

Uplift Michigan Academy
Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 25, 2019
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 6:05 p.m.
 - a. Board Members Present:
 - i. In person: Jeff Bell, Mary Harwood
 - ii. On call: Wayne Coleman , Denise Kish, Brian Wood
 - b. Others in attendance:
 - i. In person: Tonya Lowry
 - ii. On call: Travis Gostinger, Robert Giordano, Ron Kraft, Victoria Malone, Maxim Shafik, Tim Wood
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Statement of Purpose
4. Adoption of Agenda (Motion to approve by Jeff Bell, seconded by Wayne Coleman, all members – aye, Motion carried)
5. Visitor Comments / Correspondence
6. The Board resolves to comply with all laws, rules and regulations. (Motion to approve by Jeff Bell, seconded by Denise Kish; all members – aye, Motion carried)
7. The Board resolves that Uplift Michigan Academy board meetings will take place on the fourth (4th) Thursday of every month at: 601 Fifth St. NW Suite 500, Grand Rapids, MI 49504 (Motion to approve by Jeff Bell, seconded by Brian Wood, all members – aye, Motion carried)
8. The Board resolves to continue to use Lake Michigan Credit Union for depository. Signatories are Jeff Bell, Board President, and Denise Kish, Board Treasurer. (Motion to approve by Jeff Bell, seconded by Mary Harwood, all members – aye, Motion carried)
9. The Board resolves to bond Jeff Bell, Board President, and Denise Kish, Board Treasurer. (Motion to approve by Jeff Bell, seconded by Wayne Coleman, all members – aye, Motion carried)
10. The Board resolves to reappoint Doug McNeil of Saunders Winter McNeil, PLC as Board legal counsel. (Motion to approve by Jeff Bell, seconded by Denise Kish, all members – aye, Motion carried)
11. The Board resolves to reappoint Brian McFarren of Brickley DeLong, CPA as auditor. (Motion to approve by Jeff Bell, seconded by Denise Kish, all members – aye, Motion carried)
12. The Board resolves to appoint Tonya Lowry as designated AHERA Contact.

13. The Board resolves to appoint Tonya Lowry as contact for Freedom of Information Act, Sexual Harassment, Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504 requests.
14. The Board resolves to appoint Jeff Bell as the Chief Administrative Officer.
 - a. Discussion
 - i. Doug McNeil: Authorizers prefer the Board President to hold this position
 - ii. Brian Wood: Day-to-day responsibilities will be directed back to Tonya
 - b. Motion to approve by Jeff Bell, seconded by Wayne Coleman, all members – aye, Motion carried
15. The Board resolves to appoint Tonya Lowry as Compliance Officer. (Motion to approve by Jeff Bell, seconded by Brian Wood, all members – aye, Motion carried)
16. Approval of special meeting minutes from June 24 and June 30. (Motion to approve to approve by Jeff Bell, seconded by Wayne Coleman, all members – aye, Motion carried)
17. Approval of financial report submitted by Treasurer Denise Kish. (Motion to approve by Jeff Bell, seconded by Brian Wood, all members – aye, Motion carried)
18. Management and Administrative Updates
 - a. Travis Gostinger
 - i. Insurance Applications have been filed and are in process for Liability Insurance
 - ii. UMA website has been migrated and separated from A3. It was quite entangled with other A3 schools.
 - iii. ~~Summit~~ NextLvl received full access of the website 1-1.5 days ago
 - iv. ~~Summit~~ NextLvl has gained full access to UMA’s phone number
 - v. Email issues have been resolved and staff and group emails are set up
 - vi. ~~Summit~~ NextLvl is working to have a clean separation for UMA to move away from A3
 - b. Robert Giordano
 - i. Believes the previous organization had connections with or an agreement with other online companies. Pearson has been going after UMA students for enrollment. It is important we understand our contracts so information cannot be sold to 3rd parties in the future. Tonya sent a cease and desist letter.
 - c. Tonya Lowry
 - i. The Enroll Now button on UMA’s website went directly to K-12 schools for enrollment in June. This week a parent, who is already enrolled, informed Tonya of an email received by Michigan Connections Academy stating the family showed interest in their school and they have not finished enrollment. The family has not looked for any other online school besides UMA. We don’t know how many such families received these emails.
 - ii. Tonya sent a Cease and Desist email to Michigan Connections Academy, A3’s CFO, Joshua Solomon and a copy was sent to ~~Summit Management~~ NextLvl. No response was received.
 - iii. Tonya has a good relationship with Josh Solomon and will contact him about what can be done.
 - iv. Staff needs to remain diligent and document everything being done in this situation.
19. Approval of Contracts with Accelerate and HyperFocus
 - a. Discussion

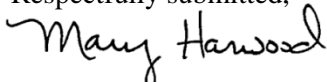
- i. Travis Gostinger: Wants to keep the Board informed of contracts to raise the level of transparency
- ii. Contracts to come:
 - 1. NextLvl ~~and Summit~~ for back office, financing and human resources
 - 2. Pulse – add-on software for Accelerate
 - 3. National Charter School Institute – provides full scope of board policies; best practice to engage with to support and shore up UMA policies
- iii. Ron Kraft: Would like discussion of contracts at all monthly Board meetings. As long as a line item is not overspent, the contract is authorized
- iv. No motion is needed as ~~Summit Management~~ NextLvl has authorization to sign contracts as long as it is within the approved budget.

Additional Updates and Discussion

- a. Tim Wood:
 - i. Strategic Planning Meeting schedule for September 20-21, 2019. Invitations were presented to Ron Kraft, Tonya Lowry, Travis Gostinger, and Robert Giordano to attend the meeting. Jeff Bell will send out an email to finalize dates as the 20th and 21st do not work for all members. Tim Wood is open to other date options.
- b. Tonya Lowry:
 - i. Curriculum is in place with Accelerate. Teachers have access to Accelerate and Demo accounts to test features. Teacher, Admin and Learning Coach trainings have already been completed. Content Mapping and Curriculum Scheduling is underway. Accelerate’s curriculum follows National Standards. Staff is currently working on building more into the curriculum to cover whatever standards required for Michigan are missing.
 - ii. Compliance is still not ready on UMA’s website. The state will be withholding State Aid funds until it is up-to-date. There may need to be a meeting with MDE to discuss possible leeway in this matter.
 - iii. Email was received shortly before board meeting from auditor, Jessica Arkens, stating that UMA will be having a re-audit on both Fall and Spring Counts. There are 169 FTE counted that do not have appropriate proofs of residency. If UMA cannot provide these proofs, MDE will withhold FTE funds.
- c. Travis Gostinger:
 - i. ~~Summit Management~~ NextLvl does not have information for what happened with A3. Need further discussions with the state to get a roadmap to create processes that are stable with coming years. This could have an impact on funding.
- d. Ron Kraft:
 - i. We’ll dig into the audit. Not ready to toss in the towel. A commitment was made and we’ll work through this.
- e. Doug McNeil:
 - i. A notice needs to formally be received by MDE which then gives UMA 30 days to appeal. An exhaustive list is not given from MDE for required proof of residency. Recommends special legal counsel to fight.

20. Meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m. (Motion to approve by Jeff Bell, seconded by Mary Harwood, all members – aye, Motion carried)

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Harwood, Board Secretary