Minutes
University of Chicago Charter School Corporation Board of Directors
Thursday, September 17, 2026 from 5:00 – 7:00pm
In Person
NKO Campus, 1119 E 46th Street

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

Also in attendance: A. Sergeant, A. Hull, C. Ragin, G. Long, T. Turks
School Directors: D. Peters, E. Hughes, S. Woods, D. Benton

I. **Welcome:** D. Gorman-Smith welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

II. **Minutes:** D. Gorman-Smith called for a motion to approve the board minutes for June 11th 2026, July 2nd 2026, and July 17th 2026. M. Zepeda moved, seconded by N. Grover, and all approved.

III. **Public Participation:** None.

IV. **Board Elections:** D. Gorman Smith presented the ballot: D. Gorman Smith as Board Chair, K. Kinzler as Vice President, K. Lee as Treasurer, and M. Zepeda as Secretary. D. Gorman-Smith called for a motion to approve the ballot; N. Grover moved, seconded by M. Zepeda, all approved.

V. **Attendance + Truancy Policy Vote:** C. Ragin highlighted the changes and clarifications to the UCCS Attendance and Truancy policy. N. Grover asked about instructional time for students who are tardy to class. D. Peters explained how students make up time if they are tardy for 1st period and the school policy for students who are habitually late, including parent involvement. D. Gorman-Smith called for a motion to approve the updated policy; N. Grover moved, seconded by M. Zepeda, and all approved.

IV. **CEO Report:** A. Sergeant opened by reviewing the SY26 end-of-year priorities, summer planning, and strategic priorities for SY27. In addition to viewing a video highlighting back-to-school celebrations and current staff openings, the board reviewed and discussed SY27 K-9 BOY benchmarking results and the piloted K-1 MTSS early reading intervention programs at Donoghue and NKO. Each campus director presented campus-specific strategic priorities for SY27 aligned to network goals around rigorous Tier 1 instruction and data-driven decision-making. Directors also shared school actions taken within the first 30 days to make progress towards their goals.

D. Gorman-Smith and M. Zepeda asked about UCCS instructional coaching practices and selections. The board discussed instructional coaching priorities and alignment to school and network goals, along with hiring processes. The board also discussed benchmarking data and current intervention programs for UCW High School.

D. Gorman-Smith asked about the use of AI in instructional planning. The board discussed trends, current practices, how UCCS is addressing concerns, and support the University can provide around training.

G. Long presented the current enrollment report for SY27 showing UCCS above budget projection/targets. The board reviewed enrollment at each school along with citywide trends in kindergarten enrollment and the impact of social media on enrollment trends.

V. **CPS Accountability Plan:** C. Ragin presented CPS's new accountability plan, including new ISBE report card ratings, academic metrics, and financial metrics

V. **Finance Report:** A. Hull reviewed the financial changes from CPS, which, upon review, should not affect UCCS's financial rating of Meets/Exceeds. The board reviewed the current draft of the SY27 budget, and the network is on track to meet the CPS metrics and financial health goals. The annual audit results will be presented at the November board meeting.

VI. **Adjourn:** D. Gorman-Smith adjourned the meeting at 6:37pm.