

Uplift Michigan Academy
Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 23, 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 6:02 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, 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 Brian Wood, all members – aye, motion carried

Public Comment

- a. No public comment

Correspondence

- a. Letter from Dr. Brian Wood expressing gratitude in offering support and help to districts in Iosco County.

Approval of the minutes from the regular Board meeting on March 26, 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 Denise Kish, all members – aye, motion carried

5. Leadership Update

- a. Management
 - i. Marketing efforts through Grand Canyon University should be in place as of May 1.
 - ii. Social media expert has been hired. She will provide a month by month plan that is coordinated across all platforms.
 - iii. Plan has been developed with goals and objectives for student retention.

- iv. MAPSA is advising that schools should expect funding pressure for next school year. The Revenue Estimating conference will be mid-May to make projections. There is a high likelihood of reductions in per-pupil funding.
 - v. Management will present the Board with different scenarios as we look toward next year's budget.
- b. K-12 Overview
- i. Superintendent Lowry presented academic data and progress toward school goals.
 - ii. Seeing attendance growth overall. Semester 1: 20-25% attendance in live lessons. Semester 2: 52% attendance at advisory
 - iii. Passing rates continue to improve. 15%+ growth from 10 weeks ago to now.
 - iv. The curriculum search team has continued to evaluate possible replacements. The search has been narrowed down to Accelerate and Edgenuity. Feedback has been solicited from students and parents. A recommendation will be made to the board after the final meeting with families. Consistency with curriculum is important to staff and they are committing to whatever their recommendation is for the next 3-5 years.
 - v. Building Positive Student and Parent Relationships: Overall retention for the year is at 74%. 23% of students have committed to returning next year. 11 students are graduation (1 in February, 10 at end of year). The goal is to have 35% of re-enrollment confirmation (positive or negative) by May 1 and 85% by June 30.
 - vi. Family Check-in: Average satisfaction is 4.38/5. Families are pleased with staff and support they are receiving, doing well with creating a home learning environment, and getting needed information from the Family Handbook.
 - vii. Creating Caring Environment: virtual graduation is scheduled for June 20 at 1 pm EST. Students are being surveyed if they would like to speak/perform. Invites will be sent at a later date.
 - viii. Testing update: There will be no state assessments this spring. SAT and PSAT are planned for the fall. NWEA and AP testing is being completed remotely.
6. Board Strategy and Planning
- a. 2020-2021 Tentative School Year Calendar
 - i. First day of school scheduled for September 1. No early start waiver required.
 - ii. MSTEP testing is scheduled in 2 day blocks due to the need to secure in-person testing sites.
 - iii. NWEA testing is schedule after state testing to allow students a break.
 - b. Motion to approve the 2020-2021 School Year Calendar by Jeff Bell, seconded by Denise Kish, all members – aye, motion carried.
7. Meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m. (Motion to approve by Jeff Bell, seconded by Mary Harwood, all members – aye, motion carried)

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Harwood, Board Secretary