

Union Colony Schools Board Meeting Minutes January 16, 2021

Members in Attendance:

Heather Bunyan, President
Veronica Armendariz, Vice President
Kristin Arnold, Treasurer
Jamie Wood, Secretary
Matt Walsh, Member

Administration in Attendance:

Jim Anderson, UCS Executive Director
Jemiah Fowler, UCPS Assistant Principal
Mandy Bailey, UCES Assistant Principal

Members Absent:

Sarah Mitchell, Member
Tim Marquart, Member

The board meeting was held at Union Colony Elementary School on January 16, 2021. Meeting was called to order at 8:00 am by Ms. Bunyan.

Public Comments

Board listened to public comments.

Action Items

- Agenda was modified to move the Consideration of Resolution to Create Governance Committee from an action item to a discussion item.
- Consent agenda was approved. Motion by Ms. Arnold, Second by Mr. Walsh, Motion passed. Consent agenda included:
 - Approval of December 17, 2020 Minutes
 - Approval of resignations: Alycia Burns (UCPS Principal), Thomas Schuck (UCPS Science Teacher), Patricia Horst (UCES Paraprofessional), and Samantha King (UCES Health Clerk)
- Approval of 2020-21 Amended Budget. Motion by Ms. Wood, Second by Ms. Arnold, Motion passed. Amended budget includes a \$662,000 transfer from reserves.

Discussion Items

- Governance Committee Resolution was discussed. The objective is to make the purpose of the committee more formalized and delegate some authority to the committee in specific areas related to the governance structure. The committee has started discussions to provide a review and recommendations of the responsibilities of the various governance bodies – Board, Faculty Council, and Admin. Faculty Councils will be asked to review the resolution as well, and the resolution will be an action item on the February Board agenda.
- Director Search Update – the deadline for applicants was extended until January 22nd. The search committee has identified two finalists and may include more once the position closes. The Board will meet virtually on January 21, 2021 at 6pm to approve the finalists at that time. Interviews will take place on February 1st, with the public portion of the interviews taking place virtually.
- UCPS Principal Search Update – A committee has been formed at UCPS to assist in the process. It is likely that a new UCPS Principal will not be hired in time for this school year and will begin at the start of the 2021-22 school year. In the meantime, Jemiah Fowler will be acting principal with assistance from Jim Anderson.

- Jeff Reed and Mr. Anderson gave an update on plans to utilize the bond funds. The UCPS campus project is expected to start June 1, 2021 and be completed by August 15, 2021. The contracts will include liquidating damages to ensure the project is completed before the start of the 2021-22 school year. We received three bids for the abatement and those bids are currently being evaluated. The UCPS campus completion project includes abatement, demolition of old building, and parking lot improvements. Full cost of project will come out of the bond proceeds and we have a verbal approval of the project from District 6. Proposed UCES construction projects include redesigning the library area, the creation of an outdoor classroom space, additional storage, and the addition of space to accommodate staff, including space for interventions. Project planning and evaluation is starting on the UCES projects.
- Mr. Fowler discussed a revision for this school year to the Policy IKF Graduation Requirements. Current UCS graduation requirements include 4 semesters of college courses – however, all AIMS courses are being delivered remotely this school year and many of our students have struggled in the learning platform. The revision will allow students to take elective courses at Union Colony rather than remotely at AIMS. In addition, students who failed remote AIMS courses in the fall semester will not be permitted to take remote AIMS courses in the spring.
- Mr. Fowler discussed proposed changes to Policy IKE Promotion of Students. The proposal changes the focus from retention of students to promotion of students and provides better guidance as to what is required for students to be promoted. Discussion surrounded the interventions that UCS will provide students who are not on track for promotion – including credit recovery options and summer school. Board requested information on the number of students this policy change would impact and assurances that intervention policies will be implemented when this policy is adopted. Mr. Fowler discussed a current intervention that is beginning this semester for 7th grade language arts students as initiated by Samantha Wild.

Board Reports

- Board will pause on reviewing policies and board modules for the next few months to allow more time to be spent on more pressing matters. Board members are encouraged to complete the learning modules independently. This practice will be reviewed in March to see if the policy review and modules can be added to the agenda beginning in April.

Administration Reports

- Mr. Warner submitted a written report on the activities of UCES. Ms. Bailey provided additional information regarding the work of the literacy committee, testing plans for the next month, and the installation of hands-free sinks at the school.
- Mr. Fowler provided a report on the activities at UCPS. Middle school students returned to in-person learning on Monday and everything went well. Parent Teacher conferences will be held virtually in February. High School basketball and Middle School volleyball start next week. There are several safety protocols that must be followed including the use of masks, spectator capacity limits, game roster limits, etc. UCS will limit spectators to one per player.

Director's Report

- Another round of federal stimulus funds for COVID funding, known as ESSER II, has been approved. The preliminary allocation for UCES is \$329,062 and UCPS is \$319,611. We will have approximately 2 ½ years to spend these funds. More information will be available at the next Board meeting.
- District 6 and Sunrise Medical Clinic are working towards a plan to vaccinate District 6 teachers, including charter school teachers.

Adjournment

- Meeting was adjourned at 9:55 am.

