

Minutes
University of Chicago Charter School Board of Directors
Thursday, August 21, 2025 from 5 – 6:30pm
In Person
Woodlawn Campus, 6300 S University Ave, Room 105

Attendees

Board of Directors Members attending in person: D. Gorman-Smith, K. Kinzler, K. Lee,

Absent Board Members: N. Grover

Also in attendance: A. Sergeant, J. Furman, G. Long, A. Hull, T. Pajakowski, C. Ragin,
Principals in Attendance: D. Benton, D. Gordon, E. Hughes,

- I. **Welcome:** D. Gorman-Smith welcomed everyone and introduced the new Director of UCW Middle School, D. Benton, and the Interim CEO, A. Sergeant.
- II. **Minutes:** D. Gorman-Smith called for a motion to approve the July 17, 2025, minutes of the UCCS Special Board Meeting. K. Yee Lee seconded, and all approved.
- III. **Public Participation:** None.
- IV. **Board Elections:** D. Gorman-Smith deferred board elections until the full board is present.
- V. **CEO Report:** Interim CEO A. Sergeant presented the CEO Report, addressing SY26 key priorities and plans for the first 90 days of school, derived in part from the Benchmarking Report generated last school year. Sergeant shared key achievements and initiatives rolled out to teachers and leadership on Day 1, including MTSS restructuring, and network-wide Instructional Coaching to target school culture and instructional practices, and growth. D. Gorman-Smith discussed ways the board can support the key priorities by coordinating assets around instructional coaching, UEI, and the Neighborhood Schools program.

A. Sergeant presented the key priorities to address the school culture and chronic absenteeism, specifically implementing SEL instruction at UCW for grades 6-12, and restructuring school attendance teams and duties to address chronically absent students.
- VI. **Charter Renewal:** C. Ragin presented the timeline and expectations for UCCS's Charter Renewal. The board discussed opportunities for board and community engagement events throughout the school year, including the State of Schools Presentation in November. The board discussed possible incentives to increase parent and community

engagement, including campus attendance incentives and invitations to CPS board members for school functions.

- VII. Enrollment Report:** G. Long presented the current data for SY26 enrollment. NKO and Donoghue are slightly under enrollment budget targets. K. Kinzler asked what caused the drop in enrollment for SY26. The board discussed a variety of factors, including parent preference for K-8 schools, school fees, and IEP needs. UCW is currently over budget enrollment targets.
- VIII. Finance Report:** A. Hull presented the current financials for UCCS. Although the finalization of SY26 finances is pending, UCCS is projected to meet all financial requirements for the year with a surplus. The annual audit is underway and will be reviewed with board members at the end of October.
- IX. Adjourn:** D. Gorman-Smith adjourned the meeting at 6:24