

Uwharrie Charter Academy
Board Meeting
September 14, 2017

Board Members Present:

Aaryn Slafky
Ashley Duggins
David McRae
Angela Kern

Julia Del Grande
Mac Whatley
Mark Hensley
Stacy Griffin

Others Present:

Casey Harris
Heather Soja
Mike Roberson

Lisa Routh
Ella Kern

Mac Whatley called the meeting to order at 6:30PM. Stacy moved to adopt the treasure report and minutes from July. Aaryn seconded. All in favor. Mac requested that the Director's reports be part of the consent agenda since we now review the reports individually before the board meetings.

Casey Harris invited some "new to UCA" teachers to introduce themselves to the board. Mike Roberson is a math teacher at the high school. Mike claims that he has refound his love for teaching and appreciates the extra time he receives to go over basics. He also loves the collaboration with other teachers. Mike quoted "If I were any happier, I would have to hire someone to help me enjoy it". Lisa Routh is the new 6th grade ELA teacher who share her excitement in her first year at UCA. One of Lisa's highlights is her STEAM class: partnering with the local animal shelter to adopt a dog and have her students help her train the dog. She is meeting students this Saturday at Tractor Supply for a practice dog show. Ella Kern also addressed the board about how much she enjoys teaching 6th grade Social Studies and particularly appreciates the ability to be flexible with her classroom. She teaches Snap Circuits as her STEAM class and most recently has challenged her students to make sturdy structures out of toothpicks.

Heather reviewed some test scores and informed the board that individual ACT scores continue to rise. Mark requested that Heather send out high level UCA test scores and to include demographic information with it. For example: Title I percentage.

Heather followed up an email vote and David made a motion to her request to spend \$10K for an abundance of items from the Agape Christian Academy closing. This will include furniture, equipment, a library of books, shelving, etc. Mark seconded. All in favor. Mark moved that wed authorize Heather to spend up to \$20K for both mobile classrooms for our future use and storage. Angie seconded. All in favor.

Our audit should conclude by October 31st. UCA will pay LBA as consulting for their help. UCA will need to complete more surveys for Phase II, such as soil erosion test. We should have the building permit in hand next week and also get started on the retaining ponds. Our goal is to close on bond financing on October 10th. A letter to initial lenders will go out soon and UCA will pay the remaining 8 payments of the 60 month term at closing.

Aaryn reported on behalf of the committee that is determining the details of the groundbreaking that the ceremony for will be October 20th @ 2pm. An area for ceremonial purposes will be prepped by then. The ceremony will include the high school choral group, bussing from the high school to the groundbreaking area and back, and snacks.

After talking with other charter school superintendents, Heather reported the need for her to be part of the committees and kept up to date when necessary. These committees include: finance/facilities, governance, board nomination and curriculum. These committees will need to take minutes when they meet tan report back to the board. These reports will be included with the consent agenda and will also have a line item on the agenda with a request for comments.

Julia reviewed the executive committee's plan to develop goals for Heather for this school year. All suggestions should be submitted to Julia. She will gather all suggestions and report back to the executive committee. This

committee will review all feedback and condense to a list that is appropriate and will discuss this list with Heather.

According to the survey for the potential elementary school next year, there is a lot of interest. We will have to start open enrollment before actual approval from the state board; administration will let K-3 know enrollment is pending board approval as suggested by the state board. Heather will confirm this procedure with the Office of Charter Schools. Angie motioned to reaffirm our decision to add K-4 for the next school year, pending state board approval. David seconded and all are in favor.

We will have lotteries electronically and will consistently show declined, accepted and next by number well after school starts next year. Heather has spoken to other charters who use the electronic system, as well as the company that has the system: Charter Ease. This will also allow for automation throughout the process by emails. UCA will be hiring a registrar for next year that will be over registration and the lottery, who will report directly to Heather. Stacy motioned to amend the charter to modify our lottery process to allow the option of this electronic lottery. Aaron seconded. All in favor.

There was discussion about a “crisis” request from a family of a child who is bullied or other situation. The board agreed we need to form a committee determine an entry of a crisis request. Heather will get feedback from the Office of Charter Schools about extenuating circumstances.

USDA inquired about our board composition and wanted to confirm that we make a deliberate attempt to recruit all possibilities and have a plan to select a group to call all areas of expertise needed. Ashley reached out to previous applicants and encouraged them to reapply. Heather will look into placing “equal opportunity” phrase on application.

Heather briefly discussed some of the goals that the curriculum committee have discussed for the elementary school next year. Some of those goals include:

- 12 week themed rotations
- electives to include PE, Art, Music, Foreign Language

- 4x4 state in each classroom to encourage public speaking

Casey asked for the board to consider a dropped ceiling for the 5th grade classrooms because the noise level is not as conducive for learning as it needs to be. David motioned to drop the ceilings under a \$17 budget over Christmas break. Mark seconded. All in favor.

Stacy motioned for the board to go into closed session at 8:45PM to discuss disciplinary action and a personnel issue. Mark seconded. All in favor.

Stacy motioned for the board to leave the closed session and adjourn the meeting at 9:52PM. Michael seconded and all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Julia DelGrande
Secretary