

**Uwharrie Charter Academy**

**Board of Directors Meeting**

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

**Minutes**

**Board Members Present**

|                |                   |                                     |
|----------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Kristian Allen | Wanda Pegg        | Holly Moorhead (*attended via Zoom) |
| Angela Kern    | Aaryn Slafky      | Greg Zephir                         |
| Chelsey Butler | David Van Derveer |                                     |

**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)        |
| Charity Shore   | Shelly Fossati   |

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**

Ms. Slafky called the meeting to order at 6:52 pm.

**Public comment**

No Public Comment

**E3 Awards**

**HS** – Robin Smith, Teacher: This month's staff winner from the high school is Robin Smith. Ms. Smith has faithfully served UCA in our history department since the school opened. She teaches several Advanced Placement courses, and her test scores are consistently some of the highest in the building. Students love Ms. Smith's classes because she is highly creative and presents the material in a unique way that brings history to life and makes it relevant. She can always be counted on to represent UCA with professionalism as a teacher and coach. We are very thankful to have Ms. Smith as a young but veteran member of the UCA Family. Congratulations on being this month's E3 winner.

**HS** – Landon Gelet, Student: The student E3 winner this month from the high school is Landon Gelet. We are so proud of Landon's improvement 2nd semester. There was a time early in the year when Landon was down on himself and struggling with online assignments. After a conference, Landon and his mother trusted us enough to make a few schedule changes, and the results have been amazing. Landon is now making straight A's and is one of the hardest working students in his class. We are proud to honor him with this award and excited to see him continue to grow. Congratulations Landon!

**MS** – Pam Grettler, Teacher: Mrs. Grettler always goes above and beyond for her students. Whether it be tutoring, sending copies home for completely virtual students, or showing a little TLC to those who need it, Mrs. Grettler is a genuine, kind, and passionate educator. Not only is Mrs. Grettler a phenomenal teacher and person, but she has also gone beyond her comfort zone this school year and has taught herself many new skills with digital learning in order to make teaching math digitally the best experience she can possibly make it. We so appreciate the extra efforts that Ms. Grettler puts into her classroom and her school and are proud to recognize her.

**MS** – Jack Hicks, Student: We are honored to recognize Jack Hicks as the E3 winner for the middle school. Jack is a great student and ALWAYS does what he is asked. His grades are awesome, and it is because he works at it. His teachers share, "His manners are impeccable! He is always open to helping others, he is conscientious, he is sympathetic and kind, energetic and sociable. Jack is an all-around model student!!!" We appreciate this positive attitude and how hard he works!

**ES** – Sharon Bolson, Teacher Assistant: Mrs. Bolson is a kindergarten assistant and has been a wonderful addition to our Eagle community. She genuinely cares for the students and does her best to help in any way she can. She anticipates the needs of students and colleagues. Mrs. Bolson is highly organized and exceptionally kind and caring. Thank you for all you do!

**ES** – Sanaa Farrish, Student: Sanaa is a delightful student! She works hard and is always cheerful. Sanaa is a great helper to her peers and to her teachers. She can put a smile on anyone's face! We are so glad to have Sanaa as an Eagle!

### **Consent Agenda**

A motion was made by Mr. Zephir, seconded by Ms. Pegg, to approve the Consent Agenda, Superintendent's Report, Treasurer's Report, CFO Report, February 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 everything is on track and on budget.
2. Review of New Construction Timeline (RFP) (Vote needed) – Mr. Harris shared that a project cost elements matrix and an Request for Proposals for the New High School and Advanced Trades Buildings Design Build Construction Services are in the board folder. The matrix outlines who is responsible for what. The RFP process and timeline calls for issuing the RFP on March 12, 2021 with responses due by April 2, 2021. Completion date for the entire project is June 2023. A motion was made by Ms. Pegg, second by Mr. Van Derveer, to approve the timeline and release the RFP as presented. Vote taken by roll call. All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions. Motion carried.

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

1. Governance Committee Report – Ms. Allen reported that an update related to the discrimination policy was added into the Board, Parent/Student, and Employee Handbooks.
2. Employee Handbook Update (Vote Needed) - A motion was made by Ms. Allen, seconded by Ms. Pegg, to approve the Employee handbook update as presented. Vote taken by roll call. All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions. Motion carried.

3. Board of Directors Handbook Update (vote needed) - A motion was made by Ms. Allen, seconded by Dr. Kern, to approve the Board of Directors handbook update as presented. Vote taken by roll call. All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions. Motion carried.
4. Parent/Student Handbook Update (Vote Needed) - A motion was made by Ms. Allen, seconded by Mr. Zephir, to approve the Parent/Student handbook update as presented. Vote taken by roll call. All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions. Motion carried.

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

1. Academic Excellence Report – Dr. Kern shared that the committee met February 26 and the report is in the folder. She thanked the Board for sending in photos for reading board at the ES and the staff for creating a great bulletin board feature for the students.
2. COVID-19 Update – Dr. Castelli reported that the Randolph County figures are currently 7.4 % and that the governor released a new order regarding requirements for K-5 face-to-face attendance.
3. Lottery Update – Dr. Castelli reported that numbers are looking good for applications for the lottery, which will be held on March 22, 2021. The new brochures talk about our lottery process.
4. EOG Update for Elementary School (May 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>) – Dr. Castelli reported that 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades will be taking EOG tests on May 18 and 19 and that K-2 will be virtual those days to allow for staffing and capacity for this testing.
5. Weather Day forgiveness (Vote Needed) – Dr. Castelli reported that on February 18, 2021, the school system was closed in anticipation that severe weather would make travel difficult and with the expected likelihood of power outages, there was concern students and faculty would not have power to attend remotely. The state requires a minimum of 185 days. With this closure, we still have 189 days and do not need to make up this date. Dr. Castelli asked that the board approve not making up this 190<sup>th</sup> day. A motion was made by Mr. Van Derveer, seconded by Dr. Kern, to approve not making up the February 18, 2021 day. Vote taken by roll call. All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions. Motion carried.
6. District Plan Update/Data Update – Dr. Castelli delivered a presentation that outlined EOC proficiency scoring for all three schools for the first semester and outreach actions taken by each school to address students with low scores. Printed copies were distributed to board members and a digital copy is located in the Board folder.
7. Return of 5<sup>th</sup> grade students – Dr. Castelli reported that the governor issued an order allowing K-5 to return to face to face learning under Plan A, which includes up to five days per week and normal capacity. She explained that the 5th grade is on a separate hall from 6-8 and will maintain social distancing. She asked the board to consider returning K-5 grades to four days a week, Monday-Thursday, starting on March 22, 2021, while leaving Fridays as a virtual learning day to allow for deep cleaning. A motion was made by Ms. Allen, seconded by Mr. Van Derveer, to approve K-5 students returning on March 22 for four days a week, Monday-Thursday, with Friday remaining virtual. Vote taken by roll call. All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions. Motion carried.

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

Mr. Zephir suggested edits to the current Board handbook regarding the description of the membership for the Finance Committee to include non-Board members (page 13) and to list out the General Statutes, rather than just listing the numbers for those statutes (page 15). Ms. Allen said that the Governance Committee would add this to the agenda for discussion at the next committee meeting.

Ms. Slafky raised the topic that now that restrictions have been lifted on capacity for the gym where the board meeting is held each month, should we consider permitting members of the public to attend in person and discontinue the Zoom meeting access. The board agreed to continue the current approach at least through the June board meeting in order to match the current school plan of a mixed in-person and remote attendance. No vote needed.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Zephir, seconded by Mr. Van Derveer, 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 7:49 pm.

Mr. Harris, Mr. Nelson, Ms. Dills, Ms. Stanley, Dr. Whatley, Ms. Shore, Ms. Fossati, and members of the public left the meeting.

Ms. Slafky called the Closed Session to order at 7:58 pm.

A motion was made by Dr. Kern, seconded by Mr. Van Derveer, to come out of closed session at 8:22 pm. Vote taken by roll call. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

### **Adjourn**

Before adjourning, Dr. Castelli shared that the Girls Soccer team had their first scrimmage with Southwestern Randolph High School.

A motion was made by Mr. Zephir, seconded by Ms. Allen, to adjourn at 8:22 pm. Vote taken by roll call. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

### **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.