

URBAN CHOICE CHARTER SCHOOL  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES – MINUTES  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2016

**Present:** Nelson Blish, Megan Bosco, Ed Cavalier, Jason Mellen, Joan Moorehead

**Absent:** Tracy Armstrong, Natosha McDonald, Gladys Pedraza-Burgos

**Media Notification:** The Democrat and Chronicle was notified of the September 8, 2016 Board of Trustees meeting on August 29, 2016. Public notice was also posted in the school and published in the school newsletter.

*BOARD MEETING*

The Board Meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by Nelson Blish and the mission statement was shared.

**Motion 160908.1** Upon a motion by Megan Bosco and duly seconded by Joan Moorehead, the following was submitted for adoption:  
RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees approve the minutes of the August 4, 2016 Board of Trustees meeting.

**Voting in the affirmative:** Nelson Blish, Megan Bosco, Jason Mellen, Joan Moorehead

**Voting in the negative:** None

Motion 160908.1 passed 4 to 0

**LEADERSHIP REPORT**

**Dashboard – Lisa King**

- Enrollment
  - Opened with 400 students
- Male and female students split at 51/48
- Special Education has decreased with more testing anticipated
- ENL testing being conducted for six students
- Fully staffed
- Male demographic increased by 3%
- Wait list at 170 students – 50 in kindergarten

## Staffing and Professional Development – Nicole Berg

- Fully staffed
- Professional Development went well (Monday through Thursday with the following Tuesday for a team building activity)
  - Bus transported staff to the Park Avenue area (teams participated in an entertaining scavenger hunt)
  - Staff had lunches together in addition to time for working in classrooms for the start of the school year preparations
- Opening was seamless for transportation this year with only four or five students experiencing minor bus issues
- School opening was a very positive experience
- We have incorporated a new study as part of our renewal ....”Rigor is not a Four Letter Word” is part of our professional learning focus
- Incorporating different and more intense ways of recruitment of students

## Miriam Steinberg

- WDKX partnered with RCSD at Frontier Field – 40 different vendors with activities and a backpack giveaway
  - UCCS had a table set up and shared information
  - UCCS was the only charter school in attendance
  - There was a check list so parents were able to visit every table
  - Conversations and giving away items was a positive experience
- PTA welcome breakfast was held for all families new to UCCS
- PTA information and membership forms were shared
- Applied for two grants from the Farash Foundation - \$50K received that will be put towards Chromebooks for the remainder of our third graders that do not have them along with 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders
- Still waiting to hear about our second grant and we are hoping that funding will come through (expect to hear on the 21<sup>st</sup> of the this month - \$74K facilities grant and infrastructure grant to allow for updating of our server, hubs, etc.)
- Increased our use of the JCC for physical education – Wednesday mornings and Friday afternoons with physical education teachers accompanying the students

## Ed Cavalier

- Site visit by NYSED set for the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of September
- New Director appointed: David Frank has been involved with NYC charter schools
- Charter Renewal Site Visit Protocol was shared
- Primary concern is that all board members attend the focus group
- Suggesting that the board focus meeting be set up at 8:00 a.m. for 30 minutes on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September
- We hired an outside consultant that completed our renewal report

- Board's active oversight and governance a priority
- Outcome will result in three possibilities for each benchmark – expectations: exceed/meet/fall far below

#### **GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE REPORT – MEGAN BOSCO**

- Ed suggested dates for monthly meetings for 2016-2017 (first meeting to be held next Wednesday)
- Board self-assessment is complete and will be sent via Survey Monkey
- Consultant on strategic planning – will hold workshop in the fall instead of late winter at Jill Shahan's suggestion
- Looking for dates (Saturdays)
- Jill Shahan recommended that the board hire a consultant for strategic planning
- Governance Committee and Finance Committee dates and meeting times to be sent via Outlook

#### **FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT – JASON MELLEN**

- Finished the 2015-2016 school year with \$216K
- Proposed meeting dates for the 2016-2017 school year considered
- Submission of the audit results are required by November 1
- Audit is complete and will be reviewed with the Finance Committee in September

#### **CHAIR REPORT – NELSON BLISH**

- Discussed the struggle to maintain quorums for meeting the latter part of the prior school year
- Encouraged members to make a commitment for the one evening per month to attend regular board meetings
- Encouraged participation of board members in outreach events
- Shared that Open House will be held on October 13

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- Board members thanked Nelson for hosting the social gathering at a recent baseball game.
- Joan expressed appreciation for flowers and thoughts as she recovered from back surgery.

**Motion 160908.2**

Upon a motion by Jason Mellen and duly seconded by Joan Moorehead, the following was submitted for adoption:

RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Voting in the affirmative: Nelson Blish, Megan Bosco, Jason Mellen, Joan Moorehead

Voting in the negative: None

Motion 160908.2 passed 4 to 0

**NEXT BOARD MEETING:**

October 6, 2016 at 6 p.m. in the Music Room