

Uwharrie Charter Academy
Board Meeting
November 10, 2016

Board Members Present:

Aaryn Slafky
Angela Kern
Julia Del Grande
Mac Whatley
Michael Strickland
Stacy Griffin

Board Members Not Present:

David McCrae
Mark Hensley

Others Present:

Casey Harris
Heather Soja
Jody Smith
Sheral Vang

Mac Whatley called the meeting to order. Mac asked if there were any questions about the minutes or the CFO report. Stacey moved to adopt the consent agenda. Aaryn seconded. All in favor.

Sheral Vang presented her background and what she enjoyed about her new job as High School Administrator. She emphasized that she appreciated her time in all classrooms as that is what she enjoys. Jody Smith presented her background and what she enjoys about her position as a Biology teacher. She enjoys everyday challenges that is presented to her, including breaking barriers between her and students and observing how students start to grasp what she teaches. Jody was UCA's 2015-16 Teacher of the Year.

Heather reported that she submitted a request to adjust our charter to allow for 5th grade for the 2017-18 school year, and quickly received approval. Administration will announce the plan for 5th & 6th grade to all parents and will also work on a plan for drop off & pick up and announce that procedure as well.

Both schools participated in active shooter training and have had fire and safety inspections and drills. As a result, Heather is looking into storage locations to store inventory for future use. The board discussed possibilities such as PODS, climate controlled areas to either rent or own. Heather will follow up with the ideas that were discussed.

Phase I construction has been closed, which includes a rate of 2.375% from USDA rural development for 40 years. This phase included the ball field property off of Mac Road. The soccer field at the high school location should be ready for play in the Spring. Bleachers and goals have been purchased at an auction. The Phase II pre-qualifying stage has begun and proposals have been requested for environmental studies and architectural feasibility studies.

Casey Harris presented his report. On October 28th, there was a successful College Day held at the high school for Juniors and Seniors, where 50+ colleges were represented. Our 2nd Annual Harvest Sale, led by Melissa Coble, was held at the middle school and resulted in a profit of \$7,000. Middle school students are excited to create The Polar Express again this year for area preschools. Casey was excited to report that all ten of the prosthetic hands, created by students and led by James Green, were approved and sent to India for immediate use. Also, grants have been filtering in that were written by teachers. Thank you to the teachers who have taken initiative to seek grant money. Aaron requested that we communicate grant information with parents. The board requested a list of grants that we have received be available on our website.

Van Hurley presented the need for additional transportation. Now that there are about 30 teams, we need more vehicles and we need more staff with their CDL license. He has located two 2015 vans with about 22,000 miles on each. The board agreed that the request needs to be put on hold while Heather looks for creative options on how we can obtain CDL licensed drivers.

Stacey reported on behalf of the work completed by she and Ashley. They have created an application for those who are interested in being part of the UCA board, which was passed out at the meeting and reviewed by the board. With small edits discussed and agreed upon, Stacey moved that we accept the application and Ashley seconded it. All in favor. This application will be uploaded to the website soon and all interested parties will need to fill out the application and give to Susan Yow. David, Ashley and Stacey have all expressed interest in serving an additional term of three years, starting in June. Julia moved to accept

all three nominations, Angie seconded. All in favor. The next term for new board member nominations will be June 2018.

The board agreed that all board members need an annual background check, just as volunteers of the school do. Heather will look into options for training resources for new board members and hopefully will find self-paced options. All board members are required to complete and sign a Board Member Position Description Agreement.

Our next annual Strategic Planning session is scheduled for January 28th at the meeting space at the NC Zoo, with a make up date of February 11th. More details to follow.

The board voted to clear the timber on the newer area of the ball field property and will keep the money to go towards the purchase of site plans and a detailed survey. Mac made the motion, Michael seconded. All in favor.

Van Hurley presented a request about drug testing student athletes. He would like to see all student athletes subjected to random testing while they are in season. After researching other schools, he found this approach for the board to consider: If an athlete fails a drug test, they will need to take a class, the athlete will not be able to play in a game until they pass another drug test paid for by their parents. Under this approach, the athlete would be able to practice while waiting for a successful drug test. In the event that a second drug test is failed, the athlete would be suspended for 365 days from the sport. On a third offense, the athlete will be suspended for the remainder of their time at UCA. The board discussed many options including: Should we randomly test more than just student athletes? Should we allow the athletes to practice while waiting for the second test? What are the options in drug testing? What are our options in counseling? Peter will meet with the rest of the administrative team to discuss some options and present to the entire next month, which will hopefully include: A progressive plan for student athletes that will ultimately have the total health and well being in mind for athletes as top priority. Also, we want to strive to have steps in place for optimum health & well being for the entire school.

Heather reported that the Administrative team would like to offer teacher supplements that would include: 2% of base pay to be awarded in November. They will also review options for a second supplement in May. Stacey moved to accept this approach and Ashley seconded. All in favor.

The Board agreed that January 9th through March 10th would be the timeframe for open enrollment for the 2017-18 school year. Lotteries would be conducted for 5th, 6th and 9th grades and a waiting list will be created for all other grades. Prospective families can submit applications during the open enrollment email, fax, drop off, or postal service. The lottery will be held on March 25th at the high school. Mac motioned to approve this timeline, Michael seconded. All in favor.

Mac adjourned the meeting. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Del Grande
Secretary