



**Urban Academy Charter School
School Board Meeting
May 15, 2023
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 type="checkbox"/> Tamara Mattison		<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ronsoie Xiong		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chao Yang		

Staff and Guests Attending:		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tony Lang from UA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joe Thompson from UA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Meeting called to order by Fong Lor, Vice Board Chair, at 4:33 p.m.

Acceptance of Agenda

Corrections made: none

Board Motion: Approve the agenda

Board Member motioning to approving agenda: Long

Board Member seconding the motion: Liao

Discussion: none

Unanimously approved

Conflict of Interest

None to report

Approval of April 17, 2023 Minutes

Board Motion: to approve the minutes

Board Member motioning to approve the minutes: Yang

Board Member seconding the motion: Smith

Discussion: none

Unanimously approved

Reports/Presentation:

Board Member Reports/Ex-Officio Member Presentations:

Tony Lang and Joe Thompson reports on academics:

- Reading: 28.9% last year proficient to 37% this year

- Math: 14% last year proficient to 24% this year
- New K-5 Science Curriculum for 2023 using McGraw Hill Science; 6-8 will continue to use FOSS kits
- New Social Studies curriculum for 2023 K-5 and 7-8: McGraw Hill, grade 6 using Northern Lights to adhere to new social studies standards that are coming
- LETRS is a new professional national program to teach educators how to best teach reading and spelling skills; 11 UA teachers took the course; 5 have completed the course. The program has greatly benefited our Language Arts programming. We are hopeful this will cause our MCA scores to rise in the future.
- Fishtank is our new K-8 ELA program

Board Chair, Melissa Jensen: not present

Treasurer, Dr. Tamara Mattison was not present to review snapshot for April 2023; Dr. Ly presented. Please see Financial Snapshot PDF for review.

Superintendent, Dr. Ly:

OPERATIONS:

General:

- Staff agreements have been sent out for next year and all, but three Sped paras are not returning. We are seeking male individuals for these Sped roles if possible, to deal with our older children.
- Lease aid for next year submitted today May 15. Not many changes in our application for this year.
- Calendar Approvals:
 - Board meeting calendar
 - School Calendar (end June 7, 2024 and not June 10, 2024 like St. Paul Schools)

Motion: to approve FY24 Calendars

Board member motioning to approve FY Calendars: Xiong

Board member seconding the motion: Lor

Discussion: None

Unanimously approved

- Dr. Ly to continue as the I.O.W.A. representative for Urban Academy.

Motion: to approve Dr. Ly as the I.O.W.A. representative for Urban Academy

Board member motioning to approve the I.O.W.A. representative: Smith

Board member seconding the motion: Xiong

Discussion: Why does MDE need to have this approved annually? Why can't Dr. Ly just be given the full authority to be the representative until he no longer can or if he needs someone else to handle the position?

Unanimously approved

Staffing:

- Third Sped teacher just hired, and a third title teacher also pending.

Facility:

- Lumen Christi put together two proposals for the build-out. Proposal 1 is to wait until 2025; however, their finance team has proposed a second option: they are willing to put up \$500,000 if we are willing to contribute \$350,000 so we can do the project in 2024. Total projected budget of \$850,000. Cost overlay is similar to what we paid for cafeteria build-out. Given our nearly four million fund balance (60%), if we expense the \$350K for upstairs, our fund balance would still be

at 53% (required fund balance of 20% or more per NEO guidelines). This does not include possible 4% increase from governor (current budget set at 2% increase) Dr. Ly recommends proceeding with option #2. Expansion would include more classrooms for middle school, and more space for Sped team. Would allow us to create science lab and tech lab.

Motion: to approve the \$350,000 cost overlay for the upstairs expansion

Board member motioning to approve the board member reports: Smith

Board member seconding the motion: Long

Discussion: none

Unanimously approved

COVID-19:

- Testing has been suspended due to lift of federal emergency order

School Calendar/Events:

- June 13 is graduation for PreK and 8th graders
- Last day of school is June 14
- June 19 summer school starts a bit later to follow SPPS schedule

ACADEMICS:

Additional coaching

- Additional math coaching support to be on hand from teachers in the fall.
- Additional math support from Title, Math Corp and Support staff
- Additional reading support from Title, Reading Corp

BUDGET/FINANCE DISCUSSIONS:

- Monarch is again increasing in cost this year by 10-12%. \$350/day for usage of buses during the school year. We haven't had many issues this year with drivers, but other districts have had problems. We've been with Monarch nearly our full 21 years of operations so we are hopeful the cost will go down in the future.
- Payout for staff members who will have over 216 hours of PTO at the rate of \$20.00 per PTO hour. To be paid on the June 30th payroll.

Motion: to approve the \$20 per PTO hour payout over 216 hours.

Board member motioning to approve the \$20 PTO payout: Liao

Board member seconding the motion: Lor

Discussion: none

Unanimously approved

- FY24 Budget

Motion: to approve the board budget

Board member motioning to approve the board budget: Yang

Board member seconding the motion: Liao

Discussion: none

Unanimously approved

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/DONATIONS:

- Monday June 12 at 1 p.m Highland Park Council will be giving out 60 brand new bikes!
- Sept 9, 2023 parish block party will be taking place for adults and kids; 50 free wristbands will be donated to students
- Coat, clothes, and food drives: we are still accepting items throughout the summer. We'll likely be speaking with a couple of teachers to run and organize the drives.

BOARD BUSINESS:

- MACS emails are still being sent out to board. Check inbox ongoing for that.
- Getting ready for board retreat coming up! Please let Caley know if your plans change. She will send final RSVP tomorrow!

Motion: to approve the board member reports

Board member motioning to approve the board member reports: Xiong

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: Smith

Board member seconding the motion: Liao

Discussion: none

Unanimously approved

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- None

Open Public Comments (Limited to 2 minutes)

Board Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 5:20 p.m.

Board Member motioning to approve to adjourn the meeting: Long

Board member seconding the motion: Smith

Unanimously approved

Meeting adjourned at 5:20 PM

Next meeting: June 26, 2023, at 4:30 p.m. via “Zoom”