

FINAL APPROVED BY UCCS BOARD NOVEMBER 9, 2023

Minutes
September 7, 2023 Regular Meeting
UChicago Charter School Board of Directors
September 7 at 5:02 p.m.
In-Person

Attendees

Board of Directors Members attending in person: D. Abebe (presiding), D. Gorman-Smith, T. Island-Childress, M.F. McCourt; P. Ziegler

Board of Directors Members absent: C. Mitchell

Also in attendance: UCCS Staff (A. Anderson, T. Davis, D. Gordon, J. Harth, L. Hill, S. Monson, E. Oros, T. Pajakowski, C. Scott, A. Sergeant) and UEI staff (A. Hull, C. Epstein, U. Mardyla)

- I. Welcome:** President Abebe welcomed the participants and reminded them that the Board will begin meeting 6 times this year, instead of 4 as in the past.
- II. Minutes:** D. Abebe asked for a motion to approve June 15, 2023 UCCS Regular Board of Directors Meeting minutes, M.F. McCourt made a motion, P. Ziegler seconded, and all approved.
- III. Public Participation:** none.
- IV. CEO's Report:**

T. Island-Childress stated that school leaders had a retreat and will share their insights today, after the enrollment report.

- a. Enrollment Report: per T. Pajakowski: we have enrolled 78 students over budget. DON & NKO have made offers for all their seats. MS enrollment closed because grades 6-8 maxed out. HS offering seats from waitlist as space permits. Total currently enrolled = 1433. Budgeted total = 1355. 28/44 returned from NKO. 39/65 returned from DON. 193 no longer enrolled. Applications = 1112. Prek to K: 79% returned for K. 5th to 6th: 61% returned for 6th grade. 8th to 9th grade: 21% returned for 9th grade. We do not know where they go when they do not return. Per T. Island-Childress, since CPS started using GoCPS, parents may not be following through on additional steps necessary to come to UCCS instead of just attending their neighborhood school. Word of mouth per L. Hill: students leave due to sports programs. Continued strategy per C. Scott: early applications available, radio campaign, preview night for prospective families, mailings, and recruitment fairs with campus representatives. Also, University Communications team has been great at assisting us to get the word out.
- b. Campus Reports
 - i. SY23 Academic Data
 - ii. Per Shavaughn Monson, UCW HS Graduation Rate/College Enrollment: 100% of enrolled 12th graders last year graduated, 100% of them were accepted into 1 or more colleges, and 83% of them enrolled in college this fall. Freshman On Track rate: 95%. Sophomore On Track rate: 96%.

- iii. Per Shamilya Woods, SY24 Goals: Big Rocks for DON – 1) Black Belt Teaching (coaching support, proficient classroom walkthroughs, MTSS). 2) Constructive / Aspirational Environment (classroom environment proficiency, Tier 1 expectations for students, Tiers 2 and 3 student growth). 3) Data Driven Culture (data meeting engagement, MTSS documentation, reteach plans based on data).

Per Jennifer Harth, for NKO: 1) Change Management / High Performing Team (proficient data meetings, building leadership team). 2) Data Driven Culture (learner variability in Tier 1, instruction management training, data tracking and course correction, MTSS progress monitoring). 3) Black Belt Teaching (learning goals, professional development in universal design and Tier 2 and 3 best practice, joint between NKO and DON).

Per Dr. Akima Anderson, for MS: 1) High Performing Team (increased ratings on Danielson Evaluation Rubric, bi-weekly accountability and feedback regarding key metrics, monthly tactical meetings to progress monitor the strategic plan). 2) Black Belt Teaching (collaborative planning, student engagement, critical skills map). 3) Data Driven Culture (IAR achievement, progress monitoring, bi-weekly data meetings to progress monitor and course correct).

Per Shavaughn Monson, for HS: 1) High Performing Team (staff attendance, teacher vacancy rate = less than 10%, high fit / high performing staff, proficiency regrading teacher evaluations. 2) Aspirational and Constructive Environment (cultural vision, classroom management training, MTSS, PBIS). 3) Black Belt Teaching and Data Driven Instruction (alignment of core curriculum, professional development, planning and preparation, coaching support).

c. Safety and Security Report

- i. Woodlawn Campus: per D. Gordon, all security team trained this summer on weapons detection equipment. Students and visitors have completely cooperated. Students only allowed to use clear bookbags.
- ii. Wadsworth Impact: per T. Island-Childress, staff, families, and students have shared concerns about their experiences with the Wadsworth residents. For example: young ladies approached by the residents, bathing with water from Woodlawn, and electricity of Woodlawn used by residents. D. Abebe, C. Epstein, and D. Gorman-Smith gave examples of steps being taken to deal with issues with residents such as working with university offices, Alderperson's office, and putting pressure on Mayor's office.

d. Financial Report: FY23 Preliminary Results

Per U. Mardyla, she will discuss changes in FY24 budget at next Board meeting. Saved money this past year because 3 positions at one of the campuses was vacate for the entire year. Per A. Hull, FY23 fed funds did not change from CPS from original budget. Grants just ended in August so we still have money to spend even though fiscal year ended June 30.

e. Data Dashboard per A. Sergeant

- i. Attendance YTD: NKO at 94.9%, DON at 94.2%, MS at 91.7%, HS at 87.4%
- ii. Campus GPA YTD: NKO at 3.0, DON at 3.0, MS at 2.6, HS at 3.2
- iii. Discipline YTD: 2 suspensions at HS
- iv. Sped Compliance YTD: annual IEPs at 95%, evaluations at 95% on time completion, related service minutes at 80% delivered each month. Major increases in caseloads: NKO

had 22 IEPs last year but 35 this year, DON had 28 IEPS last year but 39 this year, UCW had 81 IEPs but 89 this year. SpEd Staff Updates: Social Worker at DON on maternity leave but otherwise all service providers are staffed. DON needs 2 para professionals. MS needs 3 para professionals and 2 SpEd Teachers. HS needs 4 para professionals and 4 SpEd Teachers. NKO is fully staffed.

- V. Executive Session:** D. Gorman-Smith made a motion to switch to a closed Executive Session to consider the appointment of, employment, compensation, performance, discipline, or dismissal of a specific employee of the UChicago Charter School. D. Abebe seconded the motion. All approved. T. Island-Childress shared news about the transition of the new NKO Director and provided details about current issues. D. Abebe reviewed the revised Bylaws. D. Gorman-Smith made a motion to end the closed Executive Session, M.F. McCourt moved, all approved.
- VI. UCCS Board Actions:** Approve Updated Bylaws. M.F. McCourt made a motion to approve the updated bylaws, D. Gorman-Smith seconded, all approved.
- VII. Adjourn:** No other business so adjourned at 6:37.