

University Academy Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 24, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

Mayerberg Hall, University Academy

Present: (4) Mrs. Shirley Bush Helzberg, Secretary
Mrs. Katie Kwo-Gerson, Board Chairman
Mr. David Dickey, Treasurer
Mr. Paul Greenwood

Absent: (3) Mr. LeRay Warrior
Mr. Jarin Ravin
Dr. J. Camille Hall

University Academy Foundation Report

Mrs. Sonja Shaffer, Executive Director of UA Foundation reported that the Study Abroad information night will be held Thursday, November 2, 2023, at 5:15 pm in the UA Forum. On Tuesday November 27th former Study Abroad students will be giving presentations on their personal experiences from previous trips abroad to the UA community at the Study Abroad Open House at 5:30 pm in Mayerberg. The alumni program is in the process of sending out applications for the summer 2024 internship program with the following business partners; Commerce Bank, Children's Mercy, Helzberg Diamond, American Century Investments, Lockton Companies, DEMDACO, Essence of Australia, and The Kansas City Zoo. Maya Tilmon has been conducting campus visits with our first year college students at UMKC, MCC, and Harris Stowe University. Care Packages are being prepped with the help of our seniors, and will go out in the mail November 3, 2023. Monday, November 13th is the next Monday Mixer at Brick House. The first annual Awards banquet will be December 20, 2023. This is an opportunity to highlight alumni as a "mini" gala. Our annual UA Gala will be held Saturday, April 13, 2024. Honorary chair is David and Erica Dickey. Event Chair is Byron White. This year's theme is Golf, and the timeline will be The love of UA. More information about this event will follow.

Operations Report

Chief Operating Officer, Mr. Stacy Graff began his report announcing his department employees of the month - Mr. Brain Klug, and Mr. Jordan Hadjian. The building's graphics and outdoor signage projects have been completed. We'll continue with our environment graphics committee who will provide feedback on the original graphic work throughout the building to help us promote the greatness of KC Leaders of Color, as well as promote the ability of all our students to "Dream Together" as we maintain our One Team, One Dream concept this year. Future projects with the help of the Foundation are; KC Community Garden, a new exit drive, landscaping for improvements, naming of the stadium, Wee-Links golf course, and concrete steps and sidewalks. There has been an increase of permits for outside usage over the past three years, and also in compliments of our campus. Fall sports are wrapping up. Our Middle school debate team is ranked #25 in the world. Bus services have shown continued improvements. We are hoping to save around \$40,000.00 in transportation cost tiering with EMKS and a reduction in bus routes. We're

looking to add two additional vans to assist with our students activities, events, and field trips with the current driver shortage.

Call to Order and Roll Call

Board Chairman, Mrs. Katie Kwo Gerson called the board meeting officially to order at 4:29 p.m

Enrollment Report

Mrs. Kellie Brady opened her report announcing the current number of student enrollment is 1,089. Since the last meeting there were 2 withdrawals; 1 transferred to KCPS, and 1 unknown. The application window for the 2024-2025 school year opens November 11, 2023.

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

Governance Report:

Chief Compliance Officer, Mr. Anthony McDaniel opened his report with the requirement that the Secretary of Missouri requires an annual filing identifying the officers of the board of directors. Pursuant to Missouri statute, a board president and secretary must be identified. Since there's been a change from our last filing, a new board president needs to be elected. In order to fulfill our role with the Missouri Commission and our board policy, the appointed person can be made known and voted on during this meeting to fill the role as board president. Upon looking into our contract and board policy language, there's no need for an election process. We'll need the appointed members name, take a vote, and approval with quorum. Mr. LeRay Warrior has agreed to take on the role as Board President.

Board Chairman, Mrs. Katie Kwo Gerson requested a motion to approve Mr. LeRay Warrior as University Academy Board President.

Motion: Mr. David Dickey

Second: Mrs. Shirley Bush Helzberg

Vote: 4-0 Unanimous approval: motion carries

Finance Report

Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Tyler Kemp started his report with the month ending for September 2023 showing a \$700,000.00 loss. Compared to last year's \$600,000.00 loss. Revenues are higher this year by \$800,000.00, and expenses are also higher this year mainly due to the one-time stipend given to all staff in August 2023, along with purchase services. The audit is wrapping up and we're expecting the auditors to attend the next board meeting via Zoom with their report.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent, Mrs. Rebecca Gudde started her report by sharing the UA school song titled One Team, One Dream, One Voice written by our music teacher Mr. Dennis Upton. She then went on to discuss the

gift card incentive program with help from the UA Foundation that was distributed during the Parent/Teacher Conferences for students who scored high performance in MAP, EOC, and ACT tests. Mrs. Gudde along with the four building principals traveled to Texas for the ASCD (Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development) Conference. The focus was to empower educators to advance and elevate learning in order to meet the needs of all students, distributive leadership, building and sustaining culture. She then went on to cover the board policy review committee and the goal to finalize updates for board approval by June 2024. The Missouri Charter Public School Commission was on campus to perform their site visit with staff, students, parents and our Board of Directors. Fall break is Monday, October 30, and Tuesday, October 31, 2023. Staff professional development day will be Wednesday, November 1, 2023.

K-2

Ms. Danielle Blackstock began her report announcing her employee of the month as Kindergarten teacher, Ms. Shalond Bailey. Ms. Blackstock who attended the ASCD conferences shared her takeaway from the conference as an opportunity to grow and learn while focusing on areas in equity, trauma, and informed practices. This year's book fair organized by Mrs. Barb King and Mrs. Lisa Spellman was a great success. With over \$14,000.00 in books sold, UA lower school was awarded \$7,000.00 towards Scholastic books. Lower school held a K-2 family fun night on September 12th with over 300 guests participating.

3-5

Mrs. Aisha Smith, named 4th grade teacher, Mr. Xavier McFadden as the 3-5 employee of the month. She also shared the 3-5 grade level's vision as 100% growth, along with all students will apply strategies to self regulate, and gain identity awareness with understanding of other cultures outside of their own. Parent-Teacher conferences went smoothly with over 95% of parent participation either in person or via Zoom.

Middle School

Mrs. Levette Amerison, affirmed her employee of the month is middle school teacher, Mrs. Jacqueline Greenlee. Middle school debate is going strong and took 2nd place in their first tournament. They are ranked #1 in the state of Missouri, and #24 in the world. Ms. Gayle Creame with KU Medical Center has teamed up with our students to educate them on the reduction of waste and increased organized efficiency. There were 31% of middle school students who made the Principal's Honor Roll for the 1st quarter. A celebratory assembly was held in their honor along with Honor roll and perfect attendance students. To help our students succeed, we instituted Saturday school, after school tutoring, advisory, and YUP. On September 27th, our 6th grade teachers held PowerSchool University night which is a training to aid parents on how to operate PowerSchool and to keep track of their students progress and grades.

Upper School

Mrs. Lashonette Kemp announced upper school teacher, Ms. Mallory Skinner as their employee of the month. During the week of October 2-9, upper school students took their midterm test. This test is worth 30% of their grade. Our goal is each student to score at least 70% on each test. If a student does not attain the 70% is required to retake the test and the overall grades is averaged. There were 59 students who made Principal's/Honor roll, and 3 that have earned 4.0 grade point average. Upper school counselor Mr. George Jefferson along with the building's Social worker Ms. Amber Hancock has implemented SEL activities for staff and students. These activities allow them to relax, destress, and self

regulate after a long week of testing. The students also took a survey asking how they felt about having SEL days and 56% felt the days were very useful, 22% voted extremely useful, and another 22% felt they were somewhat useful. We've received our Adopt-A-Street sign. Every class, upper school staff, and Ms. Tracy Hull from the UA Foundation took time during an SEL day to clean our street. This was a great opportunity to give back to our community and earn service hours. We held our first monthly Town Hall meeting on October 3rd in Mayerberg. These meetings are planned to help families and the community to better connect and form partnerships. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, November 8th at 5:30 pm. University Academy will be the official testing site for ACT testing on Saturday, October 28, 2023.

Special Board Topic

Mr. Anthony McDaniel presented information about the Missouri Sunshine Law, why it exists, how communication is important, the difference between open/closed meetings, executive sessions and records. It's the public policy of this state that meetings, records, books, action/deliberations and public government bodies be open to the public unless otherwise provided by law. The scope of this law and how it relates to University Academy is, our records and meetings. For the board, it relates to its meetings, is there quorum, has a notice posted for the community to inform of a meeting, and meeting topic(s). Because we are stewards of public tax dollars, there has to be transparency and openness on how funds are being used within the school. He went on to explain internal memos upon board members and emails. During any form of communication amongst board members, whether it be text message, email or any other app. and if there is quorum during the conversation of school business, it could possibly trigger open meeting requirements.

Old Business - None

New Business - Board Meeting Frequency Discussion

Superintendent, Mrs. Rebecca Gudde opened this discussion by proposing to reduce the number of monthly meetings from 9, to 5 meetings a year.

Board Chairman, Mrs. Katie Kwo Gerson made a motion to discuss the topic to adopt the proposed schedule presented by Mrs. Gudde for the remainder of the 2023-24 school year which will act as an exception to the regular meeting schedule. We will revisit the topic in June 2024, to decide of 5 meetings per in

Second: Mr. David Dickey

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Board, Board Chair Mrs. Katie Kwo Gerson moved to adjourn at 5:23 p.m.

Next Board Meeting, Tuesday, November 28, 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 October 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.

Shirley Bush Helzberg

Signature

November 5, 2023

Date