



**UTOPIAN**  
ACADEMY FOR THE ARTS

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www.utopianacademy.com

### **August 2014 Board Meeting Minutes**

Meeting type: In Person

Attendees: Sharon Daniel (Board Chairwoman)  
Michael Oby (Board Vice Chair)  
Terance Madden  
Artesius Miller (Executive Director)  
Jai Gilyard  
Anthony Bryant (Board Treasurer)

#### **Meeting Called to Order**

#### **Approval of Agenda**

Motion to accept agenda by Michael Oby. Seconded by Jai Gilyard.

#### **Pledge of Allegiance**

Led by Utopian Academy for the Arts students present at meeting

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Motion by Michael Oby to table the approval of minutes until September board meeting. Seconded by Jai Gilyard.

#### **Financial Report**

Motion by Anthony Bryant to accept the financial report for the month of July. Seconded by Michael Oby.

#### **Public Comments**

Prior to hearing from the public, Michael Oby asked Utopian board members to introduce themselves including their name, professional backgrounds, and years served on the board. The following members from the public, also Utopian parents spoke: Beth Antoine, Jeanette Betts, and Saydi Diallo.

#### **New Business/Announcements**

##### Fundraising/Philanthropy:

Sharon Daniel suggested the following as possible fundraisers and/or alternative sources of revenue for Utopian Academy: Boxtops for Education, Tyson Foods, Kroger's Loyalty Card Savings. Artesius Miller recommended the use of media support to leverage communication with local and national philanthropic groups. Additionally, Miller suggested that elements of the school's educational program be incorporated to help with fundraising events: ie. Arts-related performances, etc. Terance Madden offered his law firm as a venue for a future fundraiser.

##### Making Utopian Truly Unique:



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Various board members suggested innovative ways to make Utopian’s educational program “dynamic”. Suggestions included: dual enrollment (for high school) and given Gov. Nathan Deal’s desire to have students “industry certified” and/or eligible to receive credits for college courses; broadcast/video production course to feature newscasts online; banner ads and sponsorships from frequent traffic drawn to our website. Other suggestions included recommendations for communication between the school and parents (ie. Text messages, social media, and mini postcards to go home to families that withdrew).

**Executive Session**

**Adjournment**

Jai Gilyard motioned for the board meeting to be adjourned. Seconded by Vice Chair Michael Oby.