

University Academy Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 28, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.
Mayerberg Hall, University Academy

Present: (6) Mrs. Shirley Bush Helzberg, Secretary
 Mrs. Katie Kwo-Gerson, Board Chairman
 Mr. LeRay Warrior, Board President
 Mr. David Dickey, Treasurer (arrived at 4:16pm)
 Mr. Paul Greenwood
 Dr. J. Camille Hall (via *Zoom*)

Absent: (1) Jeron Ravin

Call to Order and Roll Call

Board Chairman, Mrs. Katie Kwo Gerson called the board meeting officially to order at 4:06 p.m

Enrollment Report

Director of Admissions, Mrs. Cynthia Kivett opened her report confirming the total number of students currently enrolled is 1,081. During the time period of October 24, 2023 through November 15, 2023, there were 6 withdrawals; 3 students transferred to different Charter schools, 2 unknown, and 1 has moved out of district.

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

Items. **Motion:** Paul Greenwood

Second: LeRay Warrior

Vote: 5-0 Unanimous approval: motion carries.

Finance Report

Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Tyler Kemp opened with the month ending for October 2023 reported a \$433,000.00 loss compared to the previous year, a \$44,000.00 gain. Revenues for October are higher by \$226,000.00. Earnings on Deposits are much higher due to higher interest rates. Prop C is also higher this year due to higher funding levels. Expenses are up by \$700,000.00, mostly due to the one time returning teacher stipend which caused the Labor expenses to rise by \$610,000.00. Mr. Kemp went on to request that a motion be put on record to approve the audit after the auditor's presentation.

Operations Report

Chief Operating Officer, Mr. Stacy Graff began his report announcing his department's employee of the month is Mr. Ted Grable. Our ongoing projects are the building's Automation Systems which have been signed off by the UASF. CFO and the faiclites team are scheduled to meet with US Engineering on December 5, 2023 to discuss the installation date. These updates will take place during the winter break. The new system will control our new thermostats and HVAC units. We are also looking to add more Access Points provided through a grant this summer. The entire 1st-12th grades are now 1:1 for

chromebooks. The \$80,000.00 safety grant from DESE has been approved. With this grant we will purchase additional radios, 3 more AEDs, an EPI Pen station, protective window film for all entrance areas, and to update our technology software for cybersecurity. Winter sports and activities are well under way and very active with basketball tournaments, middle school will start their games next week, and wrestling and debate competitions. We're also working with the MLBA who provide grants for communities to help build baseball fields and equipment for schools. It is our hope to receive the \$40,000.00 grant for in field grass, dug outs, bleacher seating, foul poles, a pitching machine for practice, jersey's and equipment.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent, Mrs. Rebecca Gudde started her report sharing the 2015-2019 Stanford CREDO National Study comparing Charter schools to traditional public schools. UA showed approximately 59 days of growth in reading and 89 days of growth in mathematics as compared to other public and charter schools.

University Academy Foundation Report

UAF Executive Director, Mrs. Sonja Shaffer reported middle school held their camp information night (attendance required if applying to program) October 24, 2023. There were 31 families attending, and 2 via Zoom. Ms. Tracy Hull is working with the Cleaver YMCA to provide swimming lessons for camp applicants who don't know yet how to swim. Application deadline is November 29, 2023. Middle School also held a community service day on November 17, 2023 organized by Ms. Hull. Students first part of the day was used to clean the UA Adopt A Street area, and the second part was used to address and stamp birthday cards to send out to all alumni who were celebrating a birthday that month. Study Abroad information night (attendance required if applying to program) was held November 2, 2023. There were 22 families that attended, 4 attended the make up session via Zoom. On November 27, 2023, upper school students held the first ever Study Abroad Open House where the 2023 summer participants gave presentations about their summer travel experiences; where they went and what they did. Families and key donors were in attendance. For the Junior and Senior Seminar, Ms. Maya Tillmon and Ms. Hull, separately attend one senior seminar class each week to assist students with their college applications. Ms. Hull, who manages our Top 15 Scholarship program and mentors these students through college, is meeting weekly with students who are applying to Top 15 colleges or universities. For the summer 2024 Internship program we've had 36 alumni apply and 35 internships with the following companies; Children's Mercy Hospital, Helzberg Diamonds, Commerce Bank, American Century Investments, Lockton, DEMDACO, Essence of Australia, The Kansas City Zoo, and Murrell Homes. The All-Time Program Impact stats show 97% of former interns are either currently enrolled in college or have graduated, and 98% of Summer Internship Program participants who have graduated from college are employed full-time or in grad or trade school. The UAF is working with all alumni to provide career services. The goal is that 75% of college graduates who are not continuing to grad school secure a full-time position within 6 months after graduation. Those who do, are eligible for our new \$250 Start Your Life grant. Numbers show 83% of the December 2022 grads are employed, 56% of May 2023 graduates are currently employed full time in their career of choice, and 5 alumni will be graduating this December, one is already employed. On Nov. 6, 2023, we had 30 seniors help pack care packages for 56 alumni in college who applied to receive a care package. There were over 30 notes from teachers and more than 100 from seniors that were included in the packages. The UAF wants to support UA graduates who choose to not go to college by creating a program offering a cash award for those who enroll in and

graduate from a vocational or trade school program. Also for our college incentive program, we're requiring that all freshmen check in mid semester in order to receive the reward. To date everyone is still enrolled and doing good. Our last Monday Mixer was held November 13th with over 20 people attending. The majority were alumni. The first annual Alumni Awards Banquet will be held December 20, 2023 at Lula's Southern Cookhouse - 1617 Main St. This banquet will highlight alumni accomplishments and offer the opportunity for fellowship and engagement. UAF staff and the Alumni Council are jointly planning the event. The 2024 gala "Fore The Love of UA", will be held April 13, 2024. Honorary Chairs are Mr. and Mrs. David Dickey, Event Chair Mr. Byron White % 2004. Benefactor invitations will be mailed out today.

Old Business - None

New Business -

The 2022-23 Audit, presentation given by Jennifer Schatzer. with KPM. Please refer to your board packet.

Board Chairman, Mrs. Katie Kwo Gerson asked all those in favor of approving the 2022-23 audit as presented, please say I

Oppose: None

Vote: 6-0 Unanimous approval

Special Board Topic

The Gryphon Network

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 5:17 p.m.

Roll Call was taken:

Present:

LeRay Warrior

David Dickey

Camille Hall

Shirley Helzberg

Paul Greenwood

Katie Kwo Gerson

Personnel Issues were discussed.

At 6:00 pm, with no objection, the board moved out of Executive Session and into General Session.

Roll Call was taken:

Present:

LeRay Warrior

David Dickey
Shirley Helzberg
Paul Greenwood
Katie Kwo Gerson

With no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 6:01 pm.

Next Board Meeting, Tuesday, January 23, 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 November 28, 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.
