

Uwharrie Charter Academy Board of Directors Meeting Summary

Date: September 10, 2026

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: Central Board Room

Board Members Present:

Becca Mead, Paige Fish, Regina Rush, Elisha Savchak-Trogon, Tony Cugino, Jennifer Mabe, Maria Hayes, Meredith Arbaiza, Valerie Dambreville

Absent: Ryan Terry, Jonathan Thill

Administration Present:

Chris Wheat, Ryan Nelson, Beth Kearns, James Green

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 PM by Becca Mead, Chairperson.

2. Public Comment

There **were** public comments made during the meeting.

Bruce Bradford from PNC Bank introduced himself to the board, and expressed the banks interest in being part of our RFP.

3. E3 Awards – Eagles Excellence in Education

Elementary School

Student – Savannah Wall - Savannah has started this school year showing commitment to her learning and care for others. She is willing to help others when needed, or help assist the teacher with classroom jobs. She wears a smile daily. She definitely has shown to give her best in every situation so far this year. We are looking forward to a great year in fifth grade with Savannah

Teacher – Hannah Wolin -UCA Elementary wishes to celebrate Mrs. Hannah Wolin, our September E3 staff member of the month. As the leader of our hospitality committee, Hannah goes above and beyond to design fun, creative ways to showcase our amazing

staff on social media. Her infectious positivity and dedicated support are instrumental in keeping our school spirit high.

4. Consent Agenda

The board reviewed the Superintendent's Report, Treasurer's Report, CFO Report, and the August 13, 2026 meeting minutes.

Motion made by Regina Rush, seconded by Meredith Arbaiza to approve the consent agenda as presented.

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

5. Academic Excellence

Elementary Presentation

- Eureka Math implementation is off to a strong start, emphasizing conceptual understanding, multiple solution paths, student discourse, and consistent daily lessons.
- The AIG program has grown to 179 students, exceeded growth expectations, and completed its K–12 plan requirements.
- The elementary school highlighted strong instructional gains and student achievements.

Mrs. Hayes presented the Academic Excellence Report from September 1, 2026

Continued progress across academic programs, student support, and career readiness initiatives, highlights included the success of the STEAM program, implementation of the Eureka Math, the expansion of the Culinary Program, and efforts to secure additional reading support. The group also discussed staff engagement activities, resources for EC teachers and expanded internship and workforce opportunities, including a pre-apprenticeship partnership with Prevo. Updates were shared on support for virtual academy students, with positive feedback from families as well as the completion of the funding application in anticipation of upcoming state academic data. Overall, the meeting reflected a strong focus on academic achievement, innovative learning opportunities, student and staff support, and preparing students for future education and careers.

6. Finance and Facilities

Finance Committee Report

- Finance introduced a simplified monthly budget-versus-actual report; July spending was elevated by Eureka Math and HVAC projects. The audit remains on track for completion before the extended state deadline.

Audit Update

- Extended the due date to December. Deadline of 11/30/2026 to provide financial information to auditor.

RFP For Banking Relationship Update

- The banking-services RFP was sent to seven institutions, with responses received from six.
- Compile a banking activity package for RFP respondents, including treasury management, ACH, payroll, check activity, balances, and representative sample months, and formalize current non-negotiable banking requirements.

7. Governance

Amendment to Student Handbook-

Cell phone policy – The elementary policy should be in line with the middle school and high school policies. The handbook needs to be amended to read:

Elementary School: Cell phones are prohibited at the elementary school level. Students who bring a phone to school must keep it powered off and in their backpack at all times. Smart watches, earbuds, and personal audio devices follow the same policy.

Motion made by Valerie Dambreville , seconded by Tony Cugino to amend student handbook as presented.

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

Amendment to student and Employee Handbook – Antisemitism Statement G.S.12-3.2

Student handbook amendment

The Code of Student Conduct prohibits discrimination based on an individual's protected classification under federal law, including antisemitism as defined by G.S 12-3.2.

Motion made by Meredith Arbaiza , seconded by Elisha Savchak-Trogdon to amend student handbook as presented.

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

Employee handbook amendment

UCA prohibits discrimination based on an individual's protected classification under federal law, including antisemitism as defined by G.S 12-3.2.

Motion made by Paige Fish , seconded by Regina Rush to amend the employee handbook as presented.

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

Cardiac Emergency Response Plan

- The cardiac emergency response plan was reviewed; AED locations and related training requirements were discussed before a future vote.

Tabled to next meeting

Board Policies and Expectations/5 Year Plan

Becca Mead presented

- Board roles, fiscal oversight, committee responsibilities, parent communication protocols, conflicts of interest, attendance, onboarding, and school visits were reviewed.
- The board discussed recruitment needs, possible board-sponsored projects or scholarships, grant opportunities, and teacher compensation structures.

8. Other Business

Regina Rush asked about needs based school capital project grant requests, and if charter schools were eligible.

9. Closed Session

Motion made by Paige Fish, 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 8:29 PM

Closed Session began at 8:38 pm to discuss personnel.

10. Adjourn

Meredith Arbaiza made motion to come out of closed session and Paige Fish seconded at 9:20 PM

Meredith Arbaiza made motion to adjourn and was seconded by Paige Fish at 9:20 PM