

Union Colony Schools Board Meeting Minutes

March 12, 2022

Members in Attendance:

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

Administration in Attendance:

Jemiah Fowler, UCS Executive Director
Carrie Leffler, UCPS Principal

Members Absent:

Veronica Armendariz, Vice President

The board meeting was held at Union Colony Preparatory School on March 12, 2022. Meeting was called to order at 8:00 am by Bunyan.

Lessons for the Board

Lynne Post and Jolleen Ortiz gave a presentation about the curriculum and activities of 4th grade.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Action Items

- Consent agenda was approved. Motion by Herndon, Second by Arnold. Motion passed. Consent agenda included:
 - Approval of February 12, 2022 Minutes
- Following policies were approved as updated: BBA (Board Member Authority & Responsibilities), BC (School Board Member Conduct), BCB (Conflict of Interest), IIE (Course Requirements and Retakes), IML (Safety Practices in the Classroom), IMBA (Alternative Learning Experiences) and IMB-R (Religious Music). Motion by Jacks, Second by Arnold. Motion passed.

Discussion Items

- The Board will have an opening in June for an elementary parent elected position. The position has been widely posted at the Elementary School. There are no applicants at this time, the Board will discuss again at the April Board meeting.
- Fowler presented a draft calendar. The calendar follows the District 6 calendar relatively closely. Spring Break aligns with AIMS Community College. There are 3 snow days built into the calendar. The major change is moving graduation to a Friday evening rather than a Saturday morning. Board recommended getting input from parents regarding this change.
- Board meetings for 2022-23 will continue to be held on the 2nd Saturday of the month.

- Board reviewed and discussed the following policies: IMA (Teaching Methods - Lesson Plans): no changes recommended; BDB (Board Officer Duties): recommended changing language to be consistent with the bylaws; BBA (Board Member Qualifications): agreed with recommendation to replace the requirement of being a U.S. Citizen with being a legal resident of the U.S.; BEC (Executive Sessions/Open Meetings): recommended removing requirement for chair to sign an affidavit regarding the recording of an executive session; BEC-E (Exhibit - Record of Executive Session): recommended removing this exhibit.
- Board had a lengthy discussion regarding policy IMB (Teaching About Controversial/Sensitive Issues). Board asked administration to have more discussions with Faculty Council and individual teachers regarding the proposed language in the policy.

Board Reports

- Bunyan summarized the Board Module 23, Charter Schools Act.
- A work session to train the Board on finances and the budget will be scheduled for June.

Administration/Other Reports

- Leffler reviewed the activities at UCPS. Parent-teacher conferences were successful. 24 new students have been enrolled for next school year. A new office manager has been hired. Teacher retention for next school year is looking very high at the moment. The school is holding a parent/community screening of the film “Screenager” which presents the struggles of social media and offers solutions on how to help kids navigate the digital world on April 1st at the University/Frontier auditorium.

Director’s Report

- Fowler gave an update on the construction projects. Elementary library project is on schedule with an estimated completion date of mid July. The project will finish at or under budget. Shade structures will be installed at UCPS on the west side of the basketball courts.
- Fowler reviewed the current financials and the 2022-23 budget process. Current financial results are tracking closely with the amended budget. The ESSER reimbursement process is going smoothly, and we should start to see some reimbursements of the big ticket items in the next month or so. The budget committee has been meeting weekly since January, they have a projected enrollment number and are beginning to work on the expense side of the budget, including an evaluation of health insurance options.
- Fowler reviewed the new marketing and branding activities the school is working on, emphasizing the fact that we are a tuition-free K-12 public charter school. There is also a focus on internal marketing and student retention.

Adjournment

- Meeting was adjourned at 9:54 am.