

**Uwharrie Charter Academy**

**Board of Directors Meeting**

**February 11, 2021; 6:30 pm Central Office**

**Minutes**

**Board Members Present**

Kristian Allen	Angela Kern	Aaryn Slafky	*Eric Ward attended the Closed Session
Carter Bills	Holly Moorhead	Maxine Wright	
Chelsey Butler	Wanda Pegg	Greg Zephir	

**Others Present**

Sharon Castelli	Colleen Stanley (Teacher Representative – Elementary School)
Casey Harris	Danielle Dills (Teacher Representative – Middle School)
Ryan Nelson	Amanda Whatley (Teacher Representative – High School) (remote)
Charity Shore	

Members of the public joined via Zoom

**UCA Board Ethics Statement**

Uwharrie Charter Academy will make decisions that are morally sound, environmentally responsible, fiscally fit, safe for the community, adaptable and promote the development of its students, always with integrity.

**Call to Order**

Carter Bills called the meeting to order at 6:34 P.M.

**Public comment**

Melody McNeil, Parent/Teacher, provided remarks concerning the health well-being of students during the pandemic.

**E3 Awards**

**HS** – Michael Holden – This month's E3 winner at the high school is Michael Holden. In his first month at UCA, Mr. Holden has been a tremendous help to our staff as we made the transition to live sessions. Mr. Holden comes to UCA as our new Game Design and 3D Modeling teacher, and he is also coordinating our online Spanish courses this semester. In between helping other staff troubleshoot tech problems and monitoring the Spanish classes, Mr. Holden is busy writing a grant to secure funding for the Game Design program. We are extremely excited about piloting this program next year, and we are very thankful for the impact Mr. Holden has already made at UCA. Congratulations on being this month's winner from the high school.

**HS** – Shay Aponte – The student E3 winner this month from the high school is Shay Aponte. Shay is a highly creative student who has reminded us to not lose our focus on environmental literacy, even during the era of Covid. Shay asked permission to begin the recycling program again at the high school and painted several beautiful collection bins that now sit in our hallways. With the help of History

teacher Drew Fortune, recycled items are being collected and taken to the local site for processing. Shay also has maintained straight A's this year while taking honors and AP classes. Congrats Shay and thank you for all you bring to UCA High School.

**MS** – Jennifer McManus – Teacher - Mrs. McManus is teaching 2 different subjects this year along with facing the continual changes of instruction delivery this school year has brought us. Each time Mrs. McManus has adapted and found a way to continue to connect with her students and encourage them to keep learning. She also helped coach the girls Volleyball to the 1st round of State playoffs and managed to enroll in continuing education courses to further her own education and eventually plans to earn a 2nd post graduate degree. Her goal is to improve the Math instruction and curriculum delivery for our school with her new degree and training. She has goals and a vision for our school and a teacher with a vision and goals is what is best for student's education! We are proud to award this honor to Ms. McManus!

**MS** – Destiny Fisher – Student Winner – Destiny has maintained a positive attitude all year. She has faced this school year with courage and enthusiasm that has boiled over into her fellow students. She is an active participator in her face to face and online learning and reaches out to connect with her fellow classmates to uplift and encourage them as well. She greets everyone on her face-to-face days with "smiling eyes" and is the first to give a "toothy grin" on her virtual days. She pushes herself to earn top scores in her classes and is the first to offer help to others when she sees they need it. Destiny is a wonderful representation of a UCA Eagle.

**ES** – Charity Shore – Data Treasurer – Ms. Shore is extremely helpful, organized and not afraid to work hard. She does a great job each day and takes the initiative to do what needs to be done. She has been a great addition to our elementary staff!

**ES** – Asa Owen – Student Recipient - Asa was nominated by our Spanish teacher, Mrs. Delgado and she writes: He is a very bright and kindhearted amigo. I can always count on Asa to do the right thing. Muy bien Asa! Mrs. Pope writes Asa is not only a super student, but he is also kind and thoughtful to his peers. He always offers to help his friend carry her lunch and constantly helps others when they have difficulty with their work. He is a great friend and wonderful kid! We are blessed to have him in our class!

### **Consent Agenda**

A motion was made by Ms. Pegg, seconded by Dr. Kern, to approve the Consent Agenda, Superintendent's Report, Treasurer's Report, CFO Report, January Minutes. Vote taken by roll call. All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions. Motion carried.

### **Finance/ Facilities** (30 Minutes)

1. Finance Committee Report – Mr. Nelson reported that UCA's financial health is strong and we are on point to meet goals, including for new construction. He shared that the change in the lunch ordering program is going well.
2. Klaussner Facilities Expansion Update – Dr. Castelli reported that there is a need to vote on a revised cost for construction and lease for the additional space at the Elementary School. The increased space allows UCA to grow in student population while also providing smaller class

sizes. The new space would provide five new classrooms, an EC space and a space for remediation. It would also address potential future COVID restrictions. These votes would replace the votes taken at the January meeting.

- a. A motion was made by Dr. Kern, seconded by Dr. Moorhead, to approve an increase of the current lease at the Klaussner building by an up to amount of \$125,000 for the remaining lief of the current lease, which ends June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023. was made by Angie Kern, seconded by Holly Moorhead. Vote taken by roll call. All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions. Motion carried.
  - b. A motion was made by Ms. Allen, seconded by Ms. Wright, to approve the expenditure of up to \$180,000, amended from the previous \$150,000 vote, for construction in the new leased space at the Elementary School. Vote taken by roll call. All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions. Motion carried.
3. CARES Act Update – Mr. Nelson reported that we have \$75,000 in CARES money left out of \$256,000 that must be used by December 31, 2021. In December 2020, UCA was given permission to allocate funds into programs with the greatest need, such as technology and learning resources.
  4. Review of New Construction Timeline – Mr. Harris reported that the Finance Committee reviewed the timeline and we are on track for the construction completion as outlined.

#### **Governance (10 Minutes)**

1. Governance Committee Report – Dr. Moorhead advised board members to review the report as presented in the board meeting materials folder. No further discussion.

#### **Academic Excellence (30 Minutes)**

1. Academic Excellence Report – Dr. Kern advised board members to review the report as presented in the board meeting materials folder. She asked members to share a photo with a book and describe why they like to read. This will be posted on a bulletin board at the Elementary School. She added that the Elementary School will be inviting mystery readers in March and board members are invited to participate – she said to watch email for details.
2. COVID-19 Update – Dr. Castelli reported that the High School campus is closed/virtual until February 24, 2021, due to a positive case. She said that an email was sent to staff that vaccine appointments would be available starting on February 24, 2021.
3. Remote Learning Plan Update
  - a. Return K-4 to 4 days a week effective February 22, 2021 (Vote Needed) – Dr. Castelli reported that Governor Cooper reduced the restrictions on K-5 student classroom capacity and that after careful review, the administration recommends bringing K-4 students back for in-person learning four days a week. Students will have the option to be all virtual or come to school four days a week. There will be not AA/BB option. A student electing to be virtual must remain virtual for the remainder of the semester; a student choosing in-person can move to virtual at which time that election is for the remainder of the

semester. A motion was made by Mr. Zephir, seconded by Ms. Allen, to approve a change to the remote learning plan to allow for the return of students in grades K-4 to four days a week, Monday through Thursday, starting on February 22, 2021. Vote taken by roll call. All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions. Motion carried.

4. Calendar for 2021-2022 – Dr. Castelli presented two options for the 2021-2022 school calendar – a 186-day calendar and a 190-day calendar. The following edits were noted to the documents presented: In the 190-day, the first day for teachers would be August 2 and the first day for students would be August 5; and for both calendars, the schedule for high school exams would be December 15-21. A motion was made by Dr. Kern, seconded by Ms. Wright, to approve the 186-day and 190-day calendars as presented with the noted edits. Vote taken by roll call. All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions. Motion carried.
5. Lottery Update – Dr. Castelli reported that UCA is continuing to get a great response in applications for the lottery for the 2021-22 school year.
6. District Plan Update – Dr. Castelli provided an update.

### **Other Business/New Business**

#### **Closed Session – Personnel GS143-318.11 (a)(6)**

A motion was made by Ms. Butler, seconded by Dr. Moorhead, to go into Closed Session as notified in the Agenda for the reason of discussion around Personnel GS143-318.11 (a)(6). Vote taken by roll call. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried. The Open Meeting concluded at 7:30 pm.

Ms. Shore, Ms. Dills, Ms. Stanley, Dr. Whatley and members of the public left the meeting. Mr. Ward arrived for the Closed Session.

Mr. Bills called the Closed Session to order at 7:41 pm.

Mr. Harris and Mr. Nelson left the Closed Session at 7:47 pm.

A motion was made by Ms. Allen, seconded by Ms. Wright to come out of closed session at 8:59 pm. Vote taken by roll call. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

#### **Adjourn**

A motion was made by Mr. Ward, seconded by Ms. Wright, to adjourn. Vote taken by roll call. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:59 pm.

#### **UCA Board Vision Statement**

Uwharrie Charter Academy is the model of innovative learning environments where curiosity, adaptability, and critical thinking are inspired through transformative methods and passionate educators preparing graduates for the rapidly evolving world.