

**FINAL APPROVED BY UCCS BOARD MAY 9, 2024**

**Minutes**  
**April 11, 2024 Regular Meeting**  
**UChicago Charter School Board of Directors**  
**April 11 at 5:02 p.m.**  
**In-Person**

**Attendees**

Board of Directors Members attending in person: D. Abebe, K. Yee Lee, P. Ziegler

Board of Directors Members absent: D. Gorman-Smith and C. Mitchell

Also in attendance: C. Epstein, Jim Furman, A. Hull, T. Island Childress, U. Mardyla, M. Martini, C. Scott, A. Sergeant, S. Woods

- I. **Welcome:** President’s Opening Remarks. D. Abebe introduced the new Associate Provost for K-12 Jim Furman, who has a multi-faceted background in education. This role had been vacant for several years. We will discuss our significant budget challenge today.
- II. **Minutes:** D. Abebe asked for a motion to approve minutes of February 15, 2024 UCCS Regular Board of Directors Meeting, K.Y. Lee made a motion, P. Ziegler seconded, and all approved.
- III. **Public Participation:** none.
- IV. **Enrollment Report:** T. Island Childress stated that the lottery recently happened, and C. Scott will provide enrollment figures, which are newer than those in the Board Book. C. Scott shared these new numbers:

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|-------------|--|
| <b>UCCS</b> | <b>Enrollment Report SY24 &amp; SY25</b> |
|-------------|--|

| Campus                     | Budget Target<br>(for average enrollment) | 20th Day Count<br>Enrollment | 2nd Count<br>Enrollment | Average<br>Enrollment | Difference from<br>Budget<br>(Avg-Budget) | Current<br>Enrollment<br>(4/11/24) | SY25 Goal<br>(w/o PK) |
|----------------------------|---|------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|---|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| NKO <small>(no PK)</small> | 301                                       | 305                          | 297                     | 301                   | 0   | 293                                | 354                   |
| DON <small>(no PK)</small> | 494                                       | 497                          | 489                     | 493                   | -1  | 485                                | 540                   |
| UCWMS                      | 258                                       | 260                          | 257                     | 258.5                 | 0.5                                       | 256                                | 270                   |
| UCWHS                      | 339                                       | 341                          | 337                     | 339                   | 0   | 332                                | 400                   |
| <b>UCCS</b>                | <b>1392</b>                               | <b>1403</b>                  | <b>1380</b>             | <b>1391.5</b>         | <b>-0.5</b>                               | <b>1368</b>                        | <b>1564</b>           |

CPS averages our enrollment across two dates. Our enrollment average across those two dates exceeded the budgeted amount by 8 students across all campuses, grades K-12.

D. Abebe asked about the decline from the 20-day count to the 2<sup>nd</sup> count enrollment. T. Island Childress responded that 3 high school students left because they were facing possible expulsion. C.

Scott stated that families moving also lowers enrollment. For example, one family who moved had 3 students enrolled in UCCS. T. Island Childress assured the Board that UCCS will over enroll at each campus every year so that we have enough students. C. Scott stated that the lottery occurred March 21 via Zoom, results were produced immediately, and parents received an offer letter by email or text which stated that it would be rescinded in 48 hours if not accepted. She plans to change the lottery date next year because this year it was too close to spring break. K.Y. Lee asked how many students per class in the high school. C. Scott responded 115 max class size. She also stated that we are 40 below enrollment for Kindergarten at DON. D. Abebe inquired as to how many we need to reach 40. S. Woods answered that a lot of new students sign up over the summer and she plans to have her staff put their feet to the ground to bring in students, since that method has worked in the past. Also, the radio ads that C. Scott has placed now and in the past have worked. Per C. Scott, 20 seats were offered in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and 59 to current 5<sup>th</sup> graders. Currently, 155 potential 9<sup>th</sup> graders accepted through GoCPS and 34 current 8<sup>th</sup> graders have submitted their intent to return form.

**V. Campus Report: Donoghue:**

- a. Continuous Improvement Work Plan Status. Per T. Island Childress, DON received a "targeted" rating because of the number of SpecEd students so it had to develop a CIWP. S. Woods referred to the Board Book slides about the CIWP. T. Island Childress stated that we are working to improve our teachers, but our teachers need PD and they have been struggling for the last 4-5 years. S. Woods shared "Milestones" slide focused on SY25 and 26. D. Abebe asked if the milestones were not happening at all? Also, were any teachers implementing the milestones? S. Woods stated that she implemented a new professional development one year ago about small group discussions (some teachers were using small group discussions but others were not). MTSS was good last year but not great so she created a team to set goals. She reviewed the IEP for each student to determine if they had the necessary tools to take tests. K.Y. Lee asked if we still lack staff to support diverse learners and T. Island Childress confirmed that we still need paraprofessionals, just like other schools.
- b. Data Report. A. Sergeant reviewed the DON NWEA to IAR projection slides in the Board Book. K.Y. Lee pointed out that the numbers are low and inquired about a plan for improving. S. Woods stated that her goal is an improvement of 5% every year for reading and math.

**VI. Financial Report:** T. Island Childress has been receiving budget updates from CPS during the last 24 hours. U. Mardyla stated that we should break even despite the lower enrollment, but the lower enrollment will negatively impact this year's budget and next year. A. Hull stated that we have an over \$800,000 surplus for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter but that will have to be adjusted down a bit for DON. D. Abebe suggested having a special BOD meeting before the next regular meeting of June 6 because we will have more budget information before June 6. The University budget will be completed April 26.

**VII. Safety and Security:** Per T. Island Childress, the field is set to be completed by mid-July.

**VIII. Data Dashboard:** A. Sergeant referred to the Board Book slides. T. Island Childress stated that suspensions for offenses at the high school included weapons, drugs, and hospitalizations due to fights. She stated that it is difficult to bring families in to discuss these issues, and many of these students are new. UCCS Code of Conduct closely follows CPS's. D. Abebe inquired how many of the 25 are repeats and T. Island Childress responded none because students cannot be counted twice. D. Abebe asked for more specific information about the 25 (not for the dashboard but just to know the numbers). P. Ziegler asked if the weapons equipment at Woodlawn had caught any

weapons and T. Island Childress stated that the equipment has picked up weapons. However, clear backpacks and clear packs did not help deter issues.

**IX. New Business:** T. Island Childress stated that 4 teachers from NKO, 1 from DON, and 3 from Woodlawn have been accepted into the Golden Apple program to become certified.

**X. Adjourn:** at 6:16.