

URBAN CHOICE CHARTER SCHOOL  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES – MINUTES  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2018

**Present:** Julie Boland, Jason Mellen, Bliss Owen, Miriam Miranda-Jurado, Lee Tutt, Kathleen Hurley Wiecek

**Absent:** Nelson Blish, Megan Bosco

**Media Notification:** Erica Bryant of the Democrat and Chronicle was notified of the October 11, 2018 Board of Trustees meeting on October 4, 2018. Public notice was also posted in the school, published in the school newsletter and on the school website.

*BOARD MEETING*

The Board Meeting was called to order at 5:59 p.m. by Kathleen Hurley Wiecek and the mission statement was shared.

**Motion 181011.1** Upon a motion by Kathleen Hurley Wiecek and duly seconded by Lee Tutt, the following was submitted for adoption: RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees approve the September 13, 2018 minutes.

**Voting in the affirmative:** Julie Boland, Jason Mellen, Bliss Owen, Miriam Miranda-Jurado, Lee Tutt, Kathleen Hurley Wiecek

**Voting in the negative:** None

Motion 181011.1 passed 6 to 0

**LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORT**

Lynn McCarthy:

- A Shelter in Place was held in the school buildings yesterday due to a criminal incident near Goodman Street. Students remained in their buildings and were not allowed outside. Regular classes were held and students moved within their buildings.

- Alstom Signaling Foundation gave us a grant in the amount of \$500 for novels and books for Success for All in Middle School.
- Review of NYS ELA and Math Test Data:
  - Fewer students opted out resulting in more students being tested this year
  - Tests are not comparable since they went from a three-day test to a two-day test
  - As indicated by our data, we made some growth
  - As a result, the following is in place to work towards future improvements:
    - ✓ Adding a Teacher Assistant in every grade - Kindergarten to Grade 5
    - ✓ All Teacher Assistants are becoming Level 1 or 2 Certified
    - ✓ Continuing with Success for All in Grades 6 through 8
    - ✓ Team Math has been added for Grades K through 5
    - ✓ Brought in Success for All Writing Program for Grades 1-5
    - ✓ Continually using data to support instruction. Academic Mentors being trained to use daily and weekly data to work with teachers in looking at their classroom data
    - ✓ Three teacher teams in Grades 6 through 8
- Grade 4 Science Test: 77% of students passed
- Grade 8 Regents Science Test: 39% of students passed
- Discussion took place about the fact that the test results do not reflect the hard work of teachers and administrators for improvement in test scores
- Test results are a significant concern since it is the largest factor for re-chartering
- Jason Mellon confirmed that there are funds available that can be used for any resources that will help improvement results

#### Monthly Focus: K-5 Academic Mentor – Carissa Dibble

- Programs have been put in place this year and last year to increase our scores knowing what our students need
  - Success for All
  - Zearn Math – change how we deliver instruction through this new program
    - ✓ It is a top-rated math curriculum that personalizes learning for each student
  - Writing Program added through Success for All for Grades 1-5
  - With writing and math, mentor meets with teachers once per week

#### Kevin Beaumont

- Some additions/changes shared:
  - Grade level meetings being held – analyzing and breaking down the individual tests for some students/classrooms/grades
  - 8<sup>th</sup> graders – implemented a structured lunch
  - Transitions between classrooms – created direct pathways
  - Met with Student Council and discussed incentives – learning what will be most meaningful for the students to work towards (motivation to perform)

- New Math Teacher hired (data driven with many years of experience and will collaborate with other math teachers)
- Open House went well
  - Strong family attendance
- Professional Development – four members of our staff – trauma team – training throughout the school year – educating administrators and other teachers about trauma – presented how it works with the brain – staff groupings to discuss how it relates to our students
- Solutions Team meetings
- Fire Prevention week with fire department visit

#### GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

- Discussed a motion to approve a minor change to the UCCS Mission Statement
- Miriam Miranda-Jurado shared the one word change recommended within the last sentence (replacing the word destiny with challenge): “...and defy the demographic challenge of poverty.”
- Since this change is a material change, it will need to be submitted to the Regents for review in December
- The motion was tabled to be revisited at the November meeting

#### FINANCE COMMITTEE

- Dashboard:
  - Demographics for full staff have been added
  - 396 students enrolled as of the end of September
  - One student transferred during the month of September

#### BUILDING COMMITTEE – No Report

#### CHAIR REPORT – No Report

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Board shared their support for the teachers so that they can support UCCS students
- Discussed implementing a plan to help teachers by paying for a portion of their grad school tuition in exchange for a commitment to continue teaching at UCCS for a set period of time

Motion 181011.2

Upon a motion by Jason Mellen and duly seconded by Miriam Miranda-Jurado, the following was submitted for adoption:

RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees enter Executive Session at 7:03 p.m.

Voting in the affirmative: Julie Boland, Jason Mellen, Bliss Owen, Miriam Miranda-Jurado, Lee Tutt, Kathleen Hurley Wiecek

Voting in the negative: None

Motion 181011.2 passed 6 to 0

**Motion 181011.3** Upon a motion by Miriam Miranda-Jurado and duly seconded by Julie Boland, the following was submitted for adoption: RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees exit Executive Session.

Voting in the affirmative: Julie Boland, Jason Mellen, Miriam Miranda-Jurado, Lee Tutt, Kathleen Hurley Wiecek

Voting in the negative: None

Motion 181011.3 passed 5 to 0

**Motion 181011.4** Upon a motion by Julie Boland and duly seconded by Lee Tutt, the following was submitted for adoption: RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees adjourn the meeting at 7:24 p.m.

Voting in the affirmative: Julie Boland, Jason Mellen, Miriam Miranda-Jurado, Lee Tutt, Kathleen Hurley Wiecek

Voting in the negative: None

Motion 181011.4 passed 5 to 0

**NEXT BOARD MEETING: Thursday, November 8, 2018**