

Uplift Michigan Online School
Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 18, 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 6:08 pm

Roll Call

- a. Board Members Present: Jeff Bell, Mary Harwood, Paul Marineau
 - b. Board Members Call-in: Brian Wood
 - c. Others: Arturo Armijo, Susanne Carpenter, Travis Gostinger, Lori LaMontagne, Tonya Lowry, Victoria Malone, 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. Introduction of Arturo Armijo
 - c. Correspondence
 - i. None.
 - d. Approval of Minutes
 - i. Motion to approve the minutes from the October 28, 2021 Regular Board meeting by Paul Marineau, seconded by Jeff Bell, all members – aye, motion carried
 - e. Approval of Finance Reports
 - i. Motion to approve as presented by Jeff Bell, seconded by Mary Harwood, all members – aye, motion carried
 5. Leadership Update
 - a. K-12 Update
 - i. 68% of families have attended Parent/Teacher Conferences.
 - ii. The first check in was sent to parents. 96% of parents gave a satisfaction score of 3/5 or higher. 71% gave a score of 4/5 or higher. 90% of parents reported that the orientation that was provided helped greatly in navigating the system.
 6. Board Strategy and Planning
 - a. Budget Resolution
 - i. Travis Gostinger reviewed the current budget and the proposed amended budget for the 2021-22 school year.
 - ii. The ESSER III fund total is approximately \$450,000. Uplift may not utilize all funds this year and is able to carry some into the 2022-23 school year.
 - iii. Adjustments have been made to expenses. Additional staff were hired in for the general ed, special ed and intervention teams to meet the needs of Uplift’s growing student population. The number of special education students has increased significantly to approximately 23% of the student population necessitating additional staff and support for those students.

- iv. Staff wages will also increase 3.1%. This amount reflects increased cost of living as well as a little extra and is sustainable in light of the entire budget.
 - v. Motion to approve the budget resolution as presented by Jeff Bell, seconded by Mary Harwood, all members – aye, motion carried.
 - b. Jeff Bell introduced a discussion to better define the term “best” in regard to Uplift being the best online school. We want to make sure the goal of best is attainable and allows the administration to focus on specific areas.
 - i. Dr. Tim Wood: Uplift takes into account the state metrics which are based on reading and math scores and NWEA MAP score increases from fall to spring. There are other metrics like graduation rate and rate of retention that don’t count toward the state metrics but are also important.
 - ii. Travis Gostinger: Nextlvl wants to make sure that Uplift is the best place to work and that the school culture supports that.
 - iii. Paul Marineau: Uplift should consider best practices and highlight how we implement them.
 - iv. Brian Wood: Student achievement is key to showing Uplift’s performance.
 - c. National Charter School Institute Fall 2021 Updates
 - i. Tim Wood reviewed the seven updates at the last Board meeting.
 - ii. Motion to approve NCSI’s Fall 2021 updates by Jeff Bell, seconded by Paul Marineau, all members – aye, motion carried.
 - d. Board Meeting Calendar
 - i. Effective immediately, the Board will switch to bi-monthly meetings. The next meeting will be on January 27, 2022. Travis Gostinger will make sure all appropriate notices are posted.
 - e. New Board Member
 - i. Arturo Armijo’s paperwork has been completed and submitted to the Stephenson Board for approval at their December 8, 2021 meeting.
7. Adjournment
- a. Motion to adjourn at 6:55 pm by Jeff Bell, seconded by Mary Harwood, all members – aye, motion carried

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Harwood, Board Secretary