

Uwharrie Charter Academy
Board Meeting
July 14, 2016

Board Members Present:

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

Board Members Not Present:

Ashley Duggins
Stacy Griffin
Peter Rajtar

Others Present:

Heather Soja
Casey Harris

Mac Whatley called the meeting to order. Aaryn moved to adopt the consent agenda. David seconded. All in favor.

Heather shared that once the budget is signed by McCrory, DPI will then turn around and release information to the schools and Heather will be able to perform the last part with the school's budget.

UCA found out this week that they will receive a \$25K grant from Timken which is to be earmarked for technology. One example of its use is to help UCA begin the eNABLE Project, which will allow UCA to use 3D printing to make a prosthetic hand.

Casey gave a report on behalf of the middle and high schools. On July 28th, there will be a "Freshman Fun Day" at the high school to break down barriers. This day will include games, food, tours, and meet their teachers. There is also a formal day set for July 21st to develop curriculum, schedules and professional learning communities. There are goals set for

content, grant writing and how each school will fit STEAM in the classroom. There is a new segment to the Journalism class: Spotlight on a Board Member.

Heather reported that the modular units are being installed for our music and foreign languages and there has been new furniture ordered at the high school to accommodate business classes and the new Project Lead The Way class offering, which is an introduction to engineering. The field behind the high school was been graded properly and will be seeded soon. The classroom “on stage” next to the gymnasium that has been used for music in the past will be used for Health and EC “pullouts”. With confirmation that our school has been funded for 820 students this year, we will over enroll at each grade level, which means that we can call some potential students on the waiting list. Preliminary testing has revealed that our base composite score has increased by 16 points for the school as a whole. Heather will provide testing data to the board members that will include information for each grade in the near future.

Heather and team will continue to interview for three open teaching positions. Given that there are substantial changes to the administrative organizational chart, Heather will see that a letter will go out to students and parents to explain the differences and information about who to go to with specific questions. A couple of website priorities for Heather is to include bios for all staff and to include scrolling ongoing announcements that parents can refer to on a daily basis.

Heather reported that the rural development phase for the purchase of the high school has been approved. Looking forward, there are five additional spots in the 88 acres that we can build on. Ideas that have been discussed are a health clinic, administrative building, middle and elementary schools and a gym. Our goal is to construct and open the new location of the middle school in December of 2017. In the school year 2017-18, we would include 5th grade and in 2018-19, 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.

Julia reported Phase One of the Feathering the Nest name recognition will be installed soon. There were more fundraising ideas that were talked about: Teacher vs. Preacher basketball game, The Human Race in conjunction with The Volunteer Center and a Dodge Ball Tournament.

Mac announced it is time for Heather to complete a self evaluation and for the Board to review her. Mac will work on locating an appropriate self-evaluation form.

Mac adjourned the meeting. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Del Grande
Secretary