



**Urban Academy Charter School  
School Board Meeting  
October 21, 2019  
Saint Paul, Minnesota**

**MINUTES**

<b>Board Members:</b>	<b>Ex-Officio Members:</b>	<b>Advisory Members:</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Melissa Jensen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mongsher Ly	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Luis Brown-Pena
<input type="checkbox"/> Tamara Mattison		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ralph Elliott
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fong Lor		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nancy Smith		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caley Long		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yu Yin Liao		
<input type="checkbox"/> Ying Thao		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ronsoie Xiong		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chao Yang		

<b>Staff and Guests Attending:</b>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stacey Beetham	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tony Lang	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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**Meeting called to order by Melissa Jensen, Board Chair at 6:01 PM**

**Acceptance of Agenda**

Corrections made: none

Board Motion: Approve the agenda:

Board Member motioning to approving agenda: Lor

Board Member seconding the motion: Smith

Discussion: none

Unanimously approved

**Conflict of Interest**

None to report

**Approval of September 16, 2019 Minutes**

Board Motion: to approve the minutes

Board Member motioning to approve the minutes: Long

Board Member seconding the motion: Xiong

Discussion: none

Unanimously approved

**Reports/Presentations:**

Stacey Beetham, Designs for Learning

- Independent has been completed for Urban and we received a clean, unmodified opinion

- Highlights from the report include statements 3, 4, and 8. Statement 3 and 4 summarize UA's fund balance and revenue versus expenditures for last academic year. Overall fund balance of \$1,413,000 or 30% of expenditures (Goal is 20%). General Fund had a positive bottom line and Food Services lost \$48K for a net positive of \$3,000. Statement 8 demonstrates that UA is meeting pension obligations for staff in PERA and TRA contributions.
- There was one finding from the audit showing that between October of 2019 and July of 2019, UA was not in compliance with insurance coverage necessary on all assets. UA's \$300,000 certificate of deposit with banking institution exceeded FDIC coverage limit of \$250,000. In renewing the CD, the bank did not properly adjust the account numbers to ensure insurance coverage. UA submitted a corrective action plan to fix the error and is now in compliance.
- Auditors stated that UA is doing a great job, and to continue doing what we're doing

#### Tony Lang, Academic Update

- UA received a 5-year renewal from our authorizer NEO as we met 72/100 points on their evaluation (Climate 67%, Operations 100%, Finance 100%, Academics 53%)
- UA students continue to outperform SPPS students who are FRP or ELL.
- We are doing well in meeting MAP NWEA targets for growth, but still struggle with making sure students are proficient and at grade level on MCAs.
- Challenges remain a student body with lower language skills than their native-born peers, lack of experience in the American education system, and significant economic hardships.
- Staff are working to embed models of teaching that increase student engagement, with less teacher talk and more student dialogue. Staff are doubling down on best practices and bringing on board new supportive technologies to support students.

#### **Approval of Reports/Presentations**

Board Motion: to approve the report

Board Member motioning to approve the report: Xiong

Board Member seconding the motion: Lor

Discussion: none

Unanimously approved

#### **Board Member Reports/Ex-Officio Member Presentations:**

Board Chair, Melissa Jensen: none to report

Board Finance Chair, Tamara Mattison: not present, review last month's Financial Snapshot for details

Superintendent, Dr. Ly:

#### **ADMINISTRATION DUTIES:**

- All Reports have been submitted to MDE – MARSS, STARS
- Lease Aid in review by MDE – MDE needed additional information on the new build-out.
- Annual Report in process

#### **OPERATIONS:**

- Construction on expansion is progressing well; parking lot fully underway and hopefully soon to be operational; roof and internal building work slated for November
- We're working with partners to build out the gym and its equipment; a group of Twin Cities professionals is hoping to donate electronic scoreboards for the space and local church groups are also looking into raising funds for equipment

#### **ACADEMICS:**

**COMMUNITY:**

- Clothes drive now underway! Please share flyer. We're looking for hats, coats, boots, and clothing for students and their families
- December 12 is UA's holiday meal from 5:30 – 7:30
- St Paul Fire Dept has chosen UA has one of five schools to be part of Operation Warm, an initiative to show kids the city's fire trucks, teach about safety, and distribute brand-new coats!
- We received an MDH grant to perform health evaluations on all third graders to reduce disparities and provide parents with a break-down of their child's overall health
- Securian is still holding a toy drive for UA this year and is supporting with tennis program; we are hopeful to have them back in the building soon

Motion: to approve the board member reports

Board member motioning to approve the board member reports: Smith

Board member seconding the motion: Xiong

Discussion: none

Unanimously approved

**Board Consent Agenda:**

- Approval of Finance Report
- Approval of 5.10 Fund Balance

Motion: to approve the consent board agenda

Board member motioning to approve the reports: Lor

Board member seconding the motion: Long

Discussion: none

Unanimously approved

**Old Business:**

- Board Retreat Update: Caley is looking for suggestions on a new location for board retreat 2020; please email, call, or text her with ideas; driving limit around 3 hours for most board members; tentatively planned for August 2020

**New Business:**

- None

**Open Public Comments (Limited to 2 minutes)**

- None

Board Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 6:50 PM

Board Member motioning to approve to adjourn the meeting: Long

Board member seconding the motion: Lor

Unanimously approved

Meeting adjourned at 7:03 PM

**Next meeting will be November 18, 2019**