

University Academy Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 23, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.
Mayerberg Hall, University Academy

Present: (5) Mrs. Shirley Bush Helzberg, Secretary (@ 4:20 pm)
Mrs. Katie Kwo-Gerson, Board Chairman (via Zoom)
Mr. David Dickey Treasurer
Mr. Paul Greenwood
Dr. J. Camille Hall (@ 4:12 pm)

Absent: (2) Mr. Jeron Ravin
Mr. LeRay Warrior

Call to Order and Roll Call

Board Treasurer, Mr. David Dickey requested roll call at 4:03 p.m

Enrollment Report

Mrs. Cynthia Kivett opened her report verifying the total number of students currently enrolled for April is 1,055. The verified enrollment for the 2024-25 school year, which includes re-enrolled and incoming students, is 1,151. From January 23, 2024, 17 students have withdrawn: 1 to a different Charter School, 3 transferred to KCPS, 9 moved outside the district, and 4 are unknown.

Governance Report:

Mr. Dickey reminded Board members they have one week left to complete their Financial Disclosure.

Finance Report

Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Tyler Kemp opened with statements for the months ending in February and March, along with a draft budget for 2024-25. Mr. Kemp will present the draft today for review but asks that it be revisited and voted on during the June Board meeting. For March, we show a \$360,000.00 loss. Our revenues for March are higher than last year due to funding for students increasing year over year. Transportation funding has increased this year versus the prior year. State revenues are higher due to University Academy receiving a \$60,000.00 rebate from our Charter sponsor for excellent performance, and a \$55,000.00 school safety grant that Mr. Graff applied for. Expenses are higher this year by \$1,000,000.00. The bulk of that increase is due to the one-time stipend given to returning staff members last year. Purchase services are also higher due to transportation and billing. Mr. Kemp then explained key points in the 2024-25 projected budget.

Mr. David Dickey Treasurer requested a motion to approve Consent Agenda Items.

Motion: Paul Greenwood

Second: Dr. J. Camille Hall

Vote: 5-0 Unanimous approval: motion carries.

Operations Report

Chief Operating Officer, Mr. Stacy Graff began his report by announcing his department's employees of the month for February are Kendall Wiggins-Johnson, March- Chelsea Hagan, Katy Sanders, Faith Casel, and George Jefferson. The current ongoing project is the building's automation system. Roughly 20 additional classroom thermostats need to be calibrated with the system. The Environmental Graphics Committee recently met and is looking into options to display more prominent Kansas Citians around the school. The Exit Drive project idea is still under review with hopes to help with our traffic flow, and last on the Operations report, the stadium naming. Mr. Graff commended the Operations staff for their help in making the Gala a success.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent, Mrs. Rebecca Gudde started her report by announcing the success of selling the Black History, World History shirts that were sold to students, their families, and our staff. We have three upper school students who qualified for the ICDC (International Career Development Conference) that will be held in California later this year. Mr. Shabason, the Upper School History teacher, was invited to the Governor's Mansion in Jefferson City, MO on May 16, 2024, for the Missouri Holocaust Commission. Our baseball team was nominated for the HyVee Team of the Week. Senate Bill 727 has been passed, and we await Governor Parson's signature. This particular bill's amendment will allow for provisions for an increase in teacher salaries, increased school funding, and Early Childhood Expansion. Last year University Academy received \$75,000.00 from the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation for the Equity in Schools Grant. This year we will be granted \$250,000.00 from their foundation. With funds from this grant, the Executive Leadership team will plan a summer retreat to focus on our school's mission. For reminders, Mrs. Gudde sent a Doodle Poll to all board members and senior leadership members to have a summer retreat to help align our strategic plan. Important dates to remember are; Tuesday, May 14, 2024, Senior Awards at 6:00 pm in the Theater. Thursday, May 16, 2024, Graduation at 7:00 pm on the UA field. Board members who plan to attend, please arrive at 6:30 pm in the Mayerberg. This year's speaker will be Dr. Clem Ukaoma.

K-2

Ms. Blackstock began reporting that the K-2 students recently completed their third round of Benchmark testing. Data show that students are on track to being at or above meeting their goals. We have noticed that since the COVID pandemic, Kindergarten students are coming in with less knowledge than before the pandemic. However, the last data shows that 79% of students are on track to reading on grade level. Our employee of the month is Ms. Nyree Young. Bridget Hues, author of more than 150 books, came in to read to our 2nd-grade students. Each student received their own signed copy.

3-5

Mrs. Aisha Smith announced the vision in 3-5, which has been to ensure that 100% of our students are growing and working hard to be proficient. We are also teaching our students skills to be able to self-regulate their own emotions and understand other outside cultures. Data from the last Benchmark taken in March, show students are on their way to either reaching or surpassing our 60% goal. With one more assessment at the end of May, we are hoping for higher scores. The employee of the month for April is Ms. Nyree Young. Family night was held on April 6th, with a good turnout. Parents were able to get MAP resources and enjoy family games.

Middle School

Mrs. Levette Amerison shared her report stating that middle school students finished their third Benchmark testing. We are showing continued improvement and growth in three content areas with a slight dip in ELA. On March 26, the middle school held a 3rd quarter awards assembly for those who earned Principal's Honor Roll, Honor Roll, and perfect attendance. Our employees of the month are February- Carl Stafford, March- Keisha Ricketts, and April- Kailyn Matchael. Career Day was a success on March 13th. On March 29th NJHS students went on a field trip to visit the University of Missouri in Columbia, MO. The middle school dance will be this Friday, April 26th. Ms. Danielle Farr and Ms. Tenaya Rhinehardt collaborate with Hope School in Zambia, South Africa via Zoom to combine classes for lessons and hands-on activities. During Spring break our Robotics team attended the NSBE Convention where they won an award for best display of Core Value.

Upper School

Mrs. Lashonette Kemp began her report by stating the NHS students took their annual field trip over spring break to visit historic civil rights sites including: Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, Bethel Baptist Church, Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, the National Memorial for Peace and Justice, Edmund Pettis Bridge, and more. The NHS induction ceremony took in 7 new inductees. The Prom was on April 20th. Senior student Mikiyah Holmes has committed to and has signed her letter of intent to Iowa Central Community College for next year. Midterm test results show that 75% of our students received an 80% or higher on their first attempt, showing growth from 1st quarter, where they scored 52%. The employee of the month for April is Mr. George Jefferson.

University Academy Foundation Report

Sonja Shaffer, Executive Director was absent. Superintendent, Mrs. Rebecca Gudde suggested that board members read the Foundation report that is included in their packet.

Old Business - None

New Business - MCPSA Annual Report presented via Zoom by Ms. Tonya Richardson.

Special Board Topic -

Mr. McDaniel presented to the board, measurement tools for Board Goal #9. Mr. McDaniel proposes that instead of using a new company, we use the baseline data along with some of our questions with the assistance of Paylocity to help us create goals for the upcoming 3 years. Mr. McDaniel also suggests instead of purchasing additional programs or measurement tools, we rely on the SchoolSmart data that we currently have and use the Paylocity data function to add more supplemental questions to gather more data in the 2025-26 school year.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the board, Board Treasurer, Mr. David Dickey moved to go

into Executive Session to discuss legal topics and employee work product at 4:54 pm

Roll Call was taken:

Present:

Shirley Bush Helzberg

David Dickey

Paul Greenwood

Dr. J. Camille Hall

At 5:02 pm with no objections, the board moved out of Executive Session and adjourned.

Next Board Meeting, Tuesday, June 25, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.

I, Shirley Bush Helzberg, Secretary of the University Academy Board of Directors, certify that the above is a true and correct transcript of the minutes from a meeting of the Board of University Academy held at University Academy on May 24, 2023. The meeting was duly called and held in all aspects in accordance with the laws of the State of Missouri and bylaws of the school, and that a quorum was present.

