

## **FINAL APPROVED BY UCCS BOARD SEPTEMBER 7, 2023**

### **Minutes** **June 15, 2023 Regular Meeting** **UChicago Charter School Board of Directors** **June 15, 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

Board of Directors Members absent: K. Callow-Wright, P. Ziegler

Also in attendance: UCCS Staff (D. Gordon, L. Hill, S. Monson, T. Pajakowski, C. Scott, A. Sergeant) and UEI staff (U. Mardyla)

- I. **Welcome**: President D. Abebe welcomed participants and reminded them that the Board had last met on May 11, 2023. M.F. McCourt will be coming in and out of the meeting. K. Callow-Wright has been on staff at UChicago for 23 years and he wants to thank her for her service once she arrives.
- II. **Minutes**: D. Abebe made a motion to approve May 11, 2023 UCCS Regular Board of Directors Meeting minutes, T. Island-Childress seconded the motion, approved by all.
- III. **Public Participation**: Cynthia Cobb stated that she was very excited about Woodlawn when she selected it for her daughter but now, she has several concerns. She wants more structure at the school. She said that her daughter has been failing math for the last 6 months, and her perception is that 75% of her daughter's class is failing math. She believes that the male math teacher is on top of his teaching, but a gap still exists. On a day that she arrived at Woodlawn to participate as a parent, she was initially turned down. When she was finally allowed to enter the classroom, she said that she did not see an instructor in 2<sup>nd</sup> period and observed students letting other students onto the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor after the bell rang. She stated that her daughter received over 25 tardies for one class and yet she, the mother, never received a phone call about these tardies. She also said that she heard that a teacher was fired but she does not know the reason. The school must ask themselves why they are not able to keep good instructors? Teachers need accountability.
- IV. **CEO's Report**
  - a. UCW College Graduation Office Presentation: C. Alexander stated that each student has an individualized post-secondary plan and even though the office focuses on college the students who choose not to attend college are also supported. Over half of the 2023 graduating class is staying in-state or attending City Colleges of Chicago. Students are now more vocal about their post-secondary decisions and parents about their ability to pay for college. Every student and family are interviewed at the end of the year about their knowledge of college costs. 2023 Graduation Rates: 97% of 55 seniors are graduating with 3 seniors attending summer school but 2019-2023 cohort only 65% graduation rate (2019 started as freshmen = 80 students but only 52 graduated). College Persistence Rate: 24% of 2020 class persisted for at least 2 years. College Completion Rate: 34% of 2016 completed college degree in 6 years. We offer dual enrollment and dual credit courses. Dual enrollment means student goes to the other school. Dual credit means student stays at UCCS. This year, we only offered 2 dual credit courses and 0 for dual enrollment based on miscommunication with CPS. Next year we will offer 2 dual

credit courses. College Application Rates: all graduating seniors applied to at least 1 college, 88% completed 5 or more applications, 83% completed 10 or more applications. College Acceptance Rates: 1 application led to 1 acceptance, 3 or more applications resulted in 69% accepted, 5 or more applications resulted in 50% accepted, and 10 or more applications resulted in 38% accepted. Most students attending NIU, NYU, Illinois State, Whitman, City Colleges of Chicago, and public universities. Others entering military or workforce. Over \$18.5 million in college scholarships. 7 seniors receiving more than \$1 million in scholarships. Alumni: 55.5% enrolled at 2- or 4-year institution; 86.6% of enrolled alumni matriculated to 4-year college or university; 66.6% of enrolled alumni remained in-state; 26.6% of enrolled alumni went to HBCU. Over 70 students taken to colleges / universities on East Coast for visit. 86% of students completed the FAFSA.

- b. Financial Report: U. Mardyla
  - i. YTD Budgets to Actuals for FY23 presented
  - ii. Board Discussion and Approval: M.F. McCourt made a motion to approve the budget, D. Gorman-Smith seconded the motion, all approved.
  
- c. Enrollment Report: C. Scott stated that we have a projected capacity of 1525 total with NKO at 355; DON at 540; Middle School at 270; and High School at 347. Parents have 72 hours to accept our offer letter and then automatically receive a reminder letter. We are already overenrolled in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. T. Pajakowski stated that last year we enrolled 1328 total including Pre-K and he predicts we will reach 1455 for this coming year. D. Gorman-Smith asked how we can mitigate the usual summer decrease in enrollment and C. Scott responded that we ask parents their reasons for leaving and what we can do to convince them to stay. S. Monson stated that we encourage parents to become involved and show how we can help students academically.
  
- d. UCCS Safety and Security: per T. Island-Childress, 17 staff attended training on Threat Assessment.
  
- e. Data Dashboard: per A. Sergeant –
  - i. Attendance YTD: NKO at 90.9%, DON at 91.5%, UCW MS at 90.9%, UCW HS at 85.9%
  - ii. Campus GPA Average YTD: NKO at 3.2, DON at 3.3, UCW MS at 2.8, UCW HS at 2.8
  - iii. Discipline / Suspensions: NKO had 1, DON had 0, UCW MS had 11, UCW HS had 23
  - iv. Sped Compliance: annual IEPs had 95% on time completion, evaluations same, related service minutes at 80% delivered each month
  
- f. UCCS Board Actions / Approvals: Island-Childress
  - i. Updated Bullying Policy. M.F. McCourt made a motion to accept the policy, D. Gorman-Smith seconded the motion, all approved.
  - ii. SY23-24 Board Meeting Dates. Per UCCS renewal, we need to have 6 meetings instead of 4. D. Gorman-Smith made a motion to approve the dates, M.F. McCourt seconded the motion, all approved.

V. **Executive Session:** D. Gorman-Smith made a motion, McCourt seconded, and all approved to begin the executive session for the purpose of discussing the appointment and employment of a new Director of NKO at UCCS. T. Island-Childress and A. Sergeant discussed the search process; the candidate pool; the strengths of the candidates; the needs at NKO; and her final recommendation for Director at NKO to the Board. The Board considered the information presented and noted the quality of the two final candidates. D. Gorman-Smith made a motion to accept T. Island-Childress's recommendation and hire a new Director of NKO. M.F. McCourt seconded the motion, all

approved. D. Gorman-Smith made a motion to end this executive session and return to open session, seconded by D. Abebe, all approved. Roll call: D. Gorman-Smith, D. Abebe, T. Island Childress, and M.F. McCourt.

**VI. Adjourned:** No other business so adjourned at 6:35.