

Uplift Michigan Online School
Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 28, 2021
6:00 p.m. Eastern Time

4451 Hunsberger Ave NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

1. Meeting called to order by President Jeff Bell at 6:13 pm

Roll Call

- a. Board Members Present: Jeff Bell, Mary Harwood, Paul Marineau, Brian Wood
 - b. Board Members Call-in: Denise Kish
 - c. Others: Travis Gostinger, Tonya Lowry, Victoria Malone, Patrick Sweeney, Tim Wood
2. Pledge of Allegiance
 3. Statement of Purpose
 4. Regular Business
 - a. Adoption of Agenda
 - i. Motion to approve the agenda by Mary Harwood, seconded by Paul Marineau, all members – aye, motion carried
 - b. Public Comment
 - i. None.
 - c. Correspondence
 - i. None.
 - d. Approval of Minutes
 - i. Motion to approve the minutes from the August 26, 2021 Regular Board meeting by Paul Marineau, seconded by Brian Wood, all members – aye, motion carried
 - e. Approval of Finance Reports
 - i. Motion to approve as presented by Denise Kish, seconded by Jeff Bell, all members – aye, motion carried

5. Leadership Update

- a. Management
 - i. Financial Audit
 - Patrick Sweeney from Croskey Lanni, PC presented the results of Uplift Michigan’s annual financial audit. The independent opinion of the auditors is that Uplift Michigan passes the audit.
 - Of the 67 schools that Croskey Lanni works with, only three schools put the thought and time into the Management Discussion and Analysis portion of the audit. Nextlvl puts a significant amount of thought and effort into this section.
 - After reviewing the financial information, Uplift Michigan has a healthy fund balance. A written plan will be created to address the funds in the fund balance.
 - Uplift Michigan is in compliance with the Uniform Budgeting and Accounting Act.
 - Motion to accept the financial audit as presented by Brian Wood, seconded by Jeff Bell, all members – aye, motion carried.
 - ii. MDE and Authorizer Review Update

- MDE routinely checks in to make sure that authorizers have proper policies in place to oversee charter academies.
 - Audit will take place on December 9, 2021 with Stephenson Area Public Schools' Superintendent, Susanne Carpenter.
- b. K-12 Update
- i. Fall count will be 591 of the potential 595 (99% counted).
 - ii. NWEA fall testing window is closing as of tomorrow (10/29/21). 92.57% of students were tested in both math and reading.
 - iii. Update on Board Goals
 - Engage students academically
 - a. Additions were made to intervention and support roles.
 - b. Engaging with Graduation Alliance in Michigan to assist students who have additional resource needs.
 - Build positive student and parent relationships
 - a. In-person meet and greets went well
 - b. Parent/Teacher conferences began yesterday. So far, 30% of students have a parent signed up to attend.
 - c. Clubs are starting again. Students are giving input on what clubs they would like to see continue from last year and new clubs they would like to start.
 - Create a caring environment
 - a. Hiring a second counselor and social worker
 - b. Hired second Family and Community Liaison
 - c. Staff lead conversations with compassion and grace
 - Provide a world class online curriculum that is aligned with state standards
 - a. Staff continue to review and modify curriculum as needed. November professional development will focus on this area.
 - Fiscally Responsible
 - a. Financial audit went well.
 - iv. Update on Title I Audit
 - Meeting with the Title consultant every month until the spring when the actual audit happens. The goal of this is that any potential issues can be addressed prior to the audit.
 - The consultant complimented Uplift for setting a high bar in regards to documentation.
6. Board Strategy and Planning
- a. Dr. Tim Wood reviewed the Fall 2021 updates from NCSI. The full document will be sent to Board members.
 - b. John Kava from Collins Blaha provided the engagement letter for his services. President Jeff Bell will sign and return.
 - c. New Board Member Discussion
 - i. Jeff Bell and Paul Marineau met with potential new Board member and recommend initiating him to the Uplift Michigan Board.
 - Motion to approve Arturo Armijo to the Board by Jeff Bell, seconded by Brian Wood, roll call vote, motion carried.
 - a. Jeff Bell – aye
 - b. Mary Harwood – aye
 - c. Paul Marineau – aye
 - d. Brian Wood – aye

- Arturo Armijo's information will be sent to the Stephenson Board for approval.
 - d. Nextlvl would like to discuss staff compensation at the next Board meeting.
 - e. Nextlvl proposes moving to bimonthly meetings with comprehensive Board updates provided during off months. This will be discussed in detail at the next Board meeting.
7. Adjournment
- a. Motion to adjourn at 7:24 pm by Denise Kish, seconded by Mary Harwood, all members – aye, motion carried

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Harwood, Board Secretary