

University Academy Board of Directors 'Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 22, 2021, at 4:00 p.m.

Mayerberg Hall, University Academy

Call in Number: 1-605-313-4819 *Access Code:* 105107#

Present: (7)	Mrs. Katie Kwo Gerson, Board Chairman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present
	Ms. Laura Greenbaum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present
	Mr. Bush Helzberg	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present (<i>via phone</i>)
	Mrs. Shirley Bush Helzberg, Secretary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present (<i>via phone</i>)
	Mr. Jeron Ravin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <i>arrived at 4:15 pm</i>)
	Mrs. Nicole Jacobs-Silvey, Vice-Chairman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present
	Mr. LeRay Warrior	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present (<i>via phone</i>)

Absent: (1) Mr. Barnett C. Helzberg, Jr.

Call to Order and Roll Call

Board Chair, Mrs. Katie Kwo Gerson, welcomed all participants and called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. She also welcomed our newest Board Member, Jeron Ravin, to his first in-person meeting.

Enrollment Report

Superintendent Tony Kline presented the Enrollment Report. Current enrollment stands at 1,1082 with only one withdrawal occurring since the last Board meeting. As for fall enrollment, 90 students (K-12) have selected the Virtual Option. The 90 virtual students are automatically guaranteed a spot for in-person seats should they decide to return/come in the building. The ability to clear the waiting list provided around 120 more new students which, in turn, will provide approximately \$1,000,000 in revenue from the state. Kindergarten enrollment is currently 77 students as all districts have seen a decline in Kindergarten enrollment numbers.

Board Chair, Mrs. Katie Kwo Gerson, requested a motion to accept the Enrollment Report as presented.

Motion: Ms. Laura Greenbaum

Second: Mrs. Nicole Jacobs-Silvey

Vote: 6-0 Unanimous approval; motion carries

Finance Committee Meeting and Financial Reports

Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Tyler Kemp, informed the Board that the new payroll system will start up in July. He also reminded the Board that while the Financial Report shows a significant surplus at this time, next will show a significant deficit and he continues to work to attempt to minimize the deficit that looms.

Tony announced that Robbyn Wahby, Executive Director of the Missouri Charter Public School Commission, informed him that UA will receive a \$100,000 reimbursement for costs of their oversight of UA due to the minimal effort involved.

Board Chair, Mrs. Katie Kwo Gerson, requested a motion to accept the Finance Committee Meeting and Financial Reports as presented.

Motion: Ms. Laura Greenbaum

Vote: 6-0 Unanimous approval; motion carries

Chief Operating Officer Report

Superintendent Tony Kline, standing in for Stacy Graff, directed the Board's attention to his report as shown in the Board Packet, highlighting that the two-air chiller system is being replaced next week; one at a time. Also in progress is the creation of two new playgrounds, resurfacing the bus (south) lot and surrounding parking lots, curbs, and sidewalks. Classrooms will also receive new generation SmartBoards. He also informed the Board staff that typically works in the building during the month of July will work from home due to the numerous construction projects that will be occurring. (Maintenance/Facilities will be working in the building.)

Consent Agenda Items

Board Chair, Mrs. Katie Kwo Gerson requested a motion to approve the consent agenda items; the minutes from the May 25, 2021 Board meeting, the Personnel Report, and the Warrant List.

Motion: Mrs. Nicole Jacobs-Silvey

Second: Mr. Jeron Ravin

Vote: 7-0 Unanimous approval; motion carries

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Tony Kline announced to the Board that they can order "UA swag" and distributed the information to them along with instructions on how to select the items they would like to own! Next in his report was an update on the graduating Class of 2021. The 33 graduating seniors earned \$5.7 million dollars in college/university scholarships. This year's Gala surpassed the goal of raising \$275,000! He expressed his desire to have the UA Foundation sponsor a similar event in the fall for students and their families. He talked about Real World Learning (RWL) briefly and informed the Board that there is a 2-year waiting list for students who are interested in taking coding classes. He has been in contact with 2Sigma, a California based firm in Silicon Valley, that will be able to virtually offer up to four (4) coding classes, including AP level Computer Science courses. Additionally, he shared that approximately 85% of UA students work part-time and that those students will be eligible to earn academic credit for working as long as they meet and follow the requirements for doing so. He then informed the Board that effective August 1, 2021, Sonja Shaffer, currently the Director of Programs and Internal Operations for the UA Foundation, will take over the duties of Foundation Executive Director.

Superintendent Kline concluded his report with a brief discussion of pandemic plans for the upcoming school year, stating that districts, including UA, are waiting on guidelines from the CDC. He asked Board Member, Jeron Ravin, if he had anything to share and he, too, is waiting on CDC guidelines and added that they are keeping a close eye on the variants. Mr. Kline notified the Board that the school does have Rapid-Response Covid-19 testing kits that will also help with asymptomatic students. He added that Kansas City is doing well as it related to Covid-19 numbers being really low some areas in Missouri are not. He thinks that maybe 75 out of 500 students have received the vaccine. Mr. Kline shared that COO, Stacy Graff, is working on an Operations Manual. This manual will drive the information that will appear in the Student-Parent and Employee Handbooks.

Special Board Topic for Discussion

The Superintendent then directed the Board to the Strategic Plan folders that were distributed to each member. Dr. Bill Nicely, who was helpful in the creation of the Strategic Plan as it is now, thanked the Board for their support. He added that the "Go-Stop-Go" strategic plan process is not unusual as that is how many districts are doing just that. As strategic plans create reality in education, the direction should be towards using it as a basis for the work. Applying input of administrators and staff can assist in determining goals and objectives. He feels it's a good process because of backwards methodology and that the Plan is not finished. Dr. Nicely encouraged the Board to make modifications of the Strategic Plan that are extensive but simple, clearly written goals along with steps on how to achieve them. The Strategic Plan will require continuous monitoring. Board Chair, Katie

Kwo Gerson, asked how the “Domains” were selected and she was informed that a multi-step process occurred through the Committee. Jeron Ravin suggested an Executive Summary be included and to also consider the magnitude of the 36+ items in the plan, noting that this is a large list and it may need to be prioritized/pared back to be realistic. The next step is to have a review session with stakeholders including parents, students, administration, alumni and staff. It was noted that DESE requires specific areas for Strategic Plans. The Board Chair requested that the Board members digest the Plan. She added formatting suggestions that could possible assist in how the information is interpreted. After more discussion, Mr. Kline assured the Board that he will “clean up” the verbiage prior to final approval. The Board Chair thanked Dr. Nicely for his assistance with the Strategic Plan. A short discussion occurred on when all responses should be received and it seems as though August is a good time for everyone.

Assistant Superintendent’s Academic Update Report

Assistant Superintendent, Rebecca Gudde, reported that students did great with testing! She indicated only one (1) Middle School student did not complete testing and UA did meet the June 15th deadline. Results should be back around November 8. The last day of Summer School is next week. She added that out of 271 students, a few were able to finish early and were not required to finish the entire Summer School session as they reached their objectives.

Mrs. Gudde then addressed the Board regarding an accreditation extension. For the past 5 years, Cognia (formerly AdvancED) has been UA’s credentialing body and as the accreditation period nears its end, she would like for the Board to decide if they want to continue another 5-year accreditation with them since the Missouri Charter Public School Commission does basically the same thing. Board Chair, Mrs. Katie Kwo Gerson recommended that the Board table this decision until Board Member, Bush Helzberg is able to share his thoughts on it since he has previous knowledge of the process.

Governance Committee Report

Board Chair, Mrs. Katie Kwo Gerson informed the Board that David Dickey, who has served on the Board previously but resigned due to his son working at UA and Board Policy prohibits him staying on the Board. Mr. Dickey’s son has returned to college and she inquired as to his interest in returning to the Board as a member and possibly his position as Treasurer. Mrs. Kwo Gerson added that she reviewed the Board Policies to determine if there was anything in them that would prevent David Dickey from returning to the Board. She did not find anything prohibiting it. She then requested a motion to invite David Dickey back to join the Board as a member.

Motion: Ms. Laura Greenbaum

Second: Mr. Bush Helzberg

Vote: 7-0 Unanimous approval; motion carries

One additional item of business is Superintendent Tony Kline’s evaluation which occurred in November 2020 that needs to be noted in the minutes. During an Executive Session in which the evaluation was discussed, upon returning to Open Session, it was not mentioned what was discussed during the Executive Session. We have since learned that it should have been reported at that time. So perhaps this notation in the minutes will suffice.

Old Business

Board Policy Revision Adoption

Attorney Shellie Guin, Guin Mundorf, LLC, discussed with the Board the updates and revisions that UA Board Policy needed. As she discussed the revisions, she explained the reasoning for each. At the conclusion of Attorney Guin’s presentation, Board Chair, Mrs. Katie Kwo Gerson recommended that we proceed with the process of updating the Board Policies and requested Board approval of the Policies as discussed.

Motion: Ms. Laura Greenbaum

Second: Mrs. Nicole Jacobs-Silvey

Vote: 7-0 Unanimous approval; motion carries

2021-2022 Apple Bus Company Contract Renewal

As discussed during the May 2021 Board Meeting, COO, Stacy Graff, informed the Board that UA was waiting for the contract from Apple Bus. It has now been received and is asking for Board approval of the contract. Board Chair, Mrs. Katie Kwo Gerson, requested a motion to ratify the contract. Board Member, Mr. Jeron Ravin, asked about the RFP process and if it included any MBE/WBE applicant responses and Superintendent Kline stated "Yes."

Motion: Ms. Laura Greenbaum

Second: Mrs. Nicole Jacobs-Silvey

Vote: 7-0 Unanimous approval; motion carries

New Business

Next on the agenda is a Charter Amendment. A Charter Amendment is necessary for any changes to the original charter. As UA plans to offer a Virtual Option for students not comfortable entering the building in continuation of their education, it was felt that those students needed this option. Board Chair, Mrs. Katie Kwo Gerson requested a motion to approve the Charter Amendment.

Motion: Ms. Laura Greenbaum

Second: Mrs. Nicole Jacobs-Silvey

Vote: 7-0 Unanimous approval; motion carries

The Board-approved the 2021-2022 School Year Calendar as it currently reads in May 2021. With the numerous construction projects occurring, Superintendent Tony Kline is requesting authorization to move back the first day of school *if* the projects are not complete by the first day of school, August 17, 2021. Board Chair, Mrs. Katie Kwo Gerson requested a motion to approve moving back the start date for the 2021-2022 School Year, *if necessary*, due to construction.

An additional change to the 2021-2022 calendar is the addition of the newest Federal holiday, Juneteenth Day of Observance on the 19th of June. In 2022, the holiday will be celebrated on Monday, June 20, 2022 as June 19, 2022 falls on a Sunday.

Motion: Ms. Laura Greenbaum

Second: Mrs. Nicole Jacobs-Silvey

Vote: 7-0 Unanimous approval; motion carries

MOU with Kansas City Pre-K Cooperative

Superintendent Tony Kline presented the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with United Inner City Services and UA as its Pre-K classroom for 2021-2022. As in years past, this has been a partnership with UICS and UA to provide additional Pre-K services. Superintendent Kline is requesting approval of the MOU for the 2021-2022 school year. Board Chair, Mrs. Katie Kwo Gerson requested a motion to approve the MOU with UICS for the 2021-2022 school year.

Motion: Ms. Laura Greenbaum

Second: Mrs. Nicole Jacobs-Silvey

Vote: 7-0 Unanimous approval; motion carries

Monthly Board Training: “Missouri Sunshine Law”

Guin Mundorf, LLC Attorney, Shellie Guin, presented today’s training. The actual name of the law is, “Open Meetings and Records Law” with reference to opening up and letting the sunshine in. Ms. Guin distributed a copy of her PowerPoint presentation that covered the information she shared with the Board. She discussed what types of encounters constitute a “Board meeting” and whether or not a quorum was involved. If so, that would be considered a public meeting. She warned them to be careful of violations when gathering and/or discussing “official school business.” She specifically mentioned emails and the responses to such that could possibly pose violations. She highlighted the importance of including closed (Executive) sessions being noted on Agendas.

Board Chair, Mrs. Katie Kwo Gerson, thanked the reps from Guin Mundorf, LLC for their attendance and assisting with Board training.

Board Chair, Mrs. Katie Kwo Gerson thanked Mrs. Nicole Jacobs-Silvey for her 5+ years as a Board member. This was Mrs. Jacobs-Silvey’s last meeting. Superintendent Kline presented her with a plaque of appreciation for her service to the Board and to University Academy. Mrs. Kwo Gerson acknowledged Mrs. Jacobs-Silvey’s work at UA and with students and staff.

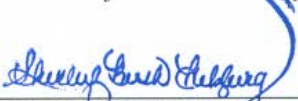
One final item Superintendent Tony Kline brought up was Critical Race Theory. CRT is not currently a part of the school’s curriculum as a general rule but they are considering the topic as it is anticipated that the state will probably have something to say about it. Mr. Kline assured the Board that they are reviewing it.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

Calendar Item: Next Board Meeting, Tuesday, August 24, 2021, 3:00 p.m.

I, Shirley Bush Helzberg, Secretary of University Academy Board of Directors, certify that the above is a true and correct transcript from the minutes of a meeting of the Board of University Academy held at University Academy on June 22, 2021, and that the meeting was duly called and held in all aspects in accordance with the laws of the State of Missouri and bylaws of the company and that a quorum was present.



Shirley Bush Helzberg, Secretary



Date