

Uwharrie Charter Academy Board of Directors Meeting Summary

Date: February 12, 2026

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Central Board Room

Board Members Present:

Becca Mead, Paige Fish, Regina Rush, Jennifer Mabe, Maria Hayes, Tony Cugino, Valerie Dambreville, Jonathan Thill, Meredith Arbaiza, Elisha Savchak-Trogdon, Ryan Terry

Absent: Chelsey Butler

Administration Present:

Sharon Castelli, Chris Wheat, Ryan Nelson, Beth Kearns

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:13 PM by Becca Mead .

Public Comments

NO public comments

Recognition – E3 Awards

Uwharrie Charter Academy recognized the four counselors serving students across all three campuses: Meaghan Rabb, Bailey Bailey, Amy Parris, and Dennis Hughes.

Counselors were commended for their daily support of students and staff through outreach programs, student support plans, scheduling, and ongoing availability to assist school communities.

Consent Agenda

The Board reviewed the Superintendent's Report, Deputy Superintendent's Report, Treasurer's Report, CFO Report, and the January 15, 2026 meeting minutes.

A motion was made by Jennifer Mabe and seconded by Meredith Arbaiza to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Voice vote taken. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

Finance and Facilities

2025 Audit Presentation

Jay Sharper presented the audit summary virtually.

- Fieldwork has been completed.
- Financial statements have been prepared.
- Audit issues and IRS Form 990 are in process.

Results indicated several adjustments related to accruals and a significant deficiency associated with EC teacher licensure. Overall, the school experienced a strong financial year.

Finance Committee Report

- The Budget vs. Actual (BvA) analysis sheet was reviewed.
- Federal funds are currently being drawn down and will begin appearing on the BvA.

2026–2027 Chromebook Purchase (Vote Required)

The Finance Committee requested approval to procure funds for student and staff technology purchases for the 2026–2027 school year due to volatility in the laptop market and anticipated price increases.

Motion made by Meredith Arbaiza and seconded by Jonathan Thill to approve procurement of funds for the technology purchase as presented.

Voice vote taken. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

Roundabout Reimbursement

The school was informed that reimbursement processing has been completed, and a check is expected within 7–10 days.

High School Erosion Project Update (Vote Required)

Three bids were received to address erosion concerns at the high school. All vendors are insured and propose similar project approaches.

Motion made by Valerie Dambreville and seconded by Regina Rush to approve the bid from Bradley Nations and Son Property Services in the amount of \$16,000.

Voice vote taken. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

Capital Reserve Fund Charter (Vote Required)

The Finance Committee proposed establishing a capital reserve fund to mitigate future significant expenses. The draft SOP was reviewed by the school's accountant and attorney and presented for approval.

Motion made by Regina Rush and seconded by Maria Hayes to approve the Capital Reserve Fund as presented.

Voice vote taken. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

2026–2027 Budget Preview

Dr. Castelli presented projected needs and requests for the upcoming school year, including school and central office priorities.

Key highlights:

- Safety grant funding supporting SROs, counseling positions, and a school nurse will sunset at the end of the 2025–2026 school year.
- The Finance Committee aims to approve a final budget in May, with continued discussion scheduled for March and April meetings.

Academic Excellence

Academic Excellence Committee Report

Mrs. Hayes reviewed committee updates following the February 3, 2026 meeting.

- The high school hosted a successful career fair on February 7, 2026, with more than 35 local businesses participating.
- Calendar adjustments due to weather closures were reviewed to meet state requirements. The proposed calendar will make Presidents' Day a school day and add three days to the end of the school year.
- Golden LEAF grant funds will support development of the advanced manufacturing program, along with an additional \$150,000 community partner pledge.

2025–2026 Calendar Amendment (Vote Required)

Dr. Castelli presented a proposed calendar adjustment for the remainder of the school year.

Additionally, when a Friday weather delay occurs, the superintendent may convert the half day Friday schedule to a full instructional day with standard dismissal times:

- Elementary: 2:25 p.m.
- Middle: 2:45 p.m.
- High: 3:15 p.m.

Motion made by Maria Hayes and seconded by Ryan Terry to approve the modified calendar and Friday scheduling option.

Voice vote taken. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

Governance

Immigration Policy (Vote Required)

With support from the school attorney, Dr. Castelli developed a proposed immigration policy. The policy will be reviewed with administration and Student Resource Officers.

Motion made by Ryan Terry and seconded by Meredith Arbaiza to approve the Immigration Policy as presented.

Voice vote taken. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

Superintendent Update

Arads Adkins will meet with board members on February 18, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. to review the evaluation rating scale and next steps. Board members will access their accounts to evaluate the eight superintendent candidates.

Other Business / New Business

2026–2027 Board Leadership

Item moved to closed session.

RFP – Legal Services

The current EC attorney will retire at the end of the school year. The school received recommendations and requested more information from Poyner Spruill. Materials and rate information are available in the board folder. Representation would begin July 1, 2026.

Land Survey

The Board requested a land survey focused on the area surrounding the modular units to help guide future planning and construction near the elementary campus.

Closed Session

Motion made by Jonathan Thill and seconded by Regina Rush to enter closed session for the purpose of discussing personnel pursuant to GS 143-318.11.

Voice vote taken. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

Time: 8:36 p.m.

Closed session began at 8:49 p.m. to discuss personnel (GS 143-318.11(a)(6)).

Return to Open Session & Adjournment

Jonathan Thill made a motion to return to open session, seconded by Meredith Arbaiza, at 9:25 p.m.

Jonathan Thill then made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ryan Terry, at 9:25 p.m. Motion carried.
