

URBAN CHOICE CHARTER SCHOOL
BOARD OF TRUSTEES – MINUTES
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2018

Present: Nelson Blish, Julie Boland, Megan Bosco, Jason Mellen, Bliss Owen, Miriam Miranda-Jurado, Lee Tutt, Kathleen Hurley Wiecek

Absent:

Media Notification: Erica Bryant of the Democrat and Chronicle was notified of the November 8, 2018 Board of Trustees meeting on October 31, 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 6:00 p.m. and the mission statement was shared.

Motion 181108.1 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 approve the October 11, 2018 minutes.

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

Voting in the negative: None

Motion 181108.1 passed 8 to 0

The mission statement was shared replacing the word “destiny” with “challenge”.

Upon discussion, it was determined that the word “challenge” should be “challenges”. Revised and approved Mission Statement reads as follows:

The mission of the Urban Choice Charter School is to provide Rochester students with a safe, supportive, and intellectually challenging educational environment. The central philosophy is that strong student-teacher relationships are essential to student motivation, engagement, and achievement. This philosophy, in combination with authentic efforts at family involvement and the effective teaching of a rich, rigorous, and engaging curriculum, will enable students to build a

strong foundation for college and career readiness, exceed state achievement standards and defy the demographic *challenges* of poverty.

Motion 181108.2 Upon a motion by Megan Bosco and duly seconded by Julie Boland, the following was submitted for adoption: RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees approve the one-word revision to the Mission Statement as read (replacing the word “destiny” with “challenges”).

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

Voting in the negative: None

Motion 181108.2 passed 8 to 0

LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORT

Lynn McCarthy:

- NYS Education Department will be rolling out an Epicenter for the spring of 2019 to allow charter schools to interface directly. This will accommodate uploading new board member applications directly into the Epicenter with available status checks; guidelines will also be simplified.
- The Town Hall charter school meeting included schools from Syracuse, Rochester and Buffalo.
 - Offering an opportunity to apply for a CSP grant
 - Technical assistance support will be available
 - Interested in making things better with improvements to the infrastructure of the charter school piece
 - A fiscal dashboard will be launched
 - Shared that we need to engage our Regents – invite them regularly into our school
 - Elected officials also need to be invited to our school
 - We need to secure families to present invitations to public elected officials
 - There is a need for board members to attend events held for/by elected officials
 - We need to spread information about our charter school
 - Board members need to engage with the school and the community
- Charter framework was shared which highlights what charter schools are judged upon (future changes):
 - We will be judged solely on meeting or exceeding the District average – a new focus
 - We need to serve a comparable group of students as the District
 - \$75,000 to \$100,000 dissolution

- We will be allowed to enroll 10% more students than authorized without having to request a revision
- ELL students will continue to be counted as ELL learners even when declassified
 - ✓ Awaiting determination regarding the status for students coming to us as former ELL students that have been declassified prior to enrolling with us
- There will be some changes for high schools – developing an alternative accountability matrix
- Recognition of “good standing” will likely guarantee a five-year charter renewal
- Science tests will be part of the benchmark
- Measures of culture, climate and student engagement – ensuring that process and procedure in place to suspend or expel
- Must have coordinators for McKinney-Vento and DASA and we already have them in place
- Financial requirements - we need to have 60 days cash-on-hand to meet payroll
- Annual audits are a focus
- Following fiscal procedures and intense review of the audit letter
- Comparable groups – no longer using the calculated process
- Need to make a difference for at-risk students
- Submitted our School Safety Plan to NYS in addition to the departments of the police and sheriff (there are parent and staff copies)
 - A plan is in place to alert parents of any situation that develops and our actions (such as a recent Shelter in Place)

Monthly Focus: 6-8 Academic Mentor – Marsha O’Leary

- Shared an overview of the Edge Program for SFA for 6-8th grade students
 - Our 6th graders had experience with SFA and developed routines
 - 7th and 8th graders struggled with the change initially
 - Teachers are working hard and are following up on homework expectations
 - Incentives are in place and are helping (UCCS Bucks)
 - Teacher performance has improved
 - Routines are improving
 - SFA language is being included across all classes adding to consistency
 - We have a new math teacher
 - ✓ Grading process improvements are being made
 - All groups have grown
 - Incentives and more meaning added to the SMIs and SRIs

Kevin Beaumont

- Shared some details about the Halloween celebrations held at the school
 - Parades and classroom parties for younger students
 - Parties and dancing for the older students

- ✓ DJ/music along with festive costumes worn by students and faculty members
 - Served donuts, cider & water
- Practice NYS Math Test – first day completed by students in grades 3-8
 - Results of the exam will provide information about where improvements are needed
- New 8th grade math teacher is building a connection with our students
- We are currently interviewing to fill two positions: SPED teacher and there is a need for more support for RTI (creating a position – focusing on students to support the teachers)
- The Halloween party participation involved an incentive – those that did not meet behavior expectations were not allowed to attend festivities

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE - Megan Bosco

- Shared date for proposed board training: Saturday, February 9 tentatively from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. (training along with serving of morning coffee and lunch)

FINANCE COMMITTEE – Bliss Owen – Refer to Attachment A

- Dashboard:
 - Six students withdrew in the month of October (three families)
 - Enrollment is back to 394 and will be at 395 soon
 - One student has been classified for ENL in kindergarten
 - ATS visits have increased
 - ✓ Center for Youth is involved with restorative practices, structure and setting tone for accountability
 - There are currently 902 students on our waiting list
 - Investments this past quarter increased \$19,000
 - Dissolution account has to be at \$100,000 in two years and is currently at \$90,000
 - Donations received: Target (\$75 gift card); Target (two \$25 gift cards); Walmart (two \$25 gift cards); Salvatore’s (\$10 off 12 pizzas for Family Night Events - \$120 value); Radio Social (\$25 gift card); Horizon Fun FX (four \$45 gift cards for five people - \$180 value); Breakout Games Rochester (voucher for 2-8 people \$172.71 value).
 - \$47,000 over in net income – \$239K

BUILDING COMMITTEE

- Nelson Blish has placed a call to Kodak regarding vacant buildings. If we are going to consider construction of a new school, this might be a viable option for us.

- Father Schrader plans to meet with us prior to January regarding options for continuing at our current school location.

CHAIR REPORT – Nelson Blish

- Discussed the possibility of paying the fees for individuals that would like to attend function with the Mayor or other elected officials
- Discussed the basketball game schedule which is on the website

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Shared that the holiday party will be held at Radio Social on Friday, January 4 at 5 p.m.

Motion 181108.3 Upon a motion by Jason Mellen and duly seconded by Lee Tutt, the following was submitted for adoption: **RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

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

Voting in the negative: None

Motion 181108.3 passed 8 to 0

NEXT BOARD MEETING: Thursday, December 13, 2018

Urban Choice Charter School
 Treasurer's Report
 Nov 2018

As of Sept 2018

	MTD Actual	MTD Budget	Current Month Variance	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Variance
Revenue	514,083	528,222	(14,139)	1,447,492	1,453,962	(6,470)
Expenses	499,993	528,525	(28,532)	1,207,975	1,261,930	(53,955)
Net	14,089	(303)	14,392	239,518	192,032	47,786

Cash on Hand 1,591,636 71,281 in Receivables

Plus Investments 774,894