

Uwharrie Charter Academy  
Board Meeting  
October 13, 2016

Board Members Present:

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

Board Members Not Present:

Peter Rajtar  
Ashley Duggins

Others Present:

Casey Harris  
James Green  
Lauren O'Brien

Mac Whatley called the meeting to order.

Middle Grades Presentations

Middle Grades Administrator Lauren O'Brien

2 new hires (PE, band), smooth transition to the year so far, kids excited to be back.

Curriculum night great success.

Conference championship for middle school girls volleyball tomorrow

Middle Grades teacher of the year James Green, teaches makerspace steam class and 8<sup>th</sup> grade science – prior 12 years at UMS/RCS, move to UCA: most fun I've had in time of teaching career. Presenting STEAM concept at national conference. 93 proficient in science last year. Opening doors not just for kids but for staff too. Majority of prosthetic hands will go to India. Not just about STEAM but also building confidence.

Consent agenda – Heather and Chad working with new accounting firm on reconciliations. Expect audit to be complete by mid-October. David made motion to accept consent agenda items, seconded by Stacy, motion carried.

Reports

Executive Director report – Heather submitted written report. Casey highlighted meeting with Sam Brockwell, architect for Phase 1. Working on fees and site plans. Timber on Browne property being assessed for sale. Great source of hardwood.

Chairman's report – Randolph and Asheboro Rotary Clubs held a joint meeting at the high school. Received a lot of good questions. Mac, Heather and Casey presented and gave tours.

Mac also presented an update on UCA to County Commission, including budgeted \$12 million to build new school.

Director of Academics report – Casey highlighted college pathway options. Don't need to do an early college. Soaring Eagles today can't be part until Junior year. However, that's based on credit hours, not age. They need 13 hours to start in Soaring Eagles program. Earning 5 by end of middle school, 8 in freshman year so could start in Soaring Eagles program as early as Sophomore year. Pathways for associate degree at graduation and meet the 39 credit hours, but no degree – earning classification as transfer student. Must have at least 39 credits to classify as a transfer student instead of college freshmen for the UNC system. Opens better chances to get in to UNC school as transfer. Credits are dually enrolled, counting toward both high school and college credits. Will provide transportation. Goal is to start with 2017-18 freshmen to start earlier with Soaring Eagles program.

Other highlights included:

Prong 2 EC audit went well. Kudos to EC staff.

Curriculum night on 10/20. Board encouraged to attend.

Tickets for Harvest sale are \$8, on Nov. 5. BBQ, baked beans, slaw, roll

Dr. Thomas Miller, consultant for Charter schools, toured, very impressed with UCA.

Flex Day on 10/27 – majority coming to high school, blacksmithing, Starworks glass blowing, several businesses coming in to speak ranging from Preppy Possum to t-shirt printer. Three groups will go off-site and remaining will be working on Harvest sale projects. Julia encouraged members to bring ideas of businesses that could give presentations or host students.

Will do Polar Express again this year. Date to be determined.

February will be next flex day, date to be determined.

Mac asked Casey to ask Heather about library program opt-out letter.

Timken tour will be Oct 17.

Mark reported on meetings regarding Phase II financing. Heather recommending USDA construction financing in her executive report. Negatives are the requirement to take lowest bid and that process will take longer.

Request for \$15,100 purchase, paid over three years, from DDI for additional new 100 Chromebooks. 70 will go to high school; 30 will go to middle school. Mark recommends getting pre-approval from USDA. Motion to approve purchase subject to approval by USDA made by Mark, seconded by Julia. Motion carried.

Calendar committee – Casey and Heather to form committee for scheduling dates for next school year; will include Lauren and at least teacher from each school on the committee. Angela volunteered to be board representative.

Board applications – Stacy discussed starting board nomination process now, well before lottery process. Stacy and Heather met today. Stacy will finalize draft for board to approve. Other charter schools require background check. We require parents to have a background check to volunteer, annually. Recommend requiring a one-time check for board members too, before being seated. Need to get all current members to submit to a background check. Required and optional training for all board members should be considered as part of job description. Can have up to 11 board members. We have three up for renewal – David, Stacy, Ashley. All three expressed interest to renew for another board term. Stacy and Ashley both

willing to oversee vetting process. May or may not have an opening. Tentative timeline: present board application for board approval at November board meeting. Post online once approved. Accept applications through a certain deadline. Deadline to be determined. Review of applications and voting timeline to be determined once deadline is determined. Application will be available online year-round. Disclose on application that filling out an application does not constitute a guaranteed position on the board. Board members are encouraged to contact potential prospects.

Motion to adopt a policy that each quarter to randomly draw 20% to be drug tested from the group of employees who transport students in UCA vehicles. Angela made the motion, Julia seconded.

Board agreed for Casey to work with Van to put together a proposal concerning random drug testing of athletes to present at the next board meeting. Presentation should include policies of neighboring jurisdictions and charter schools.

Heather to speak to Van about ensuring all board members are receiving school emails.

Mac adjourned the meeting. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,  
Aaryn Slafky