

Union Colony Schools Board Meeting Minutes
December 11, 2021

Members in Attendance:

Heather Bunyan, President
Veronica Armendariz, Vice President
Jamie Wood, Secretary
Ron Lamb, Member
Ashleigh Jacks, Member
Jeremy Herndon, Member
Kristen Arnold, Treasurer

Administration in Attendance:

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

The board meeting was held at Union Colony Elementary School on December 11, 2021. Meeting was called to order at 8:00 am by Bunyan.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Action Items

- Consent agenda was approved. Motion by Herndon, Second by Armendariz. Motion passed. Consent agenda included:
 - Approval of November 13, 2021 Minutes
- Approval of staff hiring of K.C. Knudson (5th grade teacher). Motion by Jacks, Second by Bunyan. Motion passed.
- Approval of UCES and UCPS Unified Improvement Plans. Motion by Armendariz, Second by Arnold. Motion passed.
- Approval of policy revision for policy KF-E (Building and Facility Use Application) and Policy AD (Union Colony's Mission). Motion by Armendariz, Second by Herndon, Motion passed.
- Motion to Approve 20-21 Audited Financials was tabled until next month in order for staff to provide a more complete presentation on the financials.

Discussion Items

- Jeff Reed, UCS Owners Rep, provided an update on the construction projects. Secondary projects that are outstanding include storage and an outdoor classroom area. At the elementary school, asphalt demolition began this week and we have an estimated completion date of June 15, 2022. There are challenges due to supply chain delays, but at this point we expect construction to be completed on time.
- Board discussed how the open meetings laws impact board members attending social events. For the holiday party, three board members are attending and this is permitted under the law as long as school business is not discussed. Board members committed to staying within these guidelines and are appreciative of a chance to celebrate with staff.

Board Reports

- Bunyan summarized the Board Module, Board Relationships.
- Lamb gave an update on the Governance Committee activities. The committee has completed the diagram that represents the unique governance structure of UCS. They are now moving on to a narrative description of the various responsibilities. Good progress is being made.

Administration/Other Reports

- Leffler reviewed the activities at UCPS. Finals week is next week. The annual cookie social will be on Thursday to celebrate the end of the semester. Winter athletics have begun with Middle School Volleyball and High School Basketball. Administration recently became aware of hurtful and inappropriate social media posts targeting students and staff. Staff is working to identify the parties responsible for these posts and have already disciplined several students. In addition, administration made a policy change that now restricts phone usage for 6th and 7th graders during school hours. Previously, students were allowed to use their phones during lunch. Staff is also educating students on the impacts of social media. Staff will be evaluating the phone policies for students in 8th - 12th grade. Board expressed their support of administration's decision surrounding phone usage during the school day.
- Warner reviewed the activities at UCES. Staff is working on getting back to pre-Covid activities, as appropriate. On Thursday, students will be having a holiday celebration and watching Polar Express. Staff has been working on getting a parent group up and running for next year. The hope is that the parent groups at both buildings will work closely together but also have the autonomy to do activities specific to each building. Warner discussed the trend of increased behavioral issues that UCES has been experiencing. This is not unique to UCES, it is a nationwide trend exacerbated by the isolation and disruption from the pandemic and COVID protocols. UCES is committed to providing mental health resources to students but is also focussing on discipline and expectations.
- Board reviewed the YTD financials.

Director's Report

- Fowler discussed the Holiday party for staff.

Adjournment

- Meeting was adjourned at 9:16 am.