

Uplift Michigan Academy
Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 26, 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 6:03 p.m.

Roll Call

- a. Board Members Present: Jeff Bell, Wayne Coleman (call), Denise Kish, Brian Wood
 - b. In person: Ron Kraft, Tonya Lowry, Doug McNeil, Tim Wood
 - c. Call-in: Robert Giordano, Dick Halik, Victoria Malone, Max Shafik
2. Pledge of Allegiance
 3. Statement of Purpose
 4. Adoption of Agenda
 - a. Motion to approve by Jeff Bell, seconded by Denise Kish, all members – aye, motion carried

Public Comment

- b. No public comment

Correspondence

- a. Doug McNeil received an email from an attorney for A3 requesting a conversation without detail. We will respond after discussing with Barnes & Thornburg.

Approval of the minutes from the Board Meeting on August 22, 2019

- a. Motion to approve with the removal of the word “Special” by Jeff Bell, seconded by Denise Kish, all members – aye, motion carried.

Financial Report (Presented at end of meeting)

- a. Request for an additional 50 laptops due to increased enrollment. They will be purchased in lots of 25 with the same specs as previous computers purchased. Total cost \$34,999.50 (\$699.99 per computer).
- b. \$143,374.79 is needed for operating expenses through the month of October.
- c. Motion to approve \$160,874.54 to NextLvl for operating expenses and 25 computers, plus pre-approval of funding for additional 25 computers when needed at \$17,499.75 by Jeff Bell, seconded by Denise Kish, all members – aye, motion carried.

5. Leadership Update

- a. Management

- i. A contract has been signed with Presence Learning to provide special education services. Students have been identified, even with an MSDS outage. Some schools have not been able to locate student’s CA-60s, so teachers and staff are

working with parents to get copies of IEPs and other school documents. Our special education population continues to grow and is now at 25 students.

- ii. 2019 diplomas are completed.
- iii. Teacher and student computers have been ordered, imaged and are being delivered.
- iv. Enrollment surpassed the projection from August 2019.
- v. Financial audit should be completed October 15, 2019.\

b. Enrollment Overview

- i. Currently at 155 students: 25 special education students, 9 McKinney-Vento students, 53 Title I students.
- ii. Still waiting on documents for several students.
- iii. Count days: Wednesday, October 2, 2019 and Wednesday, February 5, 2020

c. K-12 Overview

- i. Staff are working to improve knowledge of Pulse and Accelerate.
- ii. Meeting with ISD auditor to verify reports for the state.
- iii. Reminder that in the first two years for charter schools, Count Day funding is 50/50, not 90/10 for October/February.

- d. Motion to adopt the required Board Policy prohibiting referring or assisting a student in obtaining an abortion by Jeff Bell, seconded by Brian Wood, all members – aye, motion carried.

6. Board Strategy and Planning

Board Policy – National Charter School Institute Engagement

- a. Dick Halik, a National Charter Institute policy expert joined by phone. The National Charter Institute can help the Board create a policy book. The funds have already been allocated. Recommends that the Board delegate Tim Wood and Dick Halik to lead the first draft. Then a Board member would take the lead in voicing requested changes on the second draft. Mr. Halik will help keep the Board compliant and give advice.
- b. Motion to adopt the National Charter School Institute board policies with Tim Wood and Dick Halik leading the first draft by Jeff Bell, seconded by Brian Wood, all members – aye, motion carried.

MDE Meeting Recap

- a. Meeting was attended by Jeff Bell and Brian Wood (UMA Board), Travis Gostinger and Tim Wood (NextLvl), Ron Kraft and legal representative (authorizer, Stephenson Area Public Schools), Doug McNeil (UMA Board legal representation) and team of three from Dickson Wright Law Firm. Jeff and Ron served as primary spokespeople.
- b. Issues outlined: pupil accounting, enrollment and residency requirements, management company transition and the process the Board went through in making that decision, transparency on website
- c. Dickson Wright team prepared binder of documents fully responding to all issues presented by MDE.
- d. No additional response from MDE at this time.

Grant Funds

- a. Letter received from MDE stating that funds not used in the fiscal year they are received will be subject to a special accounting process. Seeking additional clarification as the state requires a fund balance, but this letter is saying that the money will be removed if there is a fund balance.
7. Meeting adjourned at 7:07p.m. (Motion to approve by Jeff Bell, seconded by Brian Wood, all members –aye, motion carried)

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Harwood". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mary Harwood, Board Secretary