



**Urban Academy Charter School
School Board Meeting
March 15, 2021
Saint Paul, Minnesota**

MINUTES

Board Members:	Ex-Officio Members:	Advisory Members:
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ronsoie Xiong		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chao Yang		

Staff and Guests Attending:		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rod Haenke	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Meeting called to order by Fong Lor, Vice Board Chair at 6:00 PM via Zoom webinar

Board first heard presentation from Rod Haenke on creating board development plan based on results of survey that all board members completed electronically. Top theme was building a stronger relationship with legislature about charter schools and UA. Strategic planning was second on the list, as well as personnel policies that place equity and inclusion first. Succession plan also received many votes. Rod put then put the top results into 5 categories. See PowerPoint Dr. Ly sent to board with suggestions for UA Board. Next steps are to agree on our top priorities as a group; digest the content and then be ready next month to finalize.

Acceptance of Agenda

Corrections made: none

Board Motion: Approve the agenda

Board Member motioning to approving agenda: Xiong

Board Member seconding the motion: Liao

Discussion: none

Unanimously approved

Conflict of Interest

None to report

Approval of 2.22.21 Minutes

Board Motion: to approve the minutes

Board Member motioning to approve the minutes: Mattison

Board Member seconding the motion: Long

Discussion: none

Unanimously approved

Reports/Presentation

Board Member Reports/Ex-Officio Member Presentations:

Board Chair, Melissa Jensen, not present

Board Finance Chair, Dr. Tamara Mattison: reviewed last month's Financial Snapshot for details for fund balances and expenditures; see attachment

Superintendent, Dr. Ly:

GENERAL INFORMATION, OPERATIONS and COVID-19 DISCUSSION

- ¾ of staff are vaccinated at this time with at least 1 vaccine or both; with the focus on ensuring educators receive the vaccine, most of our staff has been vaccinated
- Saliva testing every two weeks is happening and will be continuous regardless of vaccination or not; free to schools and it's a fast turn-around
- Fiscal year MDE guidelines set to be released in May or June; will likely follow CDC guidelines and Health Dept.
- Searching for two 8th-grade teachers for Math and Reading; job market has been tough for teachers; there is a statewide shortage
- We are requesting that staff that don't need to interact with students are working off-site (HR, social workers, etc.) even though Governor has released the work-from-home order
- NEO did a learning walk with UA on March 10 and we received wonderful feedback from their 3-hour virtual visit

FACILITY

- Middle school classrooms are done and teachers have been moved in.
- 6th and 7th graders arrived today to utilize the new space; we are now pre-K – 7 operational

ACADEMICS:

- MCA systems check is happening soon statewide (MN will not be holding test scores against schools this year)
- Access testing mostly complete; we will be tested 6th and 7th graders soon
- We are contemplating MAP testing and decided that we will baseline test them in May so we know where our students are at
- Summer school in the works: 4 full weeks, last two weeks of June – first two weeks of July; 8 – 4 p.m. and open to all students this year as we've been out of school for so long

BUDGET

- Next year's budget is in progress, draft set to send in May for board approval
- We are looking good for next year; we are projecting fund balance of \$2.3 million + net increase from this year (currently around \$500K)
- We got the Emergency Relief Funds (1 & 2); \$118K first round and next round we are expecting by next May \$500K. We have until Sept 2023 to spend down these funds.
- New administration has a new education bill coming out; perhaps another \$1-2 million may be coming down the pipeline to us for COVID preparations

COMMUNITY:

- Recruitment underway for next year (website, recruitment team, word-of-mouth)
- 8th grade starts this fall

Motion: to approve the board member reports

Board member motioning to approve the board member reports: Yang

Board member seconding the motion: Mattison

Discussion: none
Unanimously approved

Board Consent Agenda:

Motion: to approve the board consent agenda
Board member motioning to approve the board consent agenda: Long
Board member seconding the motion: Yang
Discussion: none
Unanimously approved

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- Board retreat has been postponed to August 20-22, 2021 due to COVID-19. Please plan on attending!

Open Public Comments (Limited to 2 minutes)

- None

Board Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 6:39 PM
Board Member motioning to approve to adjourn the meeting: Liao
Board member seconding the motion: Yang
Unanimously approved
Meeting adjourned at 6:39 PM

Next board meeting April 19, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.