

**Uwharrie Charter Academy
Board of Directors Meeting
May 13, 2021; 6:30 pm Central Office
Minutes**

Board Members Present

Carter Bills	Holly Moorhead	Maxine Wright
Wanda Pegg	Kristian Allen	Eric Ward **joined remotely
Angela Kern	Greg Zephir	Aaryn Slafky
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)
Shelly Fossati	

Members of the public joined via Zoom

Call to Order

Carter Bills called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm

Public Comment

No public comment.

E³ Awards

HS – Abby Walker Hill: This month's E3 winner from the high school is Mrs. Abby Hill. Recently Mrs. Hill helped coordinate a prom closet for our young ladies in need of a gently used dress. This idea led to Mrs. Hill announcing the "Shabby Eagle Boutique", where she accepts donations of clothes, jewelry, and other items that will be offered to UCA young ladies at little to no cost. Mrs. Hill's project will be an incredible boost to the self-esteem of many UCA high school females. This project also creates community service opportunities for other UCA students who are excited about partnering with Mrs. Hill. We appreciate her willingness to help our young ladies. Congrats Mrs. Hill and thank you for being a smiling face for our students and staff every day.

HS – Joseph Phetmixay – Student Winner: This month's E3 student winner from the high school is Joseph Phetmixay. Joseph is an incredibly well-rounded student who demonstrates leadership and Eagle pride in all he does. He is currently ranked 3rd in his class of 142 with weighted GPA of 4.475. He has taken a very rigorous junior year course load including 3 AP courses and 2 RCC courses. Joseph will also sit for his certification exam for his Drone class in the coming weeks. He was recently accepted to Governor's School summer program, and he is participating in the American Legion Boys State summer program this June. Somehow Joseph also finds time for sports, and he is the first UCA tennis athlete to be able to call themselves the Yadkin Valley Tennis Singles Conference Champion. Congrats on this well-deserved award, Joseph.

MS – Collette Hoover: Ms. Hoover teaches math in eighth grade and will be retiring after this year. She has been a great addition to our staff. We so appreciate her hard work and dedication to student learning. She leads the Washington, DC trip each year with Mr. Grindstaff and together they work to make this an amazing experience for our students. We wish her the best as she retires but know that she will always be an eagle at heart!

MS – Corey Vaughn – Student Winner: Corey always goes above and beyond in his studies. Corey is a polite, soft spoken young man who holds both educational and emotional intelligence. He is a good friend to his peers and is always putting others before himself. He is a fantastic role model and a terrific all around child. He is respectful and kind to others. He always does what he is supposed to do and makes sure that his work is the very best that he can do. We are extremely proud of him and all his efforts during this year.

ES – Laura Hurley: Mrs. Hurley is not only an amazing teacher, she's an amazing person. She is one of the most kind, selfless people you could ever meet. Mrs. Hurley goes above and beyond for each student and loves them unconditionally. She spends much of her free time helping her students. Mrs. Hurley is also a wonderful colleague! She offers a wealth of knowledge to her team and doesn't hesitate to offer support to anyone who needs it. We love having her at UCA and appreciate all she does to make UCA great!

ES – Cameron West – Student Winner: Cameron has grown so much and in so many ways this year. He is becoming a young gentleman and it is apparent in all he does. Cameron works hard in class, is respectful to his teacher and stands up for his classmates. He strives to do his best in every task. We are so proud of you and we are so happy you're an Eagle!

Consent agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Zephir, seconded by Dr. Moorhead, to approve the Consent Agenda, Superintendent's Report, Treasurer's Report, CFO Report, April 15 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 the work closing out for the fiscal year is getting started earlier this year to get a head start.
2. Build update – Shelco contract received and under review – Mr. Harris reported that the contract from Shelco has been received and the team is reviewing it. He shared that the first design meeting will be on May 18. Mr. Harris, Mr. Wheat, Mr. Green, Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Thompson will use that meeting to talk through design elements for the new construction.
3. ESSER III funding and possible expenditures – Mr. Nelson shared that \$960,000 is being provided through ESSERS III funding and that those funds will be used to bolster student/staff devices, critical assessment tools, IT and EC support.
4. Transportation - purchases of buses - not to exceed \$50K – Mr. Nelson reported that Transportation Director Clayton Miller is doing a tremendous job managing the transportation fleet. That said, given the age of many of the vehicles, repair costs are becoming increasingly frequent. Mr. Nelson shared that the staff would like to add two additional buses to our fleet

and move two current buses into back-up rotation. He said that our UCA mechanic Isaac Yow and Mr. Miller assessed two used buses that they recommend for purchase for \$50,000 for both. As a comparison, a new bus would cost \$100,000. Mr. Bills asked if a financial analysis had been completed to assess the cost benefit of purchasing these used vehicles over investing in new buses in terms of life span. Mr. Nelson reported that they had. A motion was made by Mr. Van Derveer, seconded by Ms. Allen, to spend up to \$50,000 for the purchase of two used buses. Vote taken by roll call. All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions. Motion carried.

5. Release of Supplement (May) (*vote needed*) - \$180,500 (*taxes and benefits included*) – Mr. Ward discussed the celebration of releasing the spring supplement, which had been previously approved by the board in the 2020-21 budget. A motion was made by Mr. Ward, seconded by Mr. Van Derveer, to approve the release of the spring supplement in the amount of \$180,500. Vote taken by roll call. All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions. Motion carried.
6. New Positions - Fall 2021 - Not to exceed 150K combined – Dr. Castelli reported that ESSERS III funding would be used initially to fund two new positions after a needs assessment showed that UCA is in need of more IT and federal programs support. She shared that a ratio of staffing of 1 IT employee to 1,000 students is typical and UCA's ratio is 1 to 2,000. It was noted that the ESSERS funding is not recurring and funding for these positions would need to come from the UCA budget once these funds were exhausted in September 2024. There are two positions being proposed: Chief of IT and Exceptional Children/Multi-tier System Support (EC/MTSS) Coordinator. A motion was made by Mr. Van Derveer, seconded by Ms. Pegg, to fund up to \$150,000 in salaries for two new positions: chief of IT and EC/MTSS coordinator. Vote taken by roll call. All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions. Motion carried.
7. Ballfield - Grading Contract - 15K (*vote needed*) – Mr. Harris reported a need to lower drains at the UCA ballfield property. He shared that the previous vendor set these drains too high and they need to be dropped 6 inches. A motion was made by Mr. Zephir, seconded by Mr. Van Derveer, to approve the contract as presented with a spend of up to \$15,000 for regrading and drain adjustments. Vote taken by roll call. All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions. Motion carried.

Governance (10 minutes)

1. Governance Committee Report – Dr. Moorhead shared that this is her last report as chair of the committee and that Ms. Allen will take over. She asked that the board arrive at 6 pm before the June 10 meeting to welcome newest board member, Jonathan Thule. She also shared that the annual board orientation will be coordinated between the committee and Dr. Castelli and that they are planning to host that in the fall to coincide with strategic planning. She reported that the Board Handbook would be renamed to distinguish it from the Board Policy Handbook. Updates to the document are under way and that the updated document would be provided electronically in the Board's Google drive by June. The current document is available in the same drive now. She noted that the Finance Committee will be contacting each board member regarding completion of the board giving form, which is due ahead of the June meeting. Completed forms should be submitted to Dr. Castelli before June 10.
2. SOP for Athletics – Dr. Castelli reported that an SOP for athletics has been implemented. She

noted that Mr. Harris, Mr. Van Deveer, Athletic Director Monroe, and others all gave input. She also shared that a waiver permitting parents to request reclassing of middle school students to repeat a grade is valid for the 2021-22 school year only due to COVID hardship.

Academic Excellence (10 minutes)

1. Academic Excellence Committee Report – Dr. Kern reported that the committee report is in Board Google drive. She expressed thanks on behalf of the Board to Dr. Whatley for creating the career bulletin board at the high school. She also thanked the board for their support of bagel deliveries for teacher appreciation. Ms. Stanley added that the teachers appreciated the treats and Mr. Bills read a thank you from middle school. Dr. Castelli gave a summary of graduation festivities, sharing that there would be a live-streamed celebration of 8th grade promotion and awards ceremony on May 27, 79 seniors participating in the small groups graduation on May 27 and 68 seniors participating in the group graduation on May 28. There will be a summer graduation after summer school ends. All three senior graduation events will be spliced into a single video and shared with seniors and their families so that all graduates can enjoy the speeches and other aspects of the full program.
2. COVID-19 Update – Dr. Castelli reported that cases are at 4.4% in Randolph County.

New Business, part 1

Mr. Bills recognized Dr. Moorhead for her 3 years of service since 2018. He shared that since this is her last in-person meeting, the board wanted to thank her in person. Dr. Castelli presented a vase on behalf of UCA. Dr. Moorhead responded that she will always remain a supporter of UCA and that she believes the school system is vital to the success of Randolph County's future.

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

A motion was made by Dr. Moorhead, seconded by Dr. Kern, 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 7:07 pm.

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

Mr. Bills called the Closed Session to order at 7:26 pm. Mr. Ward joined by phone.

A motion was made by Mr. Ward, seconded by Mr. Van Derveer, to come out of closed session at 7:36 pm. Vote taken by roll call. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

New Business, part 2

Dr. Castelli announced that the board is invited to participate in the group graduation on May 28. The board will wear graduation gowns and walk in as part of the procession. Mr. Bills will lead off with opening welcome remarks. Reserved seating will be provided. Members are asked to arrive at the Middle School Gym no later than 4:30 pm. Those wishing to participate should notify Dr.

Castelli by Wednesday, May 19.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Ms. Allen, seconded by Ms. Wright, to adjourn at 7:38 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.