

**University Academy Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, November 19, 2024, 4:00 p.m.**  
Mayerberg Hall, University Academy

Present: (6) Mrs. Shirley Bush Helzberg, Secretary (*arrived @ 4:13 p.m.*)  
Mr. LeRay Warrior, Board President  
Mrs. Katie Kwo-Gerson (*via Zoom*)  
Mr. Paul Greenwood  
Mr. Randy Wisthoff  
Mrs. Laura Threatt

Absent: (2) Mr. Jaron Ravin  
Dr. J. Camille Hall

**Call to Order and Roll Call**

Board President, Mr. LeRay Warrior, called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

**Enrollment Report**

Mrs. Kivett began her report with 1,105 enrolled students and ten withdrawals as of September 23, 2024. We are no longer partnered with the Show Me KC Schools program and its common application. University Academy launched open enrollment on November 12, 2024. We currently have 65 applications for the upcoming school year. Mrs. Kivett presented the new drone video for open enrollment, which can be viewed on the school website.

Board President, Mr. LeRay Warrior, requested a motion to approve Consent Agenda Items.

**Motion:** Mr. Paul Greenwood

**Second:** Mr. Randy Wisthoff

**Vote:** 5-0 Unanimous approval: motion carries.

**Finance Report**

Chief Financial Officer Mr. Tyler Kemp opened with the month-ending statement for October 2024, which shows a \$737,794.00 gain compared to October 2023, a loss of \$433,011.00. This gain is driven by payment per student, \$675,000.00 higher than last year, and the ESSER reimbursement. Labor Expenses have increased this year due to the one-time stipend for returning teachers for 2023 and the one-time payment for health allowance. Purchase Services are higher because of grants that we received. Capital Expenditures are lower this year.

**Operations Report**

Assistant Superintendent Mr. Stacy Graff began his report by announcing that his employee of the month is Mr. Brian Klug, who is in the IT Department. The H.R. transition has been slow due to Mr. McDaniel's unavailability. However, we will continue to work towards a smooth transition. As for the

building's latest projects, the new Exit drive has been completed, and the building's automation systems are nearly finished. The safety and security team are working with the parents on the latest traffic flow. Superior Bowen poured concrete for a new throwing pad next to the field for the track students. We are over our budgeted transportation cost. University Academy's transportation is tiered with Kauffman. If we don't stay tiered with another school, our cost will increase by \$400,000.00 for the 2025-26 school year. We are planning to find other schools interested in partnering with us.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Mrs. Rebecca Gudde opened her report by sharing that Mr. Stacy Graff is her employee of the month. Mrs. Gudde discussed the board goals approved during the September meeting and the survey data results. The Strategic Planning Committee will meet in December with Dr. Robyn Jackson. Mrs. Gudde is asking for the participation of one board member. DESE released the APR results. There were 170 districts' data that were misrepresented. DESE has since asked for additional time to make the correct changes, and it will be made available to the public on November 25, 2024. The KCPS will be putting a \$474,000,000.00 bond on the April ballot. With this ballot, nine charter schools will be participating. However, University Academy will not. This money will be used for building acquisitions, expansions, and renovations.

### **School Reports**

#### **K-2**

Ms. Danielle Blackstock started her report by informing the board that the second round of Benchmark testing will resume after Thanksgiving break. Messages were sent to parents asking for their support in having students log in and complete the practice test during the upcoming school breaks to decrease learning loss. Reports run from PowerSchool have shown that the number of In-School Suspension days is 15 days lower than this time last year. The second-grade teachers wanted an extended learning project, so they chose "Schools Around the World." Students and their families worked together to complete models of the schools they read about. On October 30th, the middle school students and staff hosted a Trick-or-treat event for the K-2 students.

#### **3-5**

Mrs. Aisha Smith announced that 5th grade teacher Ms. Lauren Jones is her employee of the month. With funds from a recent grant, Mrs. Smith and six other teachers attended a PLTW conference in San Diego, California, to learn more about STEM and Engineering. Recent data from the Satchel Pulse survey show that our 3-5 students need more support in stress and impulse control areas. We had 15 girls participate in the Girls On The Run 5k race on November 9, 2024. The 4th-grade students participated in a community service project and partnered with Wayside Waifs to donate 75 cans of spray cheese, and instead raised over 200 cans to donate.

#### **Middle School**

Mrs. Levette Amerison began her report by congratulating the 106 students who made the Honor Roll and the Principal's Honor Roll. Those students were rewarded with a field trip to see the play "The Lot" followed by lunch at Crown Center. Twenty-two students will receive additional reading support through a grant funding the Hoot Reading program. MOCSA held its Green Dot anti-bullying training with our 7th and 8th graders.

#### **Upper School**

Due to Mrs. Lashonette Kemp's absence, please refer to your packet for the upper school report.

### **University Academy Foundation Report**

Mrs. Sonja Shaffer, Executive Director, reported the middle school camp information night was held on October 24, 2024, with 20 families attending. The following program information nights were held for the upper school students and their families: Study Abroad Presentation, October 22, 2024. Twelve students who participated last year came out to share their experiences. Study Abroad Information was held on November 7, 2024, for the thirty-seven students interested in traveling abroad next summer. Ms. Maya Tillmon and Ms. Tamra Gibson traveled to Missouri State University and the University of Arkansas with Mr. Josh Burdette and the seniors for the college fall field trip. The application for our summer Internship program has opened. Forty-six Alumni have applied to the following companies: Children's Mercy Hospital, Helzberg Diamonds, Commerce Bank, American Century Investments, Lockton, DEMDACO, CBIZ, The KC Zoo, City of KCMO, Girl Scouts, Job One, Novella Brandhouse, Preferred Physical Therapy, Thermo Fischer, Thornton Tomasetti, and University Academy. We are currently seeking internships that are health focused. The seniors helped process and pack seventy care packages for our alumni who are in college and have applied to receive one. The second annual Alumni Awards Banquet is scheduled for December 19, 2024, at Lula's Southern Cookhouse, 1617 Main St. KCMO. Board President, Mr. LeRay Warrior, will be there to present awards. The upcoming Gala will be celebrating its 25th year at the next Gala on April 26, 2025. Benefactor invitations will be mailed out on December 3, 2024.

### **Old Business - None**

### **New Business - Audit Presentation by Jennifer Schatzer with KPM CPA's and Advisors**

The Board President, Mr. LeRay Warrior, requested a motion to approve the presented 2023-2024 financial audit.

**Motion:** Mr. Paul Greenwood

**Second:** Mr. Randy Wisthoff

**Vote:** 6-0 Unanimous approval: motion carries.

### **Adjournment**

With no further business before the board, Board President Mr. LeRay Warrior adjourned the meeting at 4:50 p.m. and requested a motion to enter an Executive Session to discuss the Audit and Personnel Matters.

**Motion:** Mr. Randy Wisthoff

**Second:** Mrs. Laura Threatt

**Vote:** 6:0

Roll Call was taken:

Present-

Shirley Bush Helzberg  
Katie Kwo Gerson (via Zoom)  
LeRay Warrior  
Paul Greenwood  
Randy Wisthoff  
Laura Threatt

LeRay Warrior moved with no objection out of Executive Session at 5:30 p.m.  
Open session was closed at 5:32 p.m.

Roll Call was taken:

Present-

Shirley Bush Helzberg  
Katie Kwo Gerson (via Zoom)  
LeRay Warrior  
Paul Greenwood  
Randy Wisthoff  
Laura Threatt

The next board meeting will be on Tuesday, January 28, 2025, 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 24, 2024. The meeting was duly called and held in all aspects in accordance with the laws of the State of Missouri and the school's bylaws, and a quorum was present.*

Signature



Date

