mr. Wheat reported that there is a growing interest in starting Football here at UCA. They want to create a plan that focuses on fundraising opportunities, sponsorships, and partnerships. There is no timeline, but will plan to give monthly updates. Football will need to be self-financed because there are other priorities that take precedent. Mr. Wheat is receiving resumes for a program that doesn't exist, but there is excitement in community to begin this program. Mr. Thill said that the owner of Pella Doors would be interested in supporting football. The intent of this Ad Hoc Committee is to plan and discuss the creation of football, but its not a done deal. This would be a closed group discussion. If we raise money for football, it would be 2 pots of money – separate from the Boosters. The only way football happens is it is self-funded. Dr. Castelli has already met with a building company about the planning stages of the K-2 Wing.
- Ms. Butler reported that Mr. Dambreville is the chair of Academic Excellence, John Reid is the Secretary, and Ms. Rush is the treasurer, along with Ms. Mead going into the governance. Please make sure that the information is getting out to their committees. Mr. Zephir mentioned that he was slated for Treasurer.

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

- A motion to move to closed session by John Reid, seconded by Kristian Allen at 7:09pm. Vote taken by Voice. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

#### **Adjourn**