

Minutes
University of Chicago Charter School Corporation Board of Directors
Thursday, January 22, 2026 from 5:00 - 6:30pm
In Person
NKO Campus, 1119 E. 46th Street, Room 302

Attendees

In Person Board Members: D. Gorman-Smith, K. Kinzler, N. Grover, K. Lee

Also in attendance: A. Sergeant, A. Hull, C. Ragin, T. Turks, J. Furman
School Directors: D. Gordon, D. Benton, E. Hughes, S. Woods

- I. **Welcome:** D. Gorman-Smith welcomed everyone, opened the meeting, and shared that a new board member will join in February, pending the University’s finalization. Annual board training is due by the end of the month (January 30th). UCCS schools will be closed tomorrow, in alignment with CPS, due to the extreme cold weather.
- II. **Minutes:** D. Gorman-Smith called for a motion to approve the November 13th, 2025 minutes of the UCCS Regular Board Meeting. K. Kinzler moved, seconded by K. Lee, and all approved.
- III. **Public Participation:** None.
- IV. **Board Elections:** D. Gorman Smith deferred board elections until the new board member is formally added to the board.
- V. **CEO Report:** A. Sergeant opened by sharing a video from UCCS schools highlighting culture and academic incentives and celebrations from semester one. D. Gordon shared academic and cultural highlights for UCW High School, including freshmen “on track” percentage (94%), decreases in school tardies, third-party ACT classes for juniors, and beginning of the year culture camps. K. Kinzler asked how the school is predicting and flagging “not on track” freshmen before the end of semester one. The board discussed the key factors that affect on-track percentages along with the monthly and weekly reports D. Gordon shares with the high school team. Moving forward, UCW High School is focusing on math performance and finding math interventionists.

D. Benton shared academic and cultural highlights for UCW Middle School, including launching the Zearn math curriculum for grades 6-8, and the EYE winter celebration. Moving forward, UCW Middle School is focusing on increasing Tier 1 supports and instruction, and new potential math instructional supports for SY26-27 and summer school.

E. Hughes shared academic and cultural highlights for NKO, including increased attendance during NWEA testing (97.5%), increased overall parent engagement, and student-led STICK assemblies. Moving forward, NKO is focusing on professional development and certification training for its teachers.

S. Woods shared academic and cultural highlights for Donoghue, including increased interim assessment mastery percentages for math, increased attendance rates, and incentive parties to celebrate academic achievement, behavior, and attendance. Moving forward, Donoghue is focusing on increasing MTSS support in math and identifying a writing curriculum. The board discussed the need to incorporate more formal writing instruction across all grade levels. D. Gorman-Smith asked what, if any, impact AI is having on the classroom. The board discussed current expectations around AI usage and possible guidelines for staff and students.

C. Ragin shared an update on charter renewal with an anticipated decision date of February 26th.

VI. Finance Report: A. Hull presented the December actuals, and UCCS is on target for revenue and spending for SY25-26. A. Hull will meet with Directors and OPS managers in February to review the budget for the second semester and begin budget planning for SY26-27. The board noted that UCCS is “exceeding expectations” in all categories based on the CPS Financial Scorecard.

VII. Adjourn: D. Gorman-Smith adjourned the meeting at 6:19pm.