



**Urban Academy Charter School
School Board Meeting
June 15, 2020
Saint Paul, Minnesota**

MINUTES

| Board Members: | Ex-Officio Members: | Advisory Members: |
|---|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Melissa Jensen | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mongsher Ly | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Luis Brown-Pena |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tamara Mattison | | <input type="checkbox"/> Ralph Elliott |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fong Lor | | |
| <input 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 | | |

| Staff and Guests Attending: | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Tony Lang from UA | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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Meeting called to order by Melissa Jensen, Board Chair at 6:07 PM via Zoom webinar

Acceptance of Agenda

Corrections made: none

Board Motion: Approve the agenda

Board Member motioning to approving agenda: Lor

Board Member seconding the motion: Xiong

Discussion: none

Unanimously approved

Conflict of Interest

None to report

Approval of May 18, 2020 Minutes

Board Motion: to approve the minutes

Board Member motioning to approve the minutes: Yang

Board Member seconding the motion: Lor

Discussion: none

Unanimously approved

Reports/Presentation

Tony – Academic Reports and Board training video on behalf of Rod

- Tony played a video on charter school board obligations regarding satisfaction and progress toward contractual goals. This training is to satisfy annual training requirement for board.

- Tony presented Powerpoint he and Rod put together for the board on academic year. Highlights:
 - NWEA: Fall 2018 – Fall 2019 data in this report due to pandemic disrupting traditional data points; no MCA data at this point
 - Math: 67% made exceptional growth against 50% average in the state
 - Math: below grade level students 71% made exceptional growth
 - Math: below grade level students made 152% of expected growth which is great for students needing to close the achievement gap and “catch up” to grade level
 - Urban outperforming national averages on below grade level growth in Math
 - Reading: 62% made expected growth
 - Reading: below grade level 67% made expected growth
 - Reading: below grade level made 171% of expected growth
 - Below grade level outperformed national averages in Reading
 - At or above grade level are also above 50% in meeting expected goals in both Reading and Math
 - Tony also presented data from teacher survey on whether they feel they have the professional support needed during distance learning on a variety of teaching strategies; overall majority of teachers positively ranked all survey questions

Board Member Reports/Ex-Officio Member Presentations:

Board Chair, Melissa Jensen: nothing new to report

Board Finance Chair, Dr. Tamara Mattison: review last month’s Financial Snapshot for details for fund balances and expenditures

Superintendent, Dr. Ly:

ADMIN & OPERATIONS:

- Staff has done a fantastic job with distance learning and the academic year was challenging but rewarding in unique ways
 - 60% turn-out to PreK drive-up graduation on June 3, two pre-K teachers plus paras and lots of students dressed up for graduation ceremony
 - Farewell drive-up on June 8 and 40+ cars showed up to say goodbye to staff for summer
 - UA continuing to meet virtually with MDE and Governor; not clear yet what will happen this fall especially if there is a resurgence in COVID infections
- Minnesota Association of Charter School Annual Membership for FY21

Motion: to approve the annual membership of MACS for FY21

Board member motioning to approve: Lor

Board member seconding the motion: Liao

Discussion: none

Unanimously approved

- All of but one staff member is returning this fall; one of our paras has pursued a teaching degree and will be taking over that 1st grade role; still interviewing for 7th grade teachers
- Facility nearly complete; exterior signage on gym to go up soon; Mid July on gym floor installation; final parking lot layer last to go in once gym is finished
- All summer events have been cancelled
- 2020 National Charter School Conference in Florida has been cancelled due to Covid19.

Motion: to approve the funds to roll over to the 2021 national conference

Board member motioning to approve: Yang

Board member seconding the motion: Mattison

Discussion: Either have funds reimbursed back to UA or have it roll over to the 2021 conference in New Orleans.

Unanimously approved

- Big open house celebration planned if we open for the fall; August 27
- May 21 budget review with NEO and we received a lot of good feedback and praise; high marks from Dr. Speiker
- Two line of credits still active with bank and federal government PPP; we also received grant money from the CARES Act and we received \$193,000 for tech needs; \$133k and anything COVID related for plans and supplies needed; Dr. Ly would like to buy more Chrome Books with part of the \$193k tech (\$20K for 100 books)
- Student recruitment in full force; Facebook page active and team of 5 are actively getting the message out; family and friends are biggest recruiters; we are confident we will hit our goals
- Muralist coming in July to paint a new design in the cafeteria

ACADEMICS:

- Learning distance plans on website

COMMUNITY:

- Nothing at this time

BOARD:

- Board to meet virtually until further notice; No July meeting but be prepared for an emergency meeting if Gov. Walz makes decisions on learning this fall

Motion: to approve the purchase of Chrome Books up to \$20,000

Board member motioning to approve the purchase: Xiong

Board member seconding the motion: Mattison

Discussion: none

Unanimously approved

Motion: to approve the board member reports

Board member motioning to approve reports: Lor

Board member seconding the motion: Long

Discussion: none

Unanimously approved

Board Consent Agenda:

Motion: to approve the board consent agenda and Dr. Ly's agreement and salary for FY21

Board member motioning to approve the board consent agenda: Yang

Board member seconding the motion: Lor

Discussion: none

Unanimously approved

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- Board retreat on schedule for August 22. Please plan on attending. Caley will send details in advance of event. She and Melissa will be planning agenda; let them know if you'd like to participate. Board meeting for August 17 still on schedule.

Open Public Comments (Limited to 2 minutes)

- None

Board Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 7:10 PM
Board Member motioning to approve to adjourn the meeting: Mattison
Board member seconding the motion: Yang
Unanimously approved
Meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM

No July meeting but be prepared for an emergency July meeting if Dr. Ly requests one. Next Board meeting Monday August 17 and Board retreat August 21-23 at Lutsen Resort.