



**Urban Academy Charter School
School Board Meeting
May 16, 2022
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 type="checkbox"/> Tamara Mattison | | <input type="checkbox"/> Ralph Elliott |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fong Lor | | |
| <input checked="" 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"/> Tony Lang | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joe Thompson | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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Meeting called to order by Melissa Jensen, Board Chair at 4:33 PM hybrid via in-person and Zoom

Acceptance of Agenda

Corrections made: none
Board Motion: Approve the agenda
Board Member motioning to approving agenda: Smith
Board Member seconding the motion: Yang
Discussion: none
Unanimously approved

Conflict of Interest

None to report

Approval of April 18 2022 Minutes

Board Motion: to approve the minutes
Board Member motioning to approve the minutes: Xiong
Board Member seconding the motion: Long
Discussion: none
Unanimously approved

Reports/Presentation

Tony and Joe Academic updates:

- No positive student testing positive for COVID in past couple of months
- Lots of growth in our students. Awaiting MAP testing
- PreK graduation in person June 7 at 10 am
- Field Day coming back for K-5 June 3

- Summer school starts June 20
- Wrapping up formal observations
- All staff returning except for 2
- 4th grade teacher needed, 7th and 8th grade Tech and Science teachers needed
- Working on vertically aligning curriculum
- K-3 teachers are taking a Letters training (top Reading training available); takes a year to complete; over half of staff to be trained in Letters
- MCAs wrapped up a couple weeks ago:
 - Reading (27% met, 24% partial, 49% did not meet standards)
 - Math (19% met, 25% partial, 56% did not meet standards)
 - Science (17% met, 28% partial, 56% did not meet standards)
- New Math curriculum purchased called Reveal
- MCA results impacted by pandemic but kids are working hard to catch up
- Planning our first 8th grade graduation; June 7th at 6 p.m. with food outside
- Academically, lots of work ahead of us to get students at grade-level proficiency; teachers up to the challenge
- Good growth with students working with our specialist on reading skills. Looking to replicate this work with other students.
- Teachers spring formal observations this Wednesday with middle schoolers with Rod and Joe
- Teachers collaborating on aligning standards and teaching vertically around three academic themes with students in middle school. Should provide more structure.
- 1st year of AVID elective course. Working to train all teachers this summer. Joe is trained in this program.
- Middle School: MCAs Math 9% met, 23% partial 61% did not meet standards
- Middle School: MCAs Reading 31% met, 24% partial and 45% did not meet standards
- MCAs this year are the baseline for how students across the state are performing “post”-pandemic; many students are understandably not doing well after years of distance learning

Board Member Reports/Ex-Officio Member Presentations:

Board Chair, Melissa Jensen:

- Board member terms expiring this year (Caley, Melissa, Nancy and Fong); vote will be next month on whether we will continue for another term

Treasurer, Dr. Ly for Tamara Mattison reviewed snapshot for April/May financials; see PDF for additional information

Superintendent, Dr. Ly:

OPERATIONS:

General:

- NEO Spring celebration May 25

Staffing:

- Everything set to go for next year
- Interviewing for 4th grade, EL, science, and tech teachers

Facility:

- Bleachers to be installed in the gym during winter break end of 2022 (hopefully—there have been many delays)
- Dr. Ly to meet with architect for build-out of new space on second floor

COVID-19:

- Mask mandate at Urban Academy remains in place as numbers fluctuate across the state and country
- Dr. Ly meets with MDH and MDE on a weekly basis; it remains up to each district to decide
- Staff and student COVID testing continue, weekly on Wednesdays
- 0 positive results in the past few months

School Calendar/Events:

- Last Day of School (students: 6/08) and (teachers: 6/09)
- Summer School June 20 – July 15, 8 – 2:30 pm each day
- Middle School June 2 Track and Field

ACADEMICS:

- See report above

BUDGET/FINANCE DISCUSSIONS:

- Transportation increase of up to \$100,000 (10-15% jump) due to increased gas costs and shortage of 150 bus drivers
- \$450K line of credit been approved again with the bank (have not used in 10 years)
- Last May, Dr. Ly asked board about PTO payout of \$20/hour. Given our strong fund balance, Dr. Ly is asking for another PTO payout of \$20/hr across the board for every employee with over 216 hours of PTO

Motion: to approve the PTO payout at \$20/hour of over 216 hours

Board member motioning to approve the motion: Smith

Board member seconding the motion: Liao

Discussion: none

- 10% bonus pay to staff from ESER fund money nearly complete (next 5% round to be paid out May 30)

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/DONATIONS:

- JP4 works with middle schools to do mentor/tutor programming for students; looking to work with us this summer school. They would run a 2:30 – 4 pm program on UA's field/gym. Cap of 40 students. Working on reading, math and other projects for grades 2 – 6. Largest issue is transportation. They may continue on during the school year if it works well this summer.
- June 30 for bike distribution from Highland Park Council (K-2 students)

CHARTER SCHOOL LEGISLATION NEWS:

- MACs emails will continue to be sent to board members; Dr. Ly sits on their board and on a charter committee. State budgets have been approved for this coming year. Discussions still happening about how to divide up.

Motion: to approve the board member reports

Board member motioning to approve the board member reports: Yang

Board member seconding the motion: Liao

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: Smith

Discussion: none

Unanimously approved

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- Back at Madden's—weekend of July 22 – 24, 2022
- Please RSVP to Caley

Open Public Comments (Limited to 2 minutes)

- None

Board Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 5:13 PM

Board Member motioning to approve to adjourn the meeting: Yang

Board member seconding the motion: Long

Unanimously approved

Meeting adjourned at 5:13 PM

Next board meeting June 20, 2022 at 4:30 p.m.