

Union Colony Schools Board Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2021

Members in Attendance:

Veronica Armendariz, Vice President
Jamie Wood, Secretary
Ron Lamb, Member
Ashleigh Jacks, Member
Jeremy Herndon, Member

Administration in Attendance:

Jemiah Fowler, UCS Executive Director
Carrie Leffler, UCPS Principal
Dave Warner, UCES Principal

Members Absent:

Heather Bunyan, President
Kristen Arnold, Treasurer

The board meeting was held at Union Colony Preparatory School on November 13, 2021.
Meeting was called to order at 8:00 am by Armendariz.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Staff Presentations

Fowler gave a presentation on behalf of UCES on their Student Council program.

Action Items

- Consent agenda was approved. Motion by Wood. Second by Lamb, Motion passed.
Consent agenda included:
 - Approval of October 9, 2021 Minutes
- Approval of staff resignation of Will Griffin (5th grade teacher). Motion by Wood.
Second by Jacks. Motion passed. Board discussed the disruption caused by mid-contract resignations and the limits of our contract language.
- Approval of policy revision for policy AC (Title IX). Motion by Jacks, Second by Armendariz, Motion passed.
- Appointment of Ashleigh Jacks to replace Jamie Wood on Governance Committee.
Motion by Lamb. Second by Herndon, Motion passed.

Discussion Items

- Board reviewed policies AD (School Mission), KF-E (Building & Facility Use), and BB (School Board Legal Status). Discussion on Policy AD revolved around the thesis requirements and whether a “research committee” as stated in the policy was something that was actually done in practice. Fowler will bring that policy back to the Board in November after discussions with staff. Board reviewed policy KF-E and requested that the waiver of fees be assigned to the Executive Director and their designee rather than the

Board and their designee. Fowler will revise the wording and that policy will be an action item in December. Board reviewed BB and no changes were needed.

- Board reviewed Faculty Council budget amendment recommendation. Budget was based on 815 students and final enrollment is 725. This results in a reduction in revenue of over \$700,00. Faculty Council recommends reallocating the \$500,000 reserve transfer that had originally been designated for UCES construction to now go towards the operating budget to offset the deficit. Faculty Council recommends covering the additional deficit (approximately \$175,000) with an additional transfer from reserves. Lengthy discussion about the impacts of the deficit on future budgets followed. \$400,000 of the UCES construction funds will need to be funded out of ESSER 2 funds, which are still pending at the state level. There was also an additional \$100,000 that had been designated to construction from the MLO funds to accommodate preschool - however due to significant restrictions the concept of preschool has been put on hold and that additional \$100,000 will not be needed for construction. Much of the ESSER funds had originally been allocated to fund staff positions - that commitment will now be reevaluated based on the financial needs of UCS. Board and Administration discussed the need to be more practical about the student enrollment numbers, and also the desire to realign our enrollment projections with our commitment to maintaining a small school environment.
- Fowler provided an update on the construction projects. Secondary projects that are outstanding include storage and an outdoor classroom area. We have received permits for the elementary project after lengthy negotiations with the City of Evans. The negotiations included a requirement from UCES to address landscape issues over a 5-year period with an estimated cost of \$80,000-\$100,000. Construction for all projects is expected to be completed by August 2022.
- Warner and Leffler reviewed the Unified Improvement Plans that have been submitted to District 6.

Board Reports

- Wood summarized the Board Module, Charter School Finance.
- The Governance Committee has been working on a diagram that accurately represents the unique governance structure of UCS.

Administration/Other Reports

- Leffler reviewed the activities at UCPS. Teacher observations are underway. The Marketing Committee has started meeting with a focus on internal marketing around the benefits of a small school environment. A lot of activities are taking place including a Veterans Day assembly, middle school dance, and music concerts.
- Warner reviewed the activities at UCES. The first field trip of the year occurred with the 5th graders Young America Town field trip. November 5th professional development day was successful, with a K-12 joint meeting in the morning. A Veterans Day assembly was held. Teacher observations are underway.

- Board reviewed the YTD financials. Read Act and ELPA Funds received were less than budgeted. District 6 reconciliation funds came in at \$187,000 - which are funds that were not expected. The draft financial statements have been provided by the auditors and we are planning for the audit presentation to take place in December.
- Tom Stokovaz, IT Director, gave a technology update. The new website for the school has been launched.

Director's Report

- Fowler discussed the focus on building a positive school culture and climate. There has been a renewed emphasis on building K-12 cohesiveness. Fowler also discussed the industry-wide staffing shortage challenges.

Adjournment

- Meeting was adjourned at 10:15 am.