

Uwharrie Charter Academy
Board of Directors Meeting
November 18, 2021; 6:30 PM UCA Middle School
Minutes

Board Members Present:

Chelsey Butler	Eric Ward	Wanda Pegg
Aaryn Slafky	David Van Derveer	Maxine Wright
Greg Zephir	Carter Bills (by phone)	

Not Present:

Jonathan Thill	Angela Kern
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Others Present:

Sharon Castelli
Ryan Nelson
Shelly Fossati
Rick DeLaunay
Christopher Wheat
Jody Smith
Suzanne Bryant
Kaye Williams
Members of the Public (21)

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 6:31 PM.

Public Comment:

Public comment was given by Jonathan Burress and Jeff Lowe.

E3 Awards

November's E3 Award honors the UCA Custodial and Business staff.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Zephir, seconded by Ms. Wright, to approve the Consent Agenda as follows: Superintendent's Report, Assistant Superintendent Report, Treasurer's Report, CFO Report, October 14, 2021 and October 27, 2021 Minutes. Vote taken by roll call. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

Finance/Facilities (30 minutes)

1. Finance Committee Report: Mr. Nelson reported that the North Carolina General Assembly recently approved the budget. He anticipates more information in the near future as to how this will impact UCA.
2. Capital Project Update – Mr. Wheat said there will probably need to be a called board meeting in December to approve a guaranteed max price (GMP) amount for the high school capital project. He anticipates a GMP of \$32.5M, but would like to trim cost down by at least \$1M to reserve for contingency. Mr. Wheat continues to be pleased with Shelco’s feedback and interactions with UCA. As of right now the project timeline remains on track, even with bond closing happening around mid-January.
1. Audit Update: Mr. Nelson anticipates completion of the audit by the end of November, and will provide a full financial report in the future.
2. Bond Update Presentation – Mr. Jasin provided UCA with multiple debt structuring options for bond issuance. Mr. Nelson and executive staff would like to move forward with an option of 3.56%, which is also the recommendation of Mr. Jasin.

Mr. Zephir asked when the bond issuance would take place. Mr. Nelson shared that it would likely take place in mid-January.

3. Potential Land Purchase (\$72k) –The landowner of a 5.6-acre area adjacent to UCA has reached out to offer to sell the land for \$72,000. The landowner is giving UCA the right of first refusal. Mr. Ward stated that the finance committee supports any opportunity to expand UCA’s footprint, however remains mindful of the current high school expansion project and the financial commitment associated with that. Dr. Castelli went to look at the property but would like an opportunity to do more in-depth research before making any further recommendations.

Governance (10 minutes)

1. Governance Committee Report- Governance Committee met and discussed existing board member nominations and onboarding process for incoming members. Board member applicants will be interviewed on Saturday, November 20 for three seats for the 2022-25 board term, which begins July 1, 2022.
2. Nominations – Ms. Allen said that executive committee nominations would take place during this time.

A motion was made by Ms. Allen, seconded by Ms. Slafky, to reappoint Carter Bills as UCA Board Chair for the 2022-23 term, which begins July 1, 2022. Vote by roll call. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Ms. Allen, seconded by Mr. Van Derveer, to reappoint Chelsey Butler as Secretary for the 2022-23 term. Vote by roll call. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Ms. Allen, seconded by Mr. Zephir to reappoint Eric Ward as Treasurer for the 2022-23 term. Vote by roll call. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

As chair Mr. Bills appoints the committee chairs. He made the following appointments for the 2022-23 term:

Ms. Allen - Chair of Governance Committee

Ms. Pegg- Chair of the Academic Excellence Committee

Mr. Ward -Chair of Finance Committee

3. Recruitment Update - Confirmation on number of new seats (2022-2023) – Ms. Allen reported that board member interviews would be taking place on Saturday, November 20 for three seats for the 2022-25 three-year term that opens on July 1, 2022. The Governance Committee will make a recommendation to the Board at the Jan 12, 2022 meeting, where the board will vote to fill these three seats.

Academic Excellence (30 minutes)

1. Academic Excellence Committee Report- Dr. Castelli reported that Monster Night went well and that all walk-throughs have been successfully completed. Teachers have consistently commented that students are starting to get back in the groove of things since coming off virtual learning.
2. COVID-19 Update- As of November 17, Randolph County currently sits at a 6.1% COVID-19 positivity rate. Dr. Castelli shared that there are 26 instructional days remaining until the end of the 2021 fall semester. Her recommendation is to remain in the current masking mandate. This approach would be most efficient and provide a better opportunity to keep students in school as testing time approaches. Teacher representatives agree with the masking recommendation but would like to see optional masking and elimination of contact tracing after holidays.
3. UCA mask/quarantine update (*voted needed*) - A motion was made by Mr. Ward, seconded by Ms. Butler, to remain in the current masking mandate. Vote taken by roll call. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.
4. Survey Results- Mr. Wheat said that the administration felt that it was important to check the pulse of families and students with a survey that was sent to all UCA families. The overall survey response was positive.

Survey results concluded 91% excellent or good rating in overall experience with STEA³M being mentioned both positively and negatively. Areas for improvement include; moving fifth grade to the elementary school, student behavior/bullying, and teacher ideologies.

Survey results concluded 93% excellent rating in parent and student safety. Areas for improvement include increased bathroom supervision, more robust checkout policies, teacher ideologies, and non-political ideologies.

Survey results concluded 48% awesome, and 41% good regarding teacher-parent relationships. Areas for improvement include email responsiveness.

Survey results concluded a 95% satisfaction rate in regard to relevance. 5% felt that steam was not what they expected it to be.

Survey results concluded an 87% satisfactory rate, and 13% unsatisfactory rate with regard to rigor (appropriate work with appropriate support). Areas of improvement include homework balance and tutoring opportunities.

When asked about naming the new building that will feature career field electives, survey results concluded that 52% of respondents preferred the name Uwharrie Career Academy, while 44% preferred the name Uwharrie Trades Academy.

Other Business/ New Business

No new business was discussed.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Zephir, seconded by Mr. Van Derveer, 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 7:28 pm.

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

The closed session was called to order by Mr. Bills at 7:34 pm.

A motion was made by Mr. Zephir, seconded by Mr. Van DerVeer, to come out of closed session at 8:08 pm. Vote taken by roll call. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Mr. Ward, seconded by Mr. Zephir, to adjourn at 8:09 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.