

Uwharrie Charter Academy Board of Directors Meeting Summary

Date: January 15, 2026

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Central Board Room

Board Members Present:

Becca Mead, Paige Fish, Regina Rush, Jennifer Mabe, Chelsey Butler, Maria Hayes, Tony Cugino, Valerie Dambreville, Jonathan Thill,

Absent: Meredith Arbaiza, Elisha Savchak-Trogon, Ryan Terry

Administration Present:

Sharon Castelli, Chris Wheat, Ryan Nelson, Beth Kearns

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 PM by Becca Mead, Chairperson.

Public Comment

No public comments.

E3 Awards – High School

- **Staff Award:** Jody Smith
Mrs. Smith goes above and beyond on a daily basis at UCA. She mentors new teachers, is on the SIT team, helps plan graduation and prom, and leads the science department.
 - **Student Award:** Madeline Plount
Madeline is a senior at UCA high school. She is a member of the BETA Club, Chick Filet Leadership, and Interact Rotary. She has 400 hours in the UCA internship program. She has been accepted into eight universities, and is still making her final decision.
-

Consent Agenda

The board reviewed the Superintendent's Report, Deputy Superintendent's Report, Treasurer's Report, CFO Report, November 13, 2025 meeting minutes, and the December 16, 2025 Call Meeting Minutes.

Motion made by Chelsey Butler seconded by Regina Rush to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Voice taken by Voice. All in Favor. None Opposed. Motion Carried.

Finance and Facilities

- **Finance Committee Report:**

Mrs. Rush reviewed the Budget vs. Actual (BVA) report.

Mr. Nelson provided an overview of the recent federal fund drawdown.

- **Capital Reserve Update:**

The Finance Committee has developed a draft proposal to establish a capital reserve fund to mitigate the risk of significant future expenses. The initial funding source would be the anticipated reimbursement for the roundabout project (see below). The draft has been reviewed by the school's accountant. Board members are asked to review the document in the board folder and provide feedback prior to the next Finance Committee meeting scheduled for February 5, 2026.

- **Audit Update.**

The audit is currently in review status. Financial statements are expected to be returned next week.

- **Roundabout Reimbursement**

UCA is still awaiting reimbursement for the roundabout project. All required documentation has been completed and submitted to the state.

- **HS Erosion Completion Update**

Erosion issues at the high school campus were discussed. The riprap initially installed to manage runoff has failed and will require remediation. The inspector has conducted multiple site visits, and bids from three contractors are available in the board folder. Repairs will require erosion control netting and heavier riprap. The work is planned for completion in the spring.

- **Edmentum Tutoring Contract**

Grant funding is available to expand tutoring services across all schools to provide targeted academic support for students in all grades. An in-person tutor has been hired for the middle school and will also support the Virtual Academy. Edmentum's platform will be used to expand tutoring services to the elementary school, with a focus on mathematics. The program will serve up to 80 students, and Edmentum will provide compiled student data reports.

No vote required.

Academic Excellence

- **Academic Excellence Committee Report –**

Mrs. Hayes presented the Academic Excellence Committee report. A summary of committee notes is available in the board folder. Action items included the revised AIG plan, the proposed school calendar, and promotional videos for the lottery.

Mrs. Hayes also shared several district highlights, including the middle school Beta Club's

service project at a senior center, the district spelling bee, the elementary school's pilot of a new IXL math program, a high number of mid-year graduates, and the recent mini-conference.

- **HS Presentation-**

Dr. Whitney Smith presented Fall EOC data and shared instructional celebrations and strategies for using data to drive instruction. She discussed ongoing efforts to align professional development with staff and student needs and highlighted a focus on strengthening school culture and literacy growth for all students.

Mr. Green provided an update on the internship program, noting its continued growth since its implementation in 2023. He shared details on current internship offerings and plans for future expansion.

- **2026-2027 Calendar (Vote required)**

Dr. Castelli reviewed the proposed calendars for the 2026–2027 school year. Three calendar options were presented, with Calendar C receiving the majority of support.

One correction was noted: December 28 was listed as a vacation day on the calendar but omitted from the notes section. This will be corrected.

Board members also discussed questions regarding Good Friday being designated as a virtual learning day.

Motion made by Valerie Dambreville, seconded by Jennifer Mabe, to approve the 2026 – 2027 academic calendar.

Voice taken by Voice. All in Favor. None Opposed. Motion Carried.

Governance

- **SOP Seizure Protocol –**

The new seizure plan has been added to the board folder. The SOP is now required by all schools. All staff will receive training on seizure protocol. The SOP has been reviewed by the school attorney.

- **Superintendent Search –**

Mrs. Mead provided an update on the superintendent search. There are currently 16 applicants. The application deadline is January 26, 2026. Arasi Adkins of Summit Search Group will meet with the board via Zoom to provide guidance on accessing the application portal and rating candidates.

Other Business/New –

- **Slate of Employees –**

Motion made by Regina Rush seconded by Chelsey Butler to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing Personnel per GS143-318.11.

Voice taken by Voice. All in Favor. None Opposed. Motion Carried.

Time: 8:00 PM

Closed Session began at to discuss Personnel GS143-318.11 (a)(6)

Jennifer Mabe made motion to come out of closed session and Anthony Cugino seconded at 8:43 PM

Paige Fish, made motion to adjourn and was seconded by Maria Hayes at 8:45 PM