

**URBAN CHOICE CHARTER SCHOOL  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES – MINUTES  
THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2013**

**Present:** Hanif Abdul-Wahid, Megan Bosco (Pending Member), Edward Cavalier, Susan Fox, Sidney Moore, Joan Moorehead, John Page, Frank Rossi, Antwan Williams, Spiro Ziogas

**Absent:** Nelson Blish (Pending Member), Thomas Felton, Jr., Lisa Richards

**Media Notification:** Erica Bryant of the Democrat and Chronicle was notified of the May 2, 2013 Board of Trustees meeting on April 22, 2013. Public notice was also posted in the school and published in the school newsletter.

***ANNUAL MEETING***

The Annual Meeting was called to order at 6:16 p.m. by Hanif Abdul-Wahid.

The proposed slate of officers identified by the Governance Committee for 2013-14:

BOT Chair: Frank Rossi  
BOT Vice-Chair: Sidney Moore  
BOT Treasurer: Spiro Ziogas  
BOT Secretary: John Page

In addition, one member has a term expiring: John Page is nominated to begin serving his second three-year term.

**Motion 130502.1** Upon a motion by Antwan Williams and duly seconded by Joan Moorehead, the following was submitted for adoption:  
RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees accept the slate of officers for the 2013-14 identified by the Governance Committee.

**Voting in the affirmative:** Hanif Abdul-Wahid, Susan Fox, Joan Moorehead, John Page, Frank Rossi, Antwan Williams

**Voting in the negative:** None

Motion 130502.1 passed 6 to 0

**Motion 130502.2** Upon a motion by Joan Moorehead and duly seconded by Antwan Williams, the following was submitted for adoption: RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees accept the appointment of John Page to a second three-year term expiring on June 30, 2016.

Voting in the affirmative: Hanif Abdul-Wahid, Susan Fox, Joan Moorehead, John Page, Frank Rossi, Antwan Williams

Voting in the negative: None

Motion 130502.2 passed 6 to 0

**Motion 130502.3** Upon a motion by Susan Fox and duly seconded by Frank Rossi, the following was submitted for adoption: RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees adjourn the Annual Meeting at 6:23 p.m.

Voting in the affirmative: Hanif Abdul-Wahid, Susan Fox, Joan Moorehead, John Page, Frank Rossi, Antwan Williams

Voting in the negative: None

Motion 130502.3 passed 6 to 0

### ***BOARD MEETING***

The Board of Trustees meeting was called to order at 6:23 p.m. by Hanif Abdul-Wahid.

**Motion 130502.4** Upon a motion by Sidney Moore and duly seconded by Susan Fox, the following was submitted for adoption: RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees approve the April 11, 2013 minutes.

Voting in the affirmative: Hanif Abdul-Wahid, Susan Fox, Sidney Moore, Joan Moorehead, John Page, Frank Rossi, Antwan Williams, Spiro Ziogas

Voting in the negative: None

Motion 130502.4 passed 8 to 0

**Leadership Team Report – Edward Cavalier, Christina Schermerhorn, Miriam Steinberg, Vicki Gouveia, Eric Robinson, Dan Deckman**

**Edward Cavalier:**

- Attended a Teen Empowerment luncheon with six students along with several members of the leadership team and board members
- Referenced the calendar and budget shared with board members in the past – will be seeking approval of both this evening
- No requests received from parents at UCCS for students to be exempted from the tests – all students took the state tests
- Representative from State Ed visited on our first day of math testing to determine our compliance with testing regulations
- Confident that preparation for tests was as thorough as possible to get the results we will receive

**Christina Schermerhorn:**

- Test scoring has been completed as of today
- State Ed visited during testing
  - ✓ Proud to show that all rules were being followed
- 100% participation
- Looking forward to Science and Living Environment exams
- Working to get lab hours completed to qualify for the Living Environment exams
- Planned trip to zoo
- DRA's in progress
- AIMSweb next month
- Progress reports mid-month
- Preparations beginning for next April
- Common Core modules to be tested
- Curriculum maps continuing for those not able to use the common core modules
- Proud of Scheduling Committee
  - ✓ Provided assistance for staffing decisions

**Miriam Steinberg:**

- First Annual Parent Community Fair to be held one week from tonight – May 9 at 5:30 p.m.
  - ✓ Appreciation extended to Joan and Antwan for all of their time and effort to coordinate
- Eight graders will be traveling to Washington DC
- Volunteer Tea to be held – end of the school year (June 10 in church basement)
- End of Year Award Ceremony June 17-19
- Graduation June 20
- “A Celebration of the Arts” has replaced “Arts Night”
  - ✓ Will be held during the school day - May 23 from 12:15-3:30 p.m.
  - ✓ Will allow for involvement by many more students
  - ✓ Music performances in the recreation space
  - ✓ Art exhibits throughout the school

Vicki Gouveia:

- Ed shared that due to the partnership with Center for Youth Services and experience, Vicki will report on an opportunity through the public school as follows:
  - ✓ With the Center's assistance, we are able to bring to our first and second grade students a summer reading program (Summer Reading Fun)
    - The reading level for every student will be provided by their teacher. Six books will be purchased for each student.
    - Post card will be returned by the student (student's name, title of book, review of the book)
    - Will keep students connected all summer
    - Post reading test conducted after summer reading completed
    - In the seven years this program took place at School 45, 78% of students improved their reading level
    - When students leave for the summer, they receive a cinch bag to hold their books

Eric Robinson:

- State report card (not a public document)
  - ✓ Reviewed performance levels - met adequate yearly progress in Math, ELA and all subgroups and 4/8 Science
- Travel to Washington DC with 8<sup>th</sup> grade students
  - ✓ Met with families earlier this week
    - Expectations communicated
    - Reviewed itinerary
    - Majority of parents/guardians attended
    - Four chaperones traveling with eighth graders

Dan Deckman:

- Budget was presented last month and was distributed to all board members yesterday with two slight changes to expenses as a result of feedback received from the Finance Committee:
  - ✓ Dropped the Character Camp expense for next year (funding was received for STEM which will continue)
  - ✓ Dropped the expense for the medical director. While this is required, most charter schools secure a doctor on a volunteer basis for consultation.
  - ✓ These adjustments boost surplus by \$15K
- Dashboard is not very different
  - ✓ Student enrollment at 398
  - ✓ Progress made towards charter goals
  - ✓ Attendance increased with testing
- Employee Handbook:
  - ✓ Summary of proposed changes:
    - Six month waiting period for utilization of vacation and personal time eliminated
    - Vacation time tiers clarified

- Cash out of vacation time capped at five days available at the end of the year or upon resignation and/or non-renewal of contract
  - Personal time increased to ten days per year for all employees
  - Unlimited number of personal days may be carried over and saved
  - Personal days may be cashed out at 100% of pay rate only after reaching a set threshold amount of saved days
  - Blackout dates for utilizing personal time unless a doctor's excuse is provided
  - Waiting period for 403(b) match eliminated
  - General edits made to simplify language and make more consistent
- Board will vote on the Employee Handbook at the next meeting
- Salary and Benefits Committee worked hard at driving this as a reflection of priorities
- Will consult with attorney regarding personal day cash out
- Discussion took place regarding the New York State Teachers Retirement options
  - ✓ Misled previously that it could not be considered unless retroactive to beginning
  - ✓ It is cost prohibitive in comparison to current 403B
  - ✓ Will revisit and seek consultant to consider for the future

#### Governance Report – Susan Fox

- Extended appreciation to all board members, staff members and parents that met with John Taylor to complete the strategic plan
- Welcome to Megan Bosco, Pending Board Member

**Motion 130502.5**                      Upon a motion by Spiro Ziogas and duly seconded by Sidney Moore, the following was submitted for adoption: RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees formally appoint Nelson Blish to serve on the BOT at UCCS for a term to expire on June 30, 2015.

Voting in the affirmative:      Hanif Abdul-Wahid, Susan Fox, Sidney Moore, Joan Moorehead, John Page, Frank Rossi, Antwan Williams, Spiro Ziogas

Voting in the negative:            None

Motion 130502.5 passed 8 to 0

- Presenting candidate Christine Murray – current liaison between Brockport and UCCS although she will no longer be responsible for staff in an official capacity so any conflict of interest has been eliminated
- Dr. Christine Murray is a wonderful steward for Brockport and UCCS
- She is looking forward to the opportunity to serve UCCS

- Strong educational experiences

**Motion 130502.6**                      Upon a motion by Frank Rossi and duly seconded by Spiro Ziogas, the following was submitted for adoption: RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees approve Christine Murray as a final candidate to be recommended to NYSED for review and approval to fill a board vacancy created by the resignation of Tonya Dickerson with a partial term expiring June 30, 2014.

Voting in the affirmative:    Hanif Abdul-Wahid, Susan Fox, Sidney Moore, Joan Moorehead, John Page, Frank Rossi, Antwan Williams, Spiro Ziogas

Voting in the negative:        None

Motion 130502.6 passed 8 to 0

- Susan and Hanif have terms expiring in June and shared some thoughts related to their confidence about the future of UCCS

#### **Finance Report – Spiro Ziogas**

- Report has not been prepared this month
- Nothing significant changed
- The last meeting involved a review of the budget

#### **Chair Report – Hanif Abdul-Wahid**

- Saturday session was very productive – process to write the charter should go smoothly
- Extended appreciation to all involved

#### **~ Teacher Quality Committee Report - Frank Rossi**

- Met once since last board meeting
- Looking at additional support for new staff members
  - ✓ Formal mentoring program
  - ✓ Recommend that we think about a mentoring program being a part of new staff development

#### **~ Parent Involvement Committee Report – Joan Moorehead and Antwan Williams**

- Nothing to report tonight – looking forward to May 9 Community Fair to assist parents
- Would like to reach out to charters and share resources

**Public Comments – None**

**Motion 130502.7** Upon a motion by Susan Fox and duly seconded by Spiro Ziogas, the following was submitted for adoption: RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees approve entering Executive Session at 8:10 p.m.

Voting in the affirmative: Hanif Abdul-Wahid, Susan Fox, Sidney Moore, Joan Moorehead, John Page, Frank Rossi, Antwan Williams, Spiro Ziogas

Voting in the negative: None

Motion 130502.7 passed 8 to 0

**Motion 130502.8** Upon a motion by Susan Fox and duly seconded by Spiro Ziogas, the following was submitted for adoption: RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees approve the end of Executive Session at 8:17 p.m.

Voting in the affirmative: Hanif Abdul-Wahid, Susan Fox, Sidney Moore, Joan Moorehead, John Page, Frank Rossi, Antwan Williams, Spiro Ziogas

Voting in the negative: None

Motion 130502.8 passed 8 to 0

**Motion 130502.9** Upon a motion by Sidney Moore and duly seconded by Spiro Ziogas, the following was submitted for adoption: RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees approve the 2013-14 budget as presented by the Director of Business and Finance with the addition of \$9,000 to the salary line.

Voting in the affirmative: Hanif Abdul-Wahid, Susan Fox, Sidney Moore, Joan Moorehead, John Page, Frank Rossi, Antwan Williams, Spiro Ziogas

Voting in the negative: None

Motion 130502.9 passed 8 to 0

**Motion 130502.10** Upon a motion by Joan Moorehead and duly seconded by Antwan Williams, the following was submitted for adoption:

RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees approve the School Calendar as presented by the School Leadership Team.

Voting in the affirmative: Hanif Abdul-Wahid, Susan Fox, Sidney Moore, Joan Moorehead, John Page, Frank Rossi, Antwan Williams, Spiro Ziogas

Voting in the negative: None

Motion 130502.10 passed 8 to 0

**Motion 130502.11** Upon a motion by Susan Fox and duly seconded by John Page, the following was submitted for adoption: RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Voting in the affirmative: Hanif Abdul-Wahid, Susan Fox, Sidney Moore, Joan Moorehead, John Page, Frank Rossi, Antwan Williams, Spiro Ziogas

Voting in the negative: None

Motion 130502.11 passed 8 to 0

**Next Board Meeting:**

Thursday, June 6, 2013 at 6 p.m.