



**Urban Academy Charter School
School Board Meeting
March 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 type="checkbox"/> Fong Lor
<input type="checkbox"/> Melissa Hansen		<input type="checkbox"/> Luis Brown-Pena
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tamara Mattison		
<input type="checkbox"/> Crystal Scott		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nikita Robinson		

☒ **Staff and Guests Attending:**

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

Acceptance of Agenda

Board Motion: Approve the agenda as stated

Board Member motioning to approving agenda: B. Swisher

Board Member seconding the motion: B. Shin

Approval of January 24, 2011 Minutes – Unanimously approved.

Board Motion: Approve the Minutes.

Board Member motioning to approve minutes: B. Swisher

Board Member seconding the motion: A. Allen

Conflict of Interest

Nothing new to report

Reports

Nothing to report

Board Chair Updates – R. Elliott

- Ralph informed the Board members that Sonia St. Charles has officially resigned from the Urban Academy Board, effective immediately. Her company has become so busy, nationally, that she is unable to commit to the duties of the board. Unanimously approved by the Board.
- Board Elections –
 - Board nominations will be accepted until Friday, April 1, 2011
 - Elections will begin April 11 – April 15, 2011
 - Ballots will be counted on April 18, 2011 by C. Doeden and a parent
 - Election results will be announced on April 18, 2011 Board meeting
 - New Board members will be seated as of the June 2011 Board meeting

Finance Chair Report – B. Swisher

- *Balance Sheets*
Nothing new or questions on the finance sheets.
- *Check Register*
Nothing new or questions on the check register.
- *Board Snap Shot*
No questions regarding Board “Snap Shot Report”.
- *Terminology*
Bob clarified some definitions (Current Asset and Current Liabilities) with the Board so that everyone can better understand the Balance Sheet.

Board Motion: Approve the budget revision.

Board Member motioning to approving the revision: A. Allen

Board Member seconding the motion: M. Hansen

Unanimously approved

Executive Director Report – Dr. Ly

- *Novation Education Opportunities* – Dr. Ly discussed the next steps of having NEO authorize Urban Academy. All the necessary information has been provided to NEO. NEO will be submitting it to MDE for approval and will know the results within the next few months.
- *Northmarq* – Dr. Ly will be working with Jaclyn from Northmarq to develop an action plan for facility planning into the future for Urban Academy. The plan will begin in June 2011 with the Facility committee, which Board Chair will assign several Board members to participate on.
- *Hamline University* – Hamline conducted their final review with Urban Academy. The information was presented and also given to NEO for authorization documentation.
- *Corrective Action Plan* – Was approved by MDE and has been implemented since the beginning of the school year.
- *Policy and Procedure Review* – It has been completed and PDF will be emailed to the Board members for review. Discussion at the April Board meeting.
- *Grants* – Received two grants
 - The Dollar Literacy Grant - \$5000
 - Microsoft Grant - \$2000
- *SIG II Grant from MDE* – Dr. Ly informed the Board that MDE has invited Urban Academy and the other charter schools, who did not receive the SIG funds last year, to reapply this year. A letter of intent is to be sent to MDE by Tuesday, April 29, 2011 to inform MDE if the school will/will not apply.

Discussion: The Board unanimously felt that the process and lack of information and communication from MDE is detrimental to a school. The process, it self, took a lot of time away from the focus of students, which did not benefit the school at the end. The Board feels that it would be more beneficial to focus on the students' academic progress instead of going through another SIG process that had no guarantee of funding. Urban Academy has held true to its changes as indicated in the original SIG plan and in its approved MDE Corrective Action Plan without any additional funds from the SIG.

Board Motion: The Board moves to respectfully decline the opportunity to apply for the SIG II Grant.

Board Member motioning to approving the report: B. Swisher
Board Member seconding the motion: A. Allen
Unanimously approved

Principal Report –Mai Saevang

- *MCA Planning* – The teachers are doing their final reviews with their students by conducting practice MCA tests and continuing to work with students who need additional support in certain academic areas. Everyone has stepped up to the plate and students are focused on testing.

Discussion: Dr. Shin did ask about “how” students were being motivated. Principal Vang did respond by talking about the encouragement by the staff, students taking ownership by making signs to post around the building. Also, incentives for the students are in place to motivate the students.

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 7:03 PM

Next meeting will be held on April 18, 2011.