

**Uwharrie Charter Academy
Board of Directors Meeting Agenda
October 10, 2024, 5:30pm Central Board Room
Minutes**

Board Members Present

Valerie Dambreville	Becca Mead
Chelsey Butler	Paige Fish
Greg Zephir	Regina Rush
Meredith Arbaiza	Elisha Savchak-Trogdon

Board Member Absent

John Reid	Ryan Terry	Jonathan Thill
-----------	------------	----------------

Administration Present

Michelle Barfield	Chris Wheat
Sharon Castelli	Cody Fracheur

Teachers Present

JT Trogdon (HS)	Chelsea Miller (MS)	Crystal Morgan (ES)
-----------------	---------------------	---------------------

Call to Order

- ___ Chairperson Chelsey Butler called the meeting to order at 5:35pm.

Public Comment

- No public comment

E3 Awards

- Get Transcript from Dr. Castelli

Consent agenda

- ___ A motion was made by Becca Mead, seconded by Elisha Savchak-Trogdon to approve the Superintendent's Report, Assistant Superintendent's Report, Treasurer's Report, CFO Report, September 26, 2024 Minutes. Vote taken by Voice. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

Governance

- Governance Committee Report: Becca Mead reported on what they would like their support organizations to report at the meeting.
- Board Member Recruitment Update: There are two applications for board members currently. John Reid is rolling off, and Greg Zephir is rolling off as well. Finance, and

Governance/Academic Excellence would be where potential board members would serve, so looking for individuals who are a good fit for these roles.

- Partnership Presentations:
 - The Athletic Boosters: Kevin Hill, President after the re-organization beginning on Sept 4, 2024. They have essentially started over with a new tax number, etc. Goals – increase membership, and fundraisers for the upcoming year. Increase merchandise sales, starting with Winter sports – a member from the Boosters will be there to help get sign-ups for concessions. There is a 50/50 Split with UCA for profits. Meetings have been announced on the School Website, and announcements at Ball Games as well, along with attending Open Houses. There is the golf tournament tomorrow for the Baseball Team that will hopefully raise about \$20K. There are doing concessions with Wrestling which has never been done before. The official name is UCA Athletic Booster’s Club. 17 new members, about 25 total. Membership fee is \$5, and the meeting is the last Wednesday of each month, it won’t likely meet in November and December, and they support the Middle/High School. They would like to reface the Baseball Score board rather than replace the entire board. They are asking if the board could help with supporting the cost of this refacing project.
 - Elementary School PTO: Ms. Hill is the Vice President for this group. They are hoping to raise approx. \$30K for the school. They would like to provide support to the teachers and staff. They have various fundraisers scheduled for the upcoming year. They have provided breakfast and snacks for school this year, along with spirit wear available for sell. Each Teacher was able to get \$50 from Amazon for their classroom needs. They have asked parents to sign up to provide snacks for the staff. They have a supply closet that they plan to maintain for the entire school year. They have purchased 4 tv’s and mounts that are in the conference room waiting to be installed. They reported the earnings, along with expenses, along with their profits. They have PTO Facebook page, and Class Dojo to advertise for new members, along with it being in the weekly newsletter sent out by Ms. O’Brien. They do have monthly meetings as well.
 - Middle School PTO: Ms. Austin, the president of the PTO presented. They had a folder for each board member. Provided their mission statement, along with the current board members, the schedule/events for the year, along with their meeting dates, and what they do monthly for the teachers/staff. They are always looking for Volunteers for the Color Run. They also presented their current budget for the 24-25 School year, and with anticipated totals from previous years. They promote through the newsletter, along with their Facebook page, and ask Ms. Priest to highlight events on her Sunday call, email. There are approx. 81 parents that are signed up. They were able to give ALL the STEAM teachers supplies at the beginning of the year, along with the arts programs as well.

Academic Excellence

- Academic Excellence Committee Report: Mr. Dambreville reported that the Middle School had a fall festival, and working on a positive school culture. The MS had completed their IXL test – it is a program that UCA purchased. It reports students’ level, and then give them skills to work on based on the results.
 - Ms. Miller reported that the administration met with every grade level at the middle school. They have had 2 PD’s on positive school culture, and the plan is to have those monthly meetings. They have had 2 walkthrough Weds so far. They have had a Beta Club Induction. Their PLC meetings are working on incorporating reading and writing in every subject area. There was standing room only at the 8th Grade meeting. The Fall Festival was extremely successful and hopefully raised about \$19K. The softball team is currently undefeated, and there is an upcoming dance. They are talking about PBL’s (project-based learning) within the school. 6th and 8th ELA Check-ins have taken place. Collected donations for Western Carolina, along with letters to other Charter Schools. There is not currently a tutor in place for the Middle School.
 - Mr. Trogon reported that they had AG Day at the high school. Vendors, games, live animals, and showcase of what the AG program is doing. Sports has been very successful; Volleyball has carried their best seasons on record this year. Cross Country has had their 2 first home meets on this campus ever. Women’s Tennis is ending. There are currently more school affiliated clubs this year, and student involvement. They have had 2 walkthrough Wednesdays. Dr. Smith focused the last one on Vocabulary. They had PD scheduled, but the hurricane cancelled it. Flex day is coming up – Freshmen are going to the Zoo, 10th grade is taking the PreACT, and Junior/Seniors will be doing College Visits or Job Shadowing. New speakers for the overhead announcements installed by Cody and Rick prior to teachers even arriving for the day! Dr. T asked about the Cell Phone Policy – biggest problem with student engagement been around cell phones. Cell Phone boxes are purchased for each classroom, and the students put them in box at the beginning of the class, and the expectation was set at the beginning of the year. He reported that he is further along with his curriculum in all 3 classes. It has overall been a positive implementation.
 - Ms. Morgan reported that all the ES Grade levels have met, and then they focused on reading and math with their current data. The entire 4th grade students rotate at 1:30 with a different teacher that is based on their deficit. They are appreciative of getting Ms. Bailey (the new counselor) and her support with their students. They have started a weekly news show – talking about their lunch menu, announcements, along with a PRIDE focus, and increase awareness regarding differences. 4th/5th Math are using NC Tools for Math. They are preparing for Monster Literacy night, along with Trunk or Treat. Ms. Hoffmire is looking for help with the inclusion playground and waiting on items for the playground to be installed. They have a dance coming up as well. They have sold out on all their Chocolate Fundraiser. They are still looking for a math tutor.
- 2023-2024 Data Presentation – Dr. Castelli reported that in their folder contains various Data sheets, a copy of the presentation, EVAAS, Teacher Working Conditions survey.

There was a District SIT meeting where each school was able to look at their data, along with developing their story. The presentation covers the School Grade, along with breakdown of proficiency with each subject area, and their EVAAS growth in each subject area along with a comparison to our Local LEA's. Dr. Castelli has asked that UCA join a study for a new school report card as a representative since we are one of the largest Charter Schools in the region. Dr. Castelli reported on our site visit from last year, but overall, not much feedback provided on the digital School Improvement Plan at the DPI level, but positive feedback from the visit. Dr. Castelli discussed the school grade and how we are D School and what that means for our next steps for each of our schools and at the district level.

- School Improvement Plan: Dr. Castelli reported on the School Improvement that is uploaded into Indistar. Ms. Barfield reported on the Cohort Graduation rate, and how that affected our Graduation Rate and the decrease. Dr. Castelli went over the various goals, and how they are set by the state, and some goals we can set internally. Discussion around students enrolled in standard and honors courses at the high school level. Discussion around class sizes at the elementary level. Discussion around students who have already decided they are not good at a particular subject, and improving their mindset along with teaching the content area, along with increasing student motivation to do well. Discussion around class sizes at the middle school. Discussion about improving the growth mindset and improving student motivation at each school.
 - A motion was made to approve the School Improvement Plan by Valerie Dambreville, seconded by Becca Mead. Vote taken by Voice. All in Favor. None Opposed. Motion carried.

Finance/Facilities

- Finance Committee Report: Ms. Rush reported they talked through the BVA in their meeting. There were some increase in some maintenance expenses, but anticipated. Site improvements were covered by the Safer School grants. We had to do a concrete test on the round about. The 2nd week of November is the anticipated for the completion date. The two new buses were also anticipated and covered back in August. There was a deficit at the beginning of July, but once the funds came through from the State it rectified itself.
- Staff Supplement Release \$259,741.00 – Dr. Castelli reported on the 4% Supplement, and this November is the 1st half of 2%.
 - A motion was made to approve the staff supplement release in the amount \$259,741.00 by Becca Mead, seconded by Paige Fish. Vote taken by Voice. All in Favor. None Opposed. Motion carried.
- Elevator Contract \$5,000 – Mr. Wheat reported that the elevator is working great, and installed by OTIS, and the warranty has expired, but have offered a warranty maintenance. The other company was unable to monitor the 2-way connection that has been installed by OTIS. Mr. Wheat reduced it down to a 3-year contract.
 - A motion was made to approve the Elevator Contract in the amount of \$5,000.00 by Regina Rush, seconded by Meredith Arabaiza. Vote taken by Voice. All in favor. None Opposed. Motion carried.

- 2024-2025 Planning Budget – Ms. Rush reported that they have a copy of the budget in their folder. They approved a budget back in May, and she talked through the changes. We are below our projected ADM, and had to reduce by over \$100K, and the impact that change. There is a loss from the concession sales. They did update the salaries, along with the approval of the Athletic Director’s salary that was approved at the last meeting. The part-time Speech Therapist has been added to the numbers. There was an increase in the elementary funding, along with the welding ventilation, along with the two new school buses. Ms. Rush believes they are being conservative on the budget without knowing the exact number of the ADM at this time, but a budget needs to be passed.
 - A motion was made to approve the 2024-2025 Planning Budget by Becca Mead, seconded by Valerie Dambreville. Vote taken by Voice. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

Other Business/New Business

- 2025-2026 Calendar – Dr. Castelli presented 2 calendars, where students return on Aug 11, or Aug 25. 71% of the staff chose calendar A, and 28% voted calendar B. MS presented that testing before Winter Break is preferred and keeping us different from our other LEA’s. HS presented the Data from testing prior to Winter Break and after Winter break, along with impact on the AP classes and the impact on RCC Classes. HS presented their withdrawal data for the last three years. ES prefers Calendar A to be different, and to improve the traffic. Traditional Schools must follow the Calendar Law – Dr. Castelli met with Superintendents locally, and they will not break the Calendar Law. Other districts have violated the law, like WS/FCS – and could be subject to a fine. More discussion around the impact of coming back after Winter Break and having to regroup and finish the semester. Dr. Castelli presented that Eng 2 outperformed the State by testing after winter break, and Math 1 exceeded expected growth testing after winter break. Dr. Castelli spoke to the number of students that withdrew in the first 20 days between the two school years, and the impact on the ADM. We lost over 200 students in our first 20 days this year and do not receive any funding for those students because they are captured by another LEA within their first 20 days. Schools are already asking for additional personnel for the next school year. Ms. Barfield reported on the transition from PowerSchool to Infinite Campus and the impact that this transition will have on the Data Managers, along with training every staff member on the new platform. Dr. Castelli mentioned that we may have to over-enroll students to capture the ADM that is needed to meet our budget and our bond. Ms. Rush reported that our reduction in our budget is directly tied to our not meeting our projected ADM. Mr. Wheat mentioned that we while we didn’t deplete our waitlist, parents declined to enroll because their student had already started in another school. Continued discussion around the difference between the two calendars. Ms. Barfield presented that part of this request for a calendar much earlier this year because of the transition from PowerSchool to Infinite Campus and having to commit the calendar into PowerSchool to prepare for the migration and building the Master Schedule for High School and Middle School. Mr. Zephyr asked for more data regarding changing our calendar after all these years. Mr.

Wheat said there are ideas about capturing why parents leave UCA once they enroll. Continued discussion regarding the Calendar and pulling data from previous years. Dr. Castelli went back over the EOC Fall Data that was originally presented, and there was improvement testing after Winter Break. The board folder for November will be built and data points will be shared regarding the calendar.

Adjourn

- A motion to move to adjourn by Becca Mead, seconded by Regina Rush. Vote taken by Voice. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.