



**Urban Academy Charter School
School Board Meeting
April 22, 2013
St. Columba – St. Paul, MN
5:00 PM**

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"/> Pamela Young
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Barbara Shin		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fong Lor
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kristin Evans		<input type="checkbox"/> Mai Saevang
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Ahrnt		<input type="checkbox"/> Ralph Elliott
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Roger Sykes		<input type="checkbox"/> Crystal Scott

☐ **Staff and Guests Attending:**

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Meeting called to order by Chair – M.Jensen at 5:56PM

Board Minutes taken by Kristin Evans

Acceptance of Agenda

Board Motion: Approve the agenda.

Board Member motioning to approving agenda: Shin

Board Member seconding the motion: Arhdt

Unanimously approved.

Approval of February 25, 2013 Minutes

Corrections made: M. Hansen changed to M. Jensen, Approval of the September 17, 2012 minutes changed to Approval of the February 25, 2013 minutes

Board Motion: Approve the February 25, 2013 minutes

Board Member motioning to approve the minutes: Evans

Board Member seconding the motion: Sykes

Unanimously approved.

Conflict of Interest

Nothing new to report

Reports/Announcements

Board Chair Updates – M. Hansen

- Board Elections
 - Nancy Smith—questionnaire?-->has worked with charter schools in the past and wants to get back into working with charters

Board Motion: to approve the board candidates

Board member motioning to approve the board candidates: Shin

Board Member seconding the motion: Anhrt

Finance Chair Report – T. Mattison

- Snapshot report
 - deficit for food balance
 - fund 2
 - changed due to reimbursement (only food, not staff)
 - paid out Designs for Learning, KCP parking, Sam's Club (cleaning)
 - ADM is currently 268
 - Getting the journal ahead of time?

Executive Director Report – Dr. Ly

ADMINISTRATION DUTIES:

- lease aide application in process
 - Have there been discussion at the legislature?
- fire marshals certificate: in process, due every 3 years-->needs to be sent to MDE

OPERATIONS:

- closed school on March 5, 2013 (3rd snow day)-->if additional student days are closed, PD days may be taken away
- MCA testing began on 4/9 and finishing on Wednesday
 - currently seen math results are promising, won't know reading until summer
- Summer school will be in session (currently at 100, can go up to 130)
 - open enrollment until May 1
 - 150,000 budgeted (split over FY)
 - mide-June to Mid July
- Possibly start the new school year without uniforms (dress code?)
 - losing students due uniform policy
 - lost 12 students already this year
 - currently have a program to help families that outgrow uniforms-->not a lot of participation
 - discussion:
 - Keeping uniforms:
 - Creates uniformity, helps with behavior management, part of the school's philosophy
 - Is it a cost issue? Can we subsidize/discount the cost by talking to a large retailer (i.e. offer coupons directly to families?)
 - Seems like there have been less days of non-uniform this year (Can there be more?)
 - Can a policy be created if families have multiple students here, the school provides a specific number of uniforms based on the number of students in a family?
 - Can school logo iron on patches be purchased by families?
 - Trying a pilot program:
 - Retailers have taken advantage of the families needing school uniforms and raise prices near the start of the school year
 - Dr. Ly is currently working on a dress code policy
 - Need to make sure that the dress code is culturally sensitive to all students
 - Will we lose more students by getting away from uniforms?
 - The pilot program needs to be more than 1 year.
 - Other options:
 - compromise: give more uniform options to families (I.e. plain tees (multiple color options) with no designs)
 - Do a survey to do what the families think and ask for their thoughts?
 - Include staff and students in this
 - Board members talk to the student council to get their thoughts

Board Motion: conditional motion to approve for a non-uniform pilot program with a survey by the end of the year

Board member motioning for the conditional motion to approve the non-uniform pilot program with a survey: Skyes

Board member seconding the motion: Ahrnt

Shin abstained

BUDGET/FINANCE DISCUSSIONS:

- BMSF railways
 - donation check sent to the school
 - had a good experience with our students cleaning up the park
 - workers can designate money to a charitable cause
 - hopes to continue it in the future
- 990 Draft
 - no questions from the board

Board motion: to approve the 990 report and file

Board member motioning to approve the 990 report: Mattison

Board member seconding the motion: Shin

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/DONATIONS

- Biztown occurred on 2/28
- Givens Foundation: finished cultural program on March 6th
- Soul Food night on 2/28-->good turnout
- 1,000 new books from Scholastic donated by Volunteers of America
 - adequate library space?
 - New shelving?
 - African American Conference by the Given Foundation (best books on African American culture)
- United Family Practice Health Center
 - working on a partnership grant to provide free cleanings and fillings for 2nd graders
- YMCA
 - Had an event last Thursday
 - Ralph Elliott spoke about Urban Academy (main speaker)
 - Looking at allowing free gym spots
 - swimming program continue (offer 6 free lessons instead of 5 for next year)
- Hamline University
 - haven't seen any student teachers for awhile from them
 - establish new connections with the school of ed due to new faculty
- Concordia

- resident artists to come in the fall to work with the students

Committee Reports/Comments

none

Old Business

building security:

- premature to the new building
- most concerns with the current building
- bring up issues as they arise
- has made changes in the past
- bring it back up in the future

New Business

St. Columba: discussion

- How are we going to come together in this time frame (1-3 weeks) to sign a lease?
- currently: only option
- need to see costs associated with this building
- cosmetic costs are ours (whiteboards—will need to replace & can't bring them with us, PA systems, etc)
 - \$50-60,000
- not all of the tile will be replaced—just the ones that are falling apart
- break down the costs to per room to have specific rooms sponsored by corporations?
 - Not guaranteed
- We don't have to sign the lease here—our current lease is good until 2017
 - is it better to wait and stay at Urban to look for more options?
 - Who is paying the early lease buy-out if we vacate early?
- Can our top priority needs be met here?
 - Green space
 - are the costs going to be more than anticipated?
 - Heating/cooling costs?
 - Real estate costs/year that we're here-->who pays that??
- We don't have all of the specifics in front of us tonight
 - Have an additional (emergency) meeting in the morning on Saturday, May 11 (10 am-2 pm)--Board + Advisory
 - create a pro/con list about both buildings (including numbers (UAs cost responsibility), health/hazard condition, occupation, etc)

Board motion: to schedule an emergency meeting

Board member motioning to schedule an emergency meeting: Sykes
Board member seconding the motion: Ahrnt

Open Public Comments (Limited to 2 minutes)

Meeting adjourned at 7:15PM

Board Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 7:15 pm.
Board Member motioning to approve to adjourn: Skyes
Board Member seconding the motion: Ahrnt

Next meeting will be held on May 20, 2013 at 5:30pm.