

Uwharrie Charter Academy Board of Directors Meeting Summary

Date: March 12, 2026

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Central Board Room

Board Members Present:

Becca Mead, Chelsey Butler, Paige Fish, Regina Rush, Elisha Savchak-Trogdon, Valerie Dambreville, Tony Cugino, Jennifer Mabe, , Maria Hayes

Absent: Ryan Terry, Meredith Arbaiza, Jonathan Thill

Administration Present:

Sharon Castelli, Chris Wheat, Ryan Nelson, Beth Kearns

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:26 PM by Chairperson Becca Mead.

2. Public Comment

There were no public comments made during the meeting.

3. E3 Awards – Elementary School Student & Staff

Student Award

The E3 Student for the month of March is Hadeer Usman from Mrs. Lowe’s first-grade class. Mrs. Lowe shared the following regarding Hadeer and how she exemplifies Eagle PRIDE:

Hadeer is new to our school this year and has already made a positive impact on the classroom community. She is respectful, honest, and consistently demonstrates integrity in all that she does. Hadeer is a kind friend to her peers and has quickly built strong, positive relationships. She leads by example with her positive attitude and willingness to always do her best. Hadeer demonstrates excellent character and serves as a strong role model.

Staff Awards

For the month of March, we are honored to recognize Mrs. Pope and Mrs. Hurley as our E3 Staff Members. Both educators will be retiring at the end of the school year, and we are grateful for their many years of dedicated service.

Mrs. Pope and Mrs. Hurley have been instrumental in building a strong and supportive kindergarten team at UCA Elementary. Their commitment to student success, nurturing approach, and unwavering dedication have made a lasting impact on students and families. Their contributions have helped shape the foundation of learning for many children, and their legacy will continue for years to come. While they will be greatly missed, we celebrate their outstanding careers and wish them well in their retirement.

4. Consent Agenda

The Board reviewed the Superintendent's Report, Assistant Superintendent's Report, Treasurer's Report, CFO Report, and the February 12, 2026 meeting minutes.

A motion was made by Chelsey Butler and seconded by Elisha Savchak-Trogdon to approve the consent agenda as presented.

The motion was approved by voice vote. All were in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

5. Finance and Facilities

Finance Report:

- The Board reviewed the Budget vs. Actual report. Custodial service expenses have exceeded initial projections.
- **2026–2027 Budget:** The most significant change for the upcoming fiscal year is the loss of the Stronger Connections Grant, which previously funded School Resource Officers (SROs), a school nurse, and counselors.
- Dr. Castelli and Mr. Nelson requested that the Board review the preliminary planning budget, use it as a framework for discussion, and provide feedback for revisions moving forward.

Budget Narrative Justification:

- The budget narrative should be clearly divided into personnel expenses and one-time expenditures.
- Emphasis should be placed on Tier 1 and other high-priority items.
- Board members reviewed the narrative and asked questions regarding specific budget items.

Regina Rush suggested that select one-time expenses, particularly those related to school safety, could potentially be funded through an existing money market account. Dr. Wheat will develop and distribute a safety survey to building administrators to assess needs and provide cost estimates.

RFP for Legal Services

Due to the retirement of the current EC legal representative, a new legal services provider is required. The proposed company offers a more comprehensive package on a sliding scale. Engagement will begin June 1, 2026, rather than July 1, 2026.

A motion was made by Jennifer Mabe and seconded by Paige Fish to approve the RFP for legal services.

The motion was approved by voice vote. All were in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

Roundabout Reimbursement Update

The school received the full amount of reimbursement requested from the Department of Transportation. These funds will be transferred into an investment account to establish a Capital Reserve Fund for future expenses.

A motion was made by Regina Rush and seconded by Val Dambreville to approve the creation of a Capital Reserve Fund account.

The motion was approved by voice vote. All were in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

HVAC Repairs – \$27,000

Although HVAC repairs were budgeted, necessary repairs—including replacement of one compressor at the elementary school and two compressors at the central gym—exceeded the original budget. Approval was required for the \$27,000 total cost.

A motion was made by Paige Fish and seconded by Elisha Savchak-Trogdon to approve the HVAC repairs as presented.

The motion was approved by voice vote. All were in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

Land Survey – \$8,400

Uwharrie Charter Academy’s ninety-acre campus requires an updated land survey to include the southern portion. This survey will identify watersheds and floodplains and support future expansion planning. This expense was not previously budgeted.

A motion was made by Elisha Savchak-Trogdon and seconded by Paige Fish to approve the cost of the land survey as presented.

The motion was approved by voice vote. All were in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

Teacher Growth Recognition Policy

A proposed Uwharrie Charter Academy policy would provide bonuses for teachers in tested EOG/EOC subjects who exceed growth but are not eligible for state bonuses. This proposal will move to the Governance Committee before returning to the Board for consideration.

6. Academic Excellence

- The Board reviewed information presented to DPI on March 9.
- Promotional videos created by Dr. Wheat are being used to market to prospective families for the 2026–2027 lottery.
- District Indicators data was shared with stakeholders.
- Mr. Green provided updates on internships, programs, and ongoing funding challenges for the Health Science program.

- Mrs. Stanley reported that the elementary school is meeting monthly to review data, piloting the IXL curriculum, and addressing instructional time lost due to winter weather.
 - Dr. Smith shared updates on high school scheduling for 2026–2027, the development of new electives, and student success at the SkillsUSA regional event.
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7. Governance

There are currently two finalists in the superintendent search process.

8. Other Business

(No additional business was discussed.)

9. Closed Session

Motion made by Chelsea Butler, seconded by Regina Rush 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: 9:03

Closed Session began at 9:13 to discuss personnel.

Elisha Savchak-Trogdon made motion to come out of closed session and Paige Fish seconded at 10:20 pm.

10. Adjourn

Elisha Savchak-Trogdon made motion to adjourn and was seconded by Elisha Savchak-Trogdon at 10:21 pm.

2026 – 2027 Board of Directors

Academic Excellence - Elisha Savchak-Trogdon

Governance – Paige Fish

Treasurer - Jennifer Mabe

Secretary - Valerie Dambreville

Vice Chair - Regina Rush

Chair – Becca Mead