

University Academy Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 26, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.
Mayerberg Hall, University Academy

Present: (4) Mrs. Shirley Bush-Helzberg, Secretary
Mrs. Katie Kwo-Gerson, Board Chairman
Mr. David Dickey, Treasurer
Mr. LeRay Warrior (*via Zoom*)

Absent: (3) Mr. Paul Greenwood
Mr. Jarin Ravin
Dr. J. Camille Hall

Enrollment Report

Mrs. Kellie Brady opened her report confirming the total number of student enrollment is 1,101. During the period between August 22-September 20 there were 34 who have withdrawn; the majority have moved outside of the district or relocated. On November 11, 2023 the application window will be opened for the upcoming 2024-2025 school year.

Operations Report

Chief Operating Officer, Mr. Stacy Graff began his report announcing his department's employee of the month for September is Mrs. Brienne Phillips. We previously applied for an \$80,000 safety grant with the state of Missouri. This will allow for upgrades and equipment for the following; radios, ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) AEDs and cabinets to store the devices, window safety film for doors, SSO uniforms, door jammers, and technology switches and firewalls for secure wireless transmission. Awards will be announced to the public September 29, 2023. For building projects we're looking at possible concrete projects that would include steps from the Research Medical parking lot (across 68th street), a ramp from the main lot to the attached park and a sidewalk from the bus lot to the park. We will work with the UASF to determine needs and possibilities related to any other concrete work. We are still looking into creating a one-way traffic flow drive through for the north entrance parking lot. There have been some improvements with communication from First Student Bus and supplying additional drivers. However, there is still a reduced overall number of drivers and applicants; yet, we have drivers for all of our routes. We're working with families when the buses are a no-show. More projects that are being considered are: Kansas City Community Gardens project (4 raised garden beds), naming of the stadium, building automation systems (approved, awaiting contract revisions) exit drive, and landscape and grounds update. The technology department staff helped Ms. Blackstock with the completion of the 1:1 computer program which allows for all 1st grade students to have their own devices that was funded by a grant from PLTW-Project Lead The Way. Currently our 2nd-12th graders are already set up with 1:1 devices on the Tech plan we initiated a few years ago.

University Academy Foundation Report

Mrs. Sonja Shaffer, Executive Director reported Mr. Josh Burdette, Ms. Susie Jackson, Ms. Maya Tilmon and Ms. Tracy Hull will be chaperoning the Senior College visit trip on October 8th-10th to Wichita State, Langston University, Oklahoma State, and University of Oklahoma. New this year, all study abroad students will give a video presentation of their trip to culminate their experiences. All who donated to the Bush Helzberg Memorial Fund will be extended an invitation to attend the event on November 6, 2023. Preparations for the 2024 summer Internship Program are in process. There are currently 7 companies that have confirmed with 26 internship dates and 6 alumni. Maya Tilmon will be conducting a campus visit to connect with all first year students; UMKC- September 28th, MCC- October 19th, and Harris Stowe State University- November 2. This visit will allow those college freshmen to connect with other UA graduates that also attend the same college. The annual UA Grant award winners have been finalized with a total of \$120,000.00 in award money given. Enrichment Learning with Non Fiction- Lower School \$2,000.00, Title One Reading Program- Lower School \$4,000.00, Middle School Books- Middle School \$1,000.00, NHS Trip-Upper School \$21,000.00, Dual Credit Classes- Upper School \$32,000.00, College Visits- Upper School \$14,000.00, KCYA-all \$7,000.00, MAP/EOC & ACT- all \$18,000.00. The next Monday Mixer will be November 13th, location TBD. Thursday September 21, Mrs. Gudde hosted the Donor and Stakeholder tour here on campus which consisted of donors, business partners, potential families and alumni. The Foundation is working on their first annual alumni awards banquet for December 2023. Gala save-the-date postcards have been mailed; April 13, 2024, the theme will be Golf. Mr. David and Mrs. Erica Dickey are honorary Chairs.

Call to Order and Roll Call

Board Chairman, Mrs. Katie Kwo Gerson called the board meeting officially to order at 5:45p.m

Board Chairman, Mrs. Katie Kwo Gerson requested a motion to approve Consent Agenda

Items. **Motion:** Mr. David Dickey

Second: Mrs. Shirley Bush Helzberg

Vote: 4-0 Unanimous approval: motion carries

Finance Report

Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Tyler Kemp opened with the month ending for August 2023 with nearly a \$1,000,000.00 loss compared to last year's \$500,000.00 loss. Revenues are higher this year by \$240,000.00, however our expenses are lower. Labor and benefit expenses are up due to teacher retention stipends that were awarded. We received a donation from Kauffmann for \$250,000.00

Purchase services such as food expenses and transportation have also increased due to timing.

The field audit was conducted and completed last week. A final report will be given in November.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent, Mrs. Rebecca Gudde started with wanting the board's support in dissolving the Pre-K collaboration. This didn't require board approval, however she was making them aware of the current situation about our Pre-K providers. There was discussion, Mrs. Helzberg asked for more research on high performing Pre-K, and to continue to see what works with other surrounding Pre-K programs before being dissolved.

from Gregory and Holmes, Holmes to 63rd street. The sign will read "University Academy and UAF." This area will be maintained with community service cleaning by our upper school students, staff and foundation members. Senior students will have a chance to use this as a part of the 100 hours of community service requirements. This year both upper and middle school have a shared Restorative Practice Coordinator, Ms. Green. The hope is to foster relationships between students who make the wrong choice that leads to In School Suspension. Ms. Green will have completed her training by the end of October and will generate a space so students can learn effective tools to help self regulate. This week is spirit week in honor of our approaching homecoming festivities. The parade will be Saturday morning, September 30 at 9am. Immediately following, tailgating with community tables, football game at 1pm, and the masquerade ball at 8pm.

Special Board Topic

Mr. Anthony McDaniel report started with last year's review of the board assessment results and shared areas of growth since the last board assessment. This is in preparation for the 2023-24 assessment that will begin next week.

Old Business - None

New Business - None

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Board, Board Chair Mrs. Katie Kwo Gerson moved to go into Executive Session to discuss at 6:30 p.m.

David Dickey moved with no objection to go into Executive Committee at 6:31pm

Roll Call was taken:

Present-

David Dickey

Katie Kwo Gerson

LeRay Warrior

Shirley Helzberg

Personnel issues were discussed.

Katie Kwo Gerson moved with no objection out of Executive Committee at 6:52pm

Roll Call was taken:

Present-

David Dickey

Katie Kwo Gerson

LeRay Warrior

Shirley Helzberg

K-2

Ms. Danielle Blackstock began her report congratulating Advanced Studies teacher, Ms. Rylee Shea as her employee of the month. This year, K-5 took a different approach to naming its employee of the month winners. In the past it had been the administrators who chose, however, this year it is staff nominated. We've had our first of many professional developments for Responsive classroom training along with Expeditionary Learning and Orton Gilliam. We'll be conducting formal and informal observations to help give teachers down-to-earth feedback. It is a goal to not only have students know the learning target, but interact with the learning targets. This will increase engagement and ownership of their learning. I've been conducting 'Morning Meetings with Blackstock'. This allows me the opportunity to connect with all the students, and not just those that are sent to the office on referrals. Our Family Fun Night is scheduled for Thursday, September 28th. Communities Creating Opportunities Organization will be on campus to offer free COVID and Flu vaccines for those ages 55 and up, and they will receive a gift card for participating. Parent teacher conferences will be held October 12th-13th. Zoom option conferences will be offered as well.

3-5

Mrs. Aisha Smith, announced K-5 Instructional Coach, Mr. JJ Dorrell as their employee of the month. This year the 3-5's vision is to emphasize on high academic achievement in reading. Please refer to the chart. Our hope is to have all students in grades 3rd-5th show a 100% growth in reading, at or above grade level. We've completed our baseline assessment in Study Island. Teachers are taking notice that some students are coming with a higher skill set in writing and reading stamina and perseverance. Another goal that we put in place is to increase the percentage of students performing proficient and advanced to at least 45% or above according to our Study Island benchmarks. Girls on the Run started last week, this will be our third year participating. There were 65 girls in grades 3rd-5th who expressed interest, but only 16 were selected due to funding. The girls are currently preparing and training for the upcoming 5K race.

Middle School

Superintendent Rebecca Gudde gave the MS report in the absence of Mrs Levette Amerison; employee of the month for Middle School is Ms. Faith Casel. This year Ms. Casel is working with students to gain ownership in the class schedules. She did this by conducting surveys through the Satchel Pulse Social Emotional Learning Surveys that were sent to students to select their own classes. We've completed our first round of Benchmark testing, and data shows the students have scored higher this year than the previous year. The goal is to have students at 60% by their fourth benchmark test. Currently math is our lowest score. We added some additional provisions to support this area such as YUP (online tutoring) Math Explo class, Math Monday, after school tutoring and Mr. Hiron is in classes during the day and after school to provide extra tutoring. Mr. Marlon Brown is our new NJHS sponsor. They will hold a canned food drive competition for Harvesters Community Food Network starting September 26th-October 25th. Middle school sports is currently in motion with Volleyball and Football.

Upper School

Mrs. Lashonette Kemp reported her employee of the month is Mr. Sam Carr. She is also excited to announce on September 22, 2023, UA was granted an Adopt-A-Street location. Our section will range

With no other objections the Board Meeting was adjourned at 6:53pm

Next Board Meeting, Tuesday, October 24, 2023 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 September 26, 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.


