

Uwharrie Charter Academy

Board of Directors Meeting

October 14, 2021; 6:30 pm Elementary School

Minutes

Board Member Present

Carter Bills
Angie Kern
Jonathan Thill
Wanda Pegg

Aaryn Slafky
David Van Derveer
Greg Zephir
Eric Ward

Maxine Wright
Chelsey Butler
Kristian Allen

Others Present

Dr. Sharon Castelli
Ryan Nelson
Charity Shore
Chris Wheat
Kaye Williams (Teacher Rep) Elementary School
Suzanne Bryant (Teacher Rep) Middle School
Members of the Public

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

Carter Bills called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

Public comment

No Public Comment.

E3 Awards

October's E3 Awards will honor all students and faculty involved in the recent bus accident.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Dr. Kern, seconded by Ms. Allen, to approve the consent agenda as follows Superintendent's Report, Assistant Superintendent Report, Treasurer's Report, CFO Report, and September 9, 2021, Minutes. Vote taken by roll call. All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions. Motion carried.

Finance/ Facilities

1. Finance Committee Report (Ratify payment to Shelco and Computers) - The Finance Committee

met on September 3. Mr. Nelson, CFO, provided updates to the board on the Shelco payment process and asked the board to ratify payment of invoices and approve a resolution of reimbursement of prior bond expenditures. On behalf of the Finance Committee, Mr. Ward made a motion, seconded by Mr. Zephir, to ratify the \$343,184 payment to Shelco. Vote taken by roll call. All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions. Motion carried.

Mr. Zephir made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ward, to approve invoice payment of \$132,561 to Shelco, with the intent of reimbursement. Vote taken by roll call. All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions. Motion carried.

Mr. Ward made a motion, seconded by Ms. Slafky, to approve a resolution of reimbursement of prior bond expenditures with bond proceeds. All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions. Motion carried.

Mr. Nelson also asked the board to approve the purchase of Chromebooks in a continued effort to ensure that all UCA students have access to technology. Mr. Zephir made a motion, seconded by Dr. Kern, to ratify payment for Chromebook purchases in the amount of \$18,091.29. Vote taken by roll call. All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions. Motion carried.

2. Shelco Update- Mr. Wheat shared updates and presented current plans for the Shelco High School expansion project. There has been extensive discussion around the issue of traffic flow and minimal impact on middle school traffic is highly prioritized. The project is currently in the design-build phase and leaves room for growth and expansion within the high school. Students in seventh through tenth grade will be surveyed for input on trade school options and naming.
3. Supplement Release (Vote Needed) – Mr. Nelson asked that the board approve the release of teacher supplements. A motion was made by Mr. Ward, seconded by Ms. Allen, to approve the amount of \$181,138 for teacher supplements. Vote taken by roll call. All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions. Motion carried.
4. Finance Handbook Update (Voted Needed) – Mr. Nelson explained that due to the recent audit finding, it will now be necessary to include annual entries in the finance handbook listing of CFO duties. Currently, only monthly and quarterly entries are included. A motion was made by Mr. Ward, seconded by Mr. Zephir, to accept Finance Handbook changes to modify journal entries to include annually in addition to monthly and quarterly. Vote by roll call. All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions. Motion carried.
5. Two Full-time positions – Both custodian/drivers (Voted Needed) - Mr. Wheat explained the current need at UCA for both bus drivers and custodians. According to him, these positions would work especially well as it is common for bus drivers to also be custodians. A motion was made by Ms. Allen, seconded by Ms. Butler, to approve two full-time custodian/bus driver positions. Vote taken by roll call. All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions. Motion carried.

Governance

1. Governance Committee Report - The Governance Committee met on September 16. Ms. Allen, committee chair, reminded the board that all new member applications are due by October 31.

She asked if the governance committee could be permitted to extend the application deadline if there are not enough applications to fill the three board seats. On behalf of the Governance Committee, a motion was made by Ms. Slafky, seconded by Ms. Allen, to allow the governance committee the authority to extend the deadline past October 31, but no later than November 30, for new board member applications if there are no more than three viable applications. All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions. Motion carried.

2. Board Manual- The governance committee discussed potential board manual updates and will bring any necessary changes before the board.
3. Recruitment Update – Confirmation on number of new seats (2022-2023)- Ms. Allen shared that there are three seats available for the upcoming board term.

Academic Excellence (30 Minutes)

1. Academic Excellence Report – The Academic Excellence Committee met on September 28. Dr. Kern, committee chair, shared that the Elementary School is accepting applications for a Spanish teacher position. She also reminded the board of possible volunteer opportunities on October 28 at Monster Night.
2. 2020-2021 Data Update/ Strategic Plan- Dr. Castelli shared that school leadership has already discussed and implemented strategies to address weaknesses from last school year. UCA had a 98% graduation rate during the 2020-2021 school year.
3. COVID -19 Update – The district is currently at a 10.7% positivity rate for COVID-19 cases.
4. UCA Mask/Quarantine Update (Vote Needed) - Dr. Castelli recommended that UCA remain in the current masking mandate. A motion was made by Dr. Kern, seconded by Ms. Wright, to continue in the current masking mandate as laid out in the August meeting, with no changes. Vote taken by roll call. All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions. Motion carried.
5. Student Careers Survey Update – Mr. Wheat shared that he is currently polling students to see which trade areas they are most interested in. He will update the board with survey results as they are available.

Other Business/New Business

Mr. Bills proposed the reinstatement of a vice-chair to the executive committee. Mr. Bills feels that it is important for the executive committee to have institutional knowledge from different classes. His recommendation would be to select a representative from the governance committee as an addition to the executive committee. Mr. Ward suggested an alternative idea of having the governance committee chair serve on the executive committee. The governance committee will deliberate and make a recommendation to the board at the next scheduled (called) meeting.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Ward, seconded by Ms. 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. No abstentions. Motion carried.

The open meeting concluded at 8:41 pm.

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

The closed session was called to order by Mr. Bills at 8:42 PM.

A motion was made by Mr. Zephir, seconded by Mr. Ward, to come out of closed session at 9:07 P.M. 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 9:09 P.M. 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.