

**URBAN CHOICE CHARTER SCHOOL
BOARD OF TRUSTEES – MINUTES
THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 2014**

Present: Nelson Blish, Megan Bosco, Ed Cavalier, John Page, Sidney Moore, Frank Rossi

Absent: Joan Moorehead, Christine Murray, Antwan Williams, Spiro Ziogas

Media Notification: Erica Bryant of the Democrat and Chronicle was notified of the March 6, 2014 Board of Trustees meeting on February 24, 2014. Public notice was also posted in the school and published in the school newsletter.

The Board of Trustees meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m. by Frank Rossi and the mission statement was shared.

Motion 140306.1 Upon a motion by Megan Bosco and duly seconded by Nelson Blish, the following was submitted for adoption: RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees formally approve the February 6, 2014 minutes.

Voting in the affirmative: Nelson Blish, Megan Bosco, John Page, Sidney Moore, Frank Rossi

Voting in the negative: None

Motion 140306.1 passed 5 to 0

Leadership Team Report – Ed Cavalier, Eric Robinson, Christina Schermerhorn, Miriam Steinberg

Ed Cavalier:

- Dashboard review:
 - Staff demographics remain the same
 - Staff attendance was up for instructional staff and down slightly for all staff
 - ATS at 29 visits for a three-week month

- Continue to be fully enrolled at 401
 - ✓ Waiting list at 182 total students
 - ❖ 85 on the waiting list for kindergarten
- Honor roll at 44% to date
- Families attending at least one conference at 90% with 30% reported to date for more than one
 - ✓ Mandatory picking up report card created significant improvement for the first conference
- Student academic performance reflected through DRA
- Out of school suspensions will be added to the Dashboard for the future

Eric Robinson:

- After school program opportunity beginning on Monday
 - Teachers are sharing details with students
 - After 45 minutes of homework help, fun and interesting activities will be offered by teachers/staff Mondays-Thursdays after school
 - Parents will pick up students at the conclusion
- Opportunity being considered with the Center for Youth – providing an academy for students at no cost to us – through the United Way
 - Would be a five day per week program with hot meal provided (dinner)
 - Must guarantee a minimum enrollment of 80 students
 - Suggestion offered – tie in the activities with clubs with skill development and/or meeting some learning standards – everything relates to student achievement
- Frank expressed appreciation for the teachers taking on leadership roles

Miriam Steinberg:

- Open House Recruitment event held last Wednesday
 - 2,300 postcards mailed to homes with students of the appropriate age
 - Art teacher had students prepare artwork posted on the walls for our visitors – postcards indicating what they appreciate about UCCS
 - Only ten families attended, but applications were submitted by all
 - Has the potential to be a very effective evening
- Increasing our advertising through print, radio, and TV
- Applications are on target with most received just before the cut-off date on April 3
- Discussed having applications readily available in publications (clip and mail variety)

Christina Shermerhorn:

- Professional Development updates – three staff members attended common core training – providing turnkey for staff – Karen Haak for K-2 and Melisa Blankenberg for 3-6
 - Middle school staff will receive their training on March 12 with follow up on March 14
 - Math training will be provided by Jennifer Swan
 - Smartboard training will be provided by Aaron Pascucci

- March 14 will be a full day of Professional Development with common core training and a test proctoring refresher with specific procedures and protocol
- Principal from Young Womens College Prep reached out regarding partnering with them and Buffalo Charters for a grant for middle school math teachers and administrators
 - Summer learning for math practitioners to increase rigor

Nicole Berg:

- ELA Camp:
 - 20-23 in each grade level attending
 - Two teachers per grade level (3-8)
 - All students invited that did not receive a 3 or 4 on testing
 - 7th and 8th grade combined
 - Run by our own staff
- Tech Plans:
 - iPads – goal is to be at 1:1
 - ✓ Visited Alfred-Almond School District where this has been in place for three years with grades 5-12 taking them home; all other students have them available in classrooms

Ed Cavalier:

- UCCS is positioned for trajectory of growth
- Need to increase test score results
- Simply being higher than the RCSD is not a benchmark
- Received input and looked at impact on parents and ways that we can make communication simpler and more positive
- Discussion took place related to a pilot plan for the organization which can be adjusted with open feedback/communication
- Pilot plan creates a Primary Academy for Grades K-2, Intermediate Academy for Grades 3-5, and a Middle School Academy for Grades 6-8

Governance Report – Megan Bosco

Motion 140306.2 Upon a motion by Sidney Moore and duly seconded by Nelson Blish, the following was submitted for adoption: RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees formally accept the resignation of Thomas Felton, Jr. from the BOT.

Voting in the affirmative: Nelson Blish, Megan Bosco, John Page, Sidney Moore, Frank Rossi

Voting in the negative: None

Motion 140306.2 passed 5 to 0

- Recent tour and discussion with prospective board member was positive
 - He is interested in joining the BOT, but his other commitments will prevent his availability until September
- In the process of revisiting recruitment packet provided to prospective board members
- Discussed video and opportunities to create updated version
 - Possible project for an afterschool program

Chair Report – Frank Rossi

- Retreat was successful and it was a productive day

~ Teacher Quality Committee Report

- Karen Haak presented: ELA K-2 Pilot Program – Core Knowledge Language Arts – Common Core
- Three Strands:
 - Listening and Learning
 - Skills
 - GRAIR (Guided Reading Accountable Independent Reading)
- Training
 - Main training in Albany (four times per school year)
 - Turnkey to staff within two weeks (half days and Professional Development days)
 - Provided by Karen Haak and Melisa Blankenberg

Public Comments

- NYS Retirement System
 - Additional analysis planned to determine feasibility of putting in place at UCCS
- Discussed positive basketball game experiences
 - Developing schedule

Motion 140306.3 Upon a motion by Nelson Blish and duly seconded by Sidney Moore, the following was submitted for adoption: RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees enter Executive Session.

Voting in the affirmative: Nelson Blish, Megan Bosco, John Page, Sidney Moore, Frank Rossi

Voting in the negative: None

Motion 140306.3 passed 5 to 0

Motion 140306.4 Upon a motion by Nelson Blish and duly seconded by Sidney Moore, the following was submitted for adoption: RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees end Executive Session.

Voting in the affirmative: Nelson Blish, Megan Bosco, John Page, Sidney Moore, Frank Rossi

Voting in the negative: None

Motion 140306.4 passed 5 to 0

Motion 140306.5 Upon a motion by Megan Bosco and duly seconded by Sidney Moore, the following was submitted for adoption: RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees adjourn the meeting at 8:56 p.m.

Voting in the affirmative: Nelson Blish, Megan Bosco, John Page, Sidney Moore, Frank Rossi

Voting in the negative: None

Motion 140306.5 passed 5 to 0

Next Board Meeting:

Thursday, April 3, 2014 at 6 p.m.