

Uplift Michigan Academy
Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 26, 2020
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 6:08 p.m.

Roll Call

- a. Board Members Present: Jeff Bell, Wayne Coleman, Mary Harwood, Denise Kish, Brian Wood
 - b. In person: none
 - c. Call-in: Robert Giordano, Travis Gostinger, Ron Kraft, Tonya Lowry, Victoria Malone, Doug McNeil, 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

- a. No public comment

Correspondence

- a. Hyperfocus – NextLvl and Hyperfocus are mutually terminating their contract. Multiple correspondence regarding the end of the agreement.
- b. State of Michigan – UMA does not owe the State any money.

Approval of the minutes from the regular Board meeting on February 27, 2020

- a. Motion to approve by Jeff Bell, seconded by Denise Kish, all members – aye, motion carried

Financial Report

- a. Motion to approve financial report as presented by Jeff Bell, seconded by Brian Wood, all members – aye, motion carried

5. Leadership Update

- a. Management
 - i. The coronavirus pandemic has created uncertainty regarding whether online schools should continue operating as normal. Per MAPSA guidance from 3/26, we will continue operating. Superintendent Lowry has been gathering information and reporting to families on a regular basis.

- ii. Schools will receive full state aid this academic year, but next year is uncertain. NextLvl will continue to update the Board as information is available.
- iii. Michigan has applied for a state testing waiver from the U.S. Department of Education. No further information is available at this time.
- iv. Doug McNeil – Dan Quisenberry (MAPSA president) noted that cyber schools are the only schools that can continue with business as usual and be entirely and legally compliant.

b. K-12 Overview

- i. Superintendent Lowry presented academic data and progress toward school goals.
- ii. Spring Count: 177 counted of 180 possible FTE
- iii. Attendance at Advisory is 60% or better. Teachers contact individual students who do not attend the Wednesday session.
- iv. Superintendent Lowry has held Administrative Attendance Conferences with 12 of 38 families of disengaged students. Student and family engagement has increased with more parents at home during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- v. The current curriculum is not living up to expectations. There number of errors and other issues has become unmanageable. Staff have created a robust rubric to evaluate other options. Once there are 2-3 options, parents and students will be invited to help vet the choices.
- vi. Retention rate: 74% Mid-semester enrollments are struggling. Transition and learning the program takes time. Teachers and staff are working on building relationships and assisting with the transition.
- vii. Creating a Caring Environment through Friday Fun Day, study halls, 1:1 and check-ins every week

6. Board Strategy and Planning

- a. Dr. Tim Wood – Proposing the Board establish an enrollment cap of 200 students for the 2019-20 academic year. We do not currently have the resources to provide equipment and teachers for more than 200 students.
- b. Motion to adopt the 200 student cap for the 2019-20 academic year by Jeff Bell, seconded by Mary Harwood, all members – aye, motion carried.

7. Meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m. (Motion to approve by Jeff Bell, seconded by Brian Wood, all members –aye, motion carried)

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Harwood, Board Secretary