

Uplift Michigan Online School
Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 21, 2021
6:00 p.m. Eastern Time

601 Fifth St NW Suite 500
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

1. Meeting called to order by President Jeff Bell at 6:02 pm

Roll Call

- a. Board Members Present: Jeff Bell, Mary Harwood, Denise Kish
 - b. Call-in: Robert Giordano, Travis Gostinger, Tonya Lowry, Victoria Malone, Paul Marineau, Doug McNeil, Max Shafik, Tim Wood
 - c. In person: none
2. Pledge of Allegiance
 3. Statement of Purpose
 4. Regular Business
 - a. Adoption of Agenda
 - i. Motion to approve by Denise Kish, seconded by Mary Harwood, all members – aye, motion carried
 - b. Public Comment
 - i. Paul Marineau was introduced to the Board
 - c. Correspondence
 - i. No correspondence
 - d. Approval of Minutes from the regular Board meeting from November 19, 2020 with the correction of item 6b #2 from the word “setting” to “seeking”.
 - i. Motion to approve by Jeff Bell, seconded by Denise Kish, all members – aye, motion carried
 - e. Approval of Finance Reports
 - i. Motion to approve as presented by Denise Kish, seconded by Mary Harwood, all members – aye, motion carried
 5. Leadership Update
 - a. Management
 - i. Enrollment has remained stable. Currently at 485 students. We expect to gain a few more students in the next two weeks.
 - ii. The team is working on retention efforts with current families.
 - iii. Marketing with Grand Canyon University is an improvement. Management feels we are getting the best value working with them. Their transparency has been consistent, and they are overall easy to work with.
 - iv. The Budget and Transparency section on the website is fully updated and compliant.
 - b. K-12 Overview
 - i. Engagement for upper grade students is being reviewed.
 - ii. Currently looking into career tech opportunities for next school year.
 - iii. Vib’ n is a new course that Uplift would like to offer during second semester of this year. Details were provided to the Board. Superintendent Lowry gave a brief overview as well.

- Motion to approve updates to the course listing to include the Vib'n Experience by Jeff Bell, seconded by Mary Harwood, all members – aye, motion carried.
- iv. Passing rates have increased by 30% from Fall 2019 to Fall 2020. This is especially noteworthy due to the unique challenges caused by COVID in 2020.
 - v. Jeff Bell: What is the balancing metric aside from state test scores? How do we know courses are rigorous?
 - Uplift uses NWEA testing for additional data points.
 - All state standards are aligned through curriculum mapping and teachers add additional content as well.
 - Teachers monitor student progress and assess any adjustments that need to be made to content or pacing.
 - Individual internal assessments are used as part of the courses, in addition to external assessments like NWEA.
 - Uplift has added staff to maintain a strong student/teacher ratio.
 - Uplift has added a full-time counselor and interventionists who assist students when needed.
 - vi. Clubs were started in December and will be continuing through the end of the school year. These are a great tool for engagement and interaction with students.
 - vii. Parent check-in surveys were sent and 33% have been returned. 91% of parents who responded scored Uplift as 3 or better (on a scale of 5).
 - viii. Uplift Parent Organization (UPO) will be launching soon.
 - ix. State testing sites have been reserved with cancellation policies in place. Staff are being trained on testing procedures. Planning will move forward as normal until the state makes a determination on in-person testing.
 - x. 67% of parents attended parent/teacher conferences.
 - xi. All open positions have been filled.
 - xii. Changes for second semester
 - Weekly announcements with pacing guides will be sent to families
 - Staff are reviewing content to remove excessive busy work and to better align content with standards and school goals.
 - More 1:1 support time will be available with the addition of our new staff.
 - Additional Live Lessons will be added to middle and high school courses.
6. Board Strategy and Planning
 - a. New Board Member – Oath of Office
 - i. Paul Marineau was sworn in as a Board member.
 7. Adjournment
 - a. Motion to adjourn at 6:55 pm by Jeff Bell, seconded by Denise Kish, all members - aye, motion carried

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Harwood, Board Secretary