

Uwharrie Charter Academy
Board Meeting
August 11, 2016

Board Members Present:

Mark Hensley
Mac Whatley
Julia Del Grande
Michael Strickland
Aaryn Slafky
David McRae
Stacy Griffin

Board Members Not Present:

Angela Kern
Peter Rajtar

Others Present:

Heather Soja
Casey Harris

Mac Whatley called the meeting to order. Mac asked if there were any questions about the minutes or the CFO report. Mark concluded that our new accountant is much timelier than our previous accountant. For the month of July, there was more money spent than was budgeted, but he had no concerns about this as it was a common occurrence for the month of July. Stacey moved to adopt the consent agenda. Michael seconded. All in favor.

Mac requested that we revisit what we began with in past board meetings that included teacher presentations at the beginning of the meetings. Everyone agreed the board members enjoyed this. Heather and Casey ensured the board that these performances are coming soon. Each five minute presentation will be led by one teacher from each school. The teachers enjoy conducting the presentations as well as getting to know the board. They appreciate the board presence at functions. Heather and Casey are also considering student presentations, with possibly a minimal reward offered after completion. Stacey asked about the staff bios on the website. Casey reported that all staff bios with pictures should be completed very soon.

Heather shared that the USDA presentation that was scheduled for the board meeting had been cancelled by the presenter. Now that all paperwork has been completed, she needed to hold a special meeting with the board in the next

couple of weeks to present the loan conditions, have the board officially accept the conditions and the need to have signatures from a quorum of the board. The current rate if they closed today would be about 2.75% and once they pay off Hubrich Construction with the loan and start the payment process with USDA, there will be a monthly savings of about \$26K.

There were updated discussions about growth and expansion. Administration will request permission from DPI to include 5th grade, consisting of 125 students for the academic year of 2017-18. Construction will begin summer of 2017 for newly appointed space for the new 5th grade class at our middle school location. If approved in the school year 2017-18, we would include 5th grade. Drop off and pick up would need to be staggered as it is already a crowded pick up time. In 2018-19, middle school would move to the new location by the high school and we would file an amendment to our charter to include K-4, which would have a temporary location on Lewallen Street until a new structure can be completed at the new campus. Negotiations with KFI would need to be agreed upon and some classroom shifting would occur. Also during that same year, our goal is to have all grades 5th-8th to consist of 125 students. Mark inquired about being able to lock in at the same rate with USDA for our future plans. Heather stated she would inquire. Mark motioned to adopt the future growth and expansion goals and Michael seconded. All in favor.

Opened positions were discussed. There has been a solution for the vacant English teacher position. Gail Williamson will start next semester and in the meantime, the current English teachers will divide the open classes and receive additional pay. Going forward, Administration will gather a list of potential employees which will be sent to the board via email. Once the list is agreed upon and offers accepted, administration will send a second email as a follow up.

Mac reviewed with the board what the procedures for reviewing the Superintendent have been in the past. Heather reported she had consulted with other school directors and they confirmed that they are not evaluated, mainly because the board is not present for day to day operations. Heather and the board agreed that it would be helpful to Heather for teachers and fellow administrators to weigh in on her evaluation. Heather will investigate some comparable salary ranges for her position. Going forward, the board agreed it would be advantageous to have four preliminary evaluations throughout the year and one summative evaluation in the month of April.

Mac adjourned the meeting. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Del Grande
Secretary