

**Minutes**  
**November 21, 2024 Regular Meeting**  
**UChicago Charter School Board of Directors**  
**Donoghue Campus 707 E 37th Street at 5:00pm**  
**In-Person**

**Attendees**

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

Also in attendance: T. Island-Childress, A. Sergeant, J. Furman, A. Hull

- I. Welcome:** Interim President D. Gorman-Smith welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.
- II. Minutes:** D. Gorman-Smith made a motion to approve the September 26, 2024 minutes for the UCCS Regular Board Meeting, P. Ziegler seconded, and all approved.
- III. Public Participation:** No public participation.
- IV. Audit Review:** A. Hull, Director of Finance for UCCS presented the results of the FY24 audit. UCCS received an unqualified, unmodified FY24 audit result and met or exceeded all categories on the CPS Financial Scorecard. Audit results will be posted on the UCCS website.
- The first quarter budget is on target, with revenues and expenditures aligning as planned for this period. No significant variances or concerns were reported. Additional Special Education teaching positions are needed, added, and will be reflected in the second quarter finance report, with budget projections continuing to meet the target.
- V. ISBE 2024 Rating:** T. Island-Childress presented ISBE ratings for each campus for the 2023-2024 academic year. All three campuses received a “Commendable” rating.
- The board discussed the limits of ISBE ratings for identifying targeted areas for improvement, particularly related to student academic performance. The discussion focused on possible developmentally appropriate measures that might be used in addition to NWEA benchmarks.
- VI. Charter Renewal:** The application for UCCS charter renewal is due July 2025. UCCS has not yet received information about the process, though expects that there will be

changes from the previous application. The first meeting with CPS to identify deliverables for the application process will occur in April 2025.

The Board discussed the importance of developing a robust strategic plan to both address the goal of increased student academic performance across all campuses and to inform the charter renewal process better. The Board requested that the CEO and the UCCS leadership team engage in two tasks: 1) develop an outline of a strategic plan (describing how the plan would be organized) and a concrete plan for its development (including the people and working groups who would be involved) and 2) recommend 5-10 demographically comparable, similarly situated schools who outperform UCCS and/or are models of innovative practices to use for benchmarking and inspiration. D Gorman-Smith indicated she would send a follow-up communication outlining the charge in more detail. T Island-Childress agreed to send these materials to the Board by December 13 so that the Board could review and provide feedback in advance of its next meeting in January.

The board was reminded that annual Board requirements are upcoming and further information would be sent with due dates in February.

**VII. Adjourn:** D. Gorman-Smith adjourned the meeting at 6:17pm.