

Minutes
June 6, 2024 Regular Meeting
UChicago Charter School Board of Directors
June 6 at 5:02 p.m.
In-Person

Attendees

Board of Directors Members attending in person: D. Abebe, K. Yee Lee, C. Mitchell, D. Gorman-Smith

Board of Directors absent: P. Ziegler

Also in attendance: C. Alexander, A. Anderson, T. Island Childress, J. Furman, D. Gordon, A. Hull, T. Pajakowski, A. Sergeant, S. Woods

- I. **Welcome**: President's opening remarks and review of the end-of-year successes. The Board wants to recognize U. Mardyla and C. Epstein for their service to UCCS, though neither are present today. The following declarations of appreciation were presented:

IN RECOGNITION AND PROFOUND APPRECIATION OF DEDICATED SERVICE BY
URSULA MARDYLA TO THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO CHARTER SCHOOL

WHEREAS, Ursula Mardyla has always shown tireless dedication and has worked with integrity to advance the vision and mission of the University of Chicago Charter School;
WHEREAS, Ursula Mardyla will retire from the University of Chicago on June 30, 2024;
WHEREAS, during her tenure, Ursula Mardyla has provided outstanding leadership and guidance to ensure the financial health and sustainability of the University of Chicago Charter School to the benefit of the students, families, and communities we serve;
WHEREAS, Ursula Mardyla served as Chief Financial Officer of the Urban Education Institute for over 16 years, supporting the University of Chicago Charter School with great distinction; and
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the University of Chicago Charter School Board of Directors formally acknowledges and extends its profound gratitude to Ursula Mardyla for her service to the University of Chicago Charter School, for her sound financial oversight, valuable guidance, and all that she has contributed;
FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Directors takes great pleasure in recognizing the significant contributions of Ursula Mardyla, wishes her continued success in her future endeavors, and expresses our hope for her continued health, happiness, and prosperity; and
FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be presented as a token of our gratitude and respect.

IN RECOGNITION AND PROFOUND APPRECIATION OF DEDICATED SERVICE BY
CHARNA EPSTEIN TO THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO CHARTER SCHOOL

WHEREAS, Charna Epstein has always shown tireless dedication and has worked with integrity to advance the vision and mission of the University of Chicago Charter School;
WHEREAS, during her tenure, Charna Epstein has provided outstanding leadership and guidance to ensure the operational and academic success of the University of Chicago Charter School to the benefit of the students, families, and communities we serve;
WHEREAS, Charna Epstein served as Chief Operating Officer of the Urban Education Institute for over 10 years, supporting the University of Chicago Charter School with great distinction; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the University of Chicago Charter School Board of Directors formally acknowledges and extends its profound gratitude to Charna Epstein for her service to the University of Chicago Charter School, her expert leadership, and all that she has contributed;

FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Directors takes great pleasure in recognizing the significant contributions of Charna Epstein, wishes her continued success in her future endeavors, and expresses our hope for her continued health, happiness, and prosperity; and FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be presented as a token of our gratitude and respect.

II. Minutes: D. Abebe asked for a motion to approve the April 11, 2024 minutes for UCCS Regular Board of Directors Meeting, C. Mitchell made a motion, K.Y. Lee seconded, and all approved.

III. Public Participation: None.

IV. CEO's Report: Four network priorities: Data-Driven Culture, Constructive and Aspirational Environment, MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports), and Partnerships.

- a. Enrollment Report: Enrollment average exceeded the budgeted projection across all campuses, grades K-12. As of May 28, UCCS current enrollment is 1366. The Board discussed enrollment projections for the upcoming school year and strategies to reach enrollment goals.
- b. College Graduation Office (CGO) Presentation: Graduation, college application, and college acceptance rates for the 2024 graduating class. 95% of the 2024 senior class graduated. Only 47% of the 117 ninth graders who started in 2020 graduated in 2024. Board identified that those students entered during the pandemic which could have affected the graduation rate, further examination is required. The class scholarship goal was \$20 million, which was exceeded for the 2024 senior class. 95% of the students completed a FAFSA.

Looking at college persistence, UCCS is not currently on par with CPS's average college persistence. Board discussed factors related to student persistence and/or leaving college, including hiring an alumni director. UCCS received a bequest that will be used to support activities of the College Graduation Office and related activities to support student success.

- c. Academic Data & Data Dashboard: Data from both the NWEA (administered internally) and the IAR (state-required) were presented.
 - o Donoghue's Kindergarten math scores are above the norm, 1st grade is at the norm, and while grades 2-5 improved scores still remain below the norm. The same pattern is found for reading. The same pattern is also found at NKO. Board discussed the loss of summer school and the impact on the data.
 - o UCW Middle School: Math scores were slightly below the norm. No new hires for the 24-25 school year.
 - o UCW High School: SAT scores have increased for math and reading
 - o Board reviewed GPA, Attendance, and suspension numbers. UCCS is compliant with IEP + Evaluation submissions.

V. Financial Report: UCCS is on target to meet the budget and may have a small surplus depending on final end-of-year expenses.

- VI.** **Safety and Security Report:** No safety or security concerns arose during any of the end-of-year events.
- VII.** **New Business:** Members will review 25SY Proposed Board Dates.
- VIII.** **Executive Session:** D. Abebe asked for a motion to move to Executive Session, D. Gorman-Smith made a motion, C. Mitchell seconded, and all approved. Began at 6:21. The Closed Executive Session discussed the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline performance, and dismissal of specific employees. Executive Session ended at 6:44pm.
- IX.** **Adjourn** at 6:45pm.