



Urban Academy Charter School
School Board Meeting
February 28, 2011
Urban Academy – St. Paul, MN
5:00 PM

MINUTES

☒ **Board Members Attending:**

Advisory Members:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ralph Elliott	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mongsher Ly	<input type="checkbox"/> Rebecca Thaisen
<input type="checkbox"/> Sonia St. Charles	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mai Saevang	<input type="checkbox"/> Pamela Young
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bob Swisher		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fong Lor
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Melissa Hansen		<input type="checkbox"/> Luis Brown-Pena
<input type="checkbox"/> Christopher Doeden		<input type="checkbox"/> Seaborn Yancy
<input type="checkbox"/> Kari McGowan		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art Allen		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Barbara Shin		
<input type="checkbox"/> Tamara Mattison		
<input type="checkbox"/> Crystal Scott		
<input type="checkbox"/> Nikita Robinson		

☒ **Staff and Guests Attending:**

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February Board Meeting did not have a majority quorum of board members.
Meeting did take place without motions.

Meeting called to order by Chair -R. Elliott at 5:05 PM

Acceptance of Agenda –

Board Motion:

Board Member motioning to approving agenda:

Board Member seconding the motion:

Approval of January 24, 2011 Minutes

Board Motion:

Board Member motioning to approve minutes:

Board Member seconding the motion:

Conflict of Interest

Nothing new to report

Reports

Nothing new to report

Board Chair Updates – R. Elliott

- Facility Committee – Ralph has contacted several board members to sit on the committee to work with NorthMarq. The make-up of the committee will be three board members, ED, and Principal.
- Charter School Day at the Capitol – Ralph invited any board member who is available to attend the event on Tuesday, March 01, 2011. Show your support and pride of being a charter school.
- Invitation to the Education Commissioner (Dr. Brenda Cassellius) – Set a date/time for the commissioner to visit Urban Academy. Reference to a PBS school special “From Jail House to School House”.
- Welcome/introduction of new board members.

Finance Chair Report – Bob Swisher

- *Balance Sheets*
Nothing new or questions on the finance sheets.
- *Check Register*
Nothing new or questions on the check register.
- *Board Snap Shot*
 - Art had a question regarding “Instructional Designs” who is the educational consultant? Mongsner explained that Rod Haenke has been with UA for six years, working with the staff to align its curriculum to the state standards and does PLC training for the staff too. Part of the requirement for school improvement plans is to have an outside support factor to support the school’s academics. Funds are set a side in the budget for this type of support.

Executive Director Report – Mongsher Ly

- **NorthMarq “agreement”** has been signed and mailed and will begin processing!
 - Clarification on the remainder of the lease “Addendum Four” states that we are to give notice to the landlord by June 30, 2013 as to what our decision is on the facility. Our lease ends June 30, 2014.
 - Timeline may change slightly on determining our future lease/facility
- **Novation Education Opportunity**
 - Ralph, Mai, Rod, and Dr. Ly met with Dr. Rossi to go over the action plan.
 - Improvement Plan carries all the necessary information for the academics
 - No action plan will be needed for the fiscal management part
- **Hamline Site Visit**
 - Held Focus groups with Admin, staff, and board members
 - Report will be shared with NEO and MDE
 - NOTE: Hamline did mention that if legislation approves the one year extension for charters, should something go wrong at MDE with the transfers with NEO. Hamline would be willing to authorize for an additional year so that the charters can find an authorizer. The plan is pending on legislation and also with the Dean of Education.
- **Corrective Action Plan**
 - Approved by MDE, marked as “proficient”
- **Governor’s Proposal on Charters/Regular**
 - No more Q comp schools after February 11 , 2011 – Funding may stop for all schools
 - Hold Back will resume for FY 12 and FY 13 (70 – 30). Gradually decrease every year by giving back 2% and by FY 23 it should be back (90-10).
 - Kindergarten funding is to be at full capacity for “all day” kindergarten classes.
 - Salary Freeze for the next several years for all regular big school districts.
- **Policy and Procedures**
 - The HR department and ED continue to update the policies for the school. Many are already in place and current but some policies are needed and some are being updated ~ via terminology. They will be ready for review at the March board meeting.
- **Grants**
 - The Dollar Literacy Foundation - \$5000.00
 - Microsoft Mini Grant - \$2000.00

OPERATIONS:

- Health Inspection (February 10, 2011)
 - No findings

BUDGET/FINANCE DISCUSSIONS:

- All audit materials have been filed and approved by the State Departments and IRS.

Check Signers:

- Bob and Kari have been added as emergency/as needed check signers.

Principal Report –Mai Saevang

- Staff Development:
February 4th, teachers and specialists met to plan for technology supports in using the new IXL online math program to practice math skills with grades K-6 students. Each grade level looked at what math skills that grade level wants the technology teacher to practice with their students. These skills are aligned to Minnesota state standards.

March 4, Joseph from ACET will meet with teachers to review Urban Academy's students MAP tests results.

Every Monday PLC looking at reading and math assessment results to help plan instructions.

- Activities:
MCA Kick Off with students and parents was held on Thursday, February 17, 2011. This was a formal meeting with parents to educate them on how to better support their student(s) for the test. Also, to educate them what MCA means to their student and the district.

Committee Reports

- *Nothing new to report*

Old Business

- *Nothing new to report*

New Business

Nothing new to report

Open Public Comments (Limited to 2 minutes)

No comments requested

Meeting adjourned at 6:05 PM

Next meeting will be held on March 28, 2011.