



UTOPIAN
ACADEMY FOR THE ARTS

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April 20, 2017

Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting type: In Person

Attendees: Dr. Aquanette Salter (Interim Board Chair)
Anthony Bryant (CFO)
Joseph Hudson
JoAnn McClinton
Angel Massey
Dr. Artesius Miller (Executive Director)
Candice Jimerson-Johnson (Principal)
Melissa Davis (Director of Operations)
Staff Members: Mr. Berry, Mrs. Craft

Meeting Called to Order (6:02 PM)

Pledge of Allegiance

Led by **Board Chair**.

Approval of Agenda

Motion to amend agenda to include "insertion of comments" and to approve agenda **Anthony Bryant**.

Seconded by **Joseph Hudson**.

Unanimous vote. 5-0

Approval of Minutes

Motion to accept the March 9, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes by **Anthony Bryant as presented**. Seconded by **JoAnn McClinton**.

Unanimous vote. 5-0

Motion to accept the March 23, 2017 Work Session by **Anthony Bryant**. Seconded by **JoAnn McClinton**.
Amendment to include comments for volunteering and day to day operations; before care by Angel Massey in March work session minutes. "Where is it stated that board members cannot volunteer for before care at Utopian?"

Unanimous vote. 5-0

Motion to accept the March 28, 2017 Special Call Minutes by **Anthony Bryant**. Seconded by **Aquanette Salter**

Comments from Angel Massey: "Would like to say that her involvement in before care has made an impact on students that have been served. Because we are a title one school, why are we charging students to attend? Enjoys being around students every morning. Has a problem that board members cannot be involved in daily operations of school, because board is responsible for school."

Comment from Dr. Aquanette Salter: Dr. Salter suggested that the idea be presented in work session for further discussion. The board has to be very clear on role as board members, and has suggested that a consultant be brought to Utopian governance board to provide more clarity.



Comments will be tabled for later discussion in board meeting.

Unanimous vote. 3-0

Abstention: Angel Massey and Joseph Hudson

Action Agenda

FY 18

Motion to approve FY 18 budget, which was presented at \$2, 532,369.42, by *Anthony Bryant* and seconded by *Joseph Hudson*

Unanimous vote. 5-0

FY 18 Employee Contracts

Motion to approve a total of 23 employee contracts with signature authority, by *Anthony Bryant* and seconded by *Joseph Hudson*

Unanimous vote. 5-0

Alternative SY 17 Calendar

Motion to approve the alternative SY17 calendar by *Angel Massey* and seconded by *JoAnn McClinton*

Unanimous vote. 5-0

2015-16 Comprehensive Performance Framework

Director Miller shared with the board highlights from the operational and financial standards of the Comprehensive Performance Framework. Improvements have been made in each area, however, Utopian did not meet such standards. Principal Jimerson-Johnson presented a data chart that highlighted a comparison of Utopian against Clayton County Public Schools. A further examination of how the data is interpreted and analyzed by the SCSC was provided. Additional documents shared with board members included, "Georgia Milestones End-of-Grade Performance Targets", "2016 College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI)". Board members Massey, Salter, and Hudson asked questions to Principal Jimerson-Johnson.

Financial Report

Presented by CFO Anthony Bryant:

- Accounts have been reconciled, no discrepancies
- Item to be paid in full by June 30, 2017; credit card

Motion to accept the financial report as information by *Anthony Bryant*. Seconded by *Angel Massey*.

Unanimous vote. 5-0

Executive Director's Report

Dr. Miller shared with board members and meeting stakeholders updates in various categorical areas:

- Enrollment: current school year and 2017-18 update
- Partnerships and programing: Steve & Marjorie Harvey Foundation, The Steve Harvey Talk Show, GCSA, Clayton County Chamber of Commerce
- Fundraising/Development
 - Arts Education Grant
 - Campaign Pledges
- Misc./Meetings
 - Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education
- GA DOE/SCSC: CPI reporting, student class, federal monitoring visit, CCRPI post data collection



- State Charter Schools Commission: SCSC important dates

Motion to accept the Executive Director Report by *Anthony Bryant*. Seconded by *JoAnn McClinton*
Unanimous vote. 5-0

Public Comments

1. Parent: How do you go about picking your staff, principal? What are the qualifications of teachers?
2. Parent: Utopian has been amazing, student has been at school since sixth grade. From staff to administrators, daughter has excelled, helped student grow socially and artistically. Very grateful, standards are very high.

Executive Session

Motion to enter executive session by *Anthony Bryant* and seconded by *Joseph Hudson* to discuss legal matters.

Recommendation from Executive Session

Recommendation to accept Bambo Soniake as the auditor for Utopian Academy by *Anthony Bryant*, seconded by *Angel Massey*.

Unanimous vote 3-0

Absent: Joseph Hudson, JoAnn McClinton

Adjournment (8:47pm)

Anthony Bryant motioned for the board meeting to be adjourned. Seconded by *Angel Massey*.