



UTOPIAN
ACADEMY FOR THE ARTS

6630 Camp Street
Riverdale, GA 30274
770-892-1644

www.utopianacademy.com

February 9, 2017

Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting type: In Person

Attendees: Sharon Daniel (Board Chairwoman)
Joseph Hudson
JoAnn McClinton
Dr. Artesius Miller (Executive Director)
Candice Jimerson-Johnson (Principal)
Melissa Davis (Director of Operations *via telephone*)
Angel Massey

Meeting Called to Order (6:08 PM)

Pledge of Allegiance

Led by *Board Chair*.

Approval

Motion to move "Action Agenda" before the approval of agenda.

Motion to agenda agenda by *JoAnn McClinton*.

Seconded by *Joseph Hudson*.

Unanimous vote: 3-0

Motion to Accept New Board Member

Motion to accept new board member by *JoAnn McClinton*.

Seconded by *Joseph Hudson*.

Unanimous vote: 3-0

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve agenda *Joseph Hudson*.

Seconded by *JoAnn McClinton*.

Unanimous vote. 4-0

Approval of Minutes

Motion to accept the January 12, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes by *Joseph Hudson*. Seconded by *Angel Massey*.

Unanimous vote. 4-0

Motion to accept the January 24, 2017 Special Call Minutes by *Joseph Hudson*. Seconded by *JoAnn McClinton*.

Unanimous vote. 4-0

Hudson: Noted that Anthony Bryant and Gavin McGuire were not in attendance. Minutes to reflect.

Board Chair Report

Highlights from the report included the February 2017 SCSC Governance Training



- Topics included: academics, finance, operations, veteran vs. new board members
- Working on building relationships with local entities within the county

Motion to accept the Chair's Report by *JoAnn McClinton*. Seconded by *Joseph Hudson*.
Unanimous vote. 4-0

Financial Report

Director of Operations led the financial report on behalf of Board CFO.

- Activity statement is live and up to date for general operating account, along with statements for all financial accounts
- Charter Asset Management: All receivables have been paid to date. Request from final closure statement: total paid from the last three years will be soon made available.
- Hudson: Are you saying the last P&L available are from last month? Financial report was extensive, does it have to include printed in all future reports?

Motion to accept the financial report as information by *Joseph Hudson*. Seconded by *Angel Massey*.
Unanimous vote. 4-0

Academic Report

Principal Jimerson-Johnson shared with board and meeting attendees Utopian's academic progress:

- MAP Assessment Academic Goals: 7th grade will increase their ELA scores 3.7 pts, 6th grade will increase their scores by 4.8 pts. Goals: 7th grade will increase their Math scores 6 pts, 6th grade will increase their scores by 7.7 pts.
- Data was also presented to cover progress in each core content area for each 9 week grading period, along with first semester failure report (retention conversations will soon begin, Saturday School/after-school tutoring has been strongly encouraged).
- Technology Use Survey: dashboard presented to include a summary of Microsoft 365 apps used by teachers. Although not presented in dashboard, principal Johnson will seek to find out what programs are in place. Technology has been a deterrent.
- Proposed Master Schedule Change: proposal was submitted on behalf of Ms. Thomas (music) for schoolwide change starting in the 2017-18 school year.
- Hudson: It wouldn't be fair to assume monumental jumps, what would be fair to see as a progress goal? Do we incentive for parents to encourage their attendance in Saturday School and afterschool tutoring?
- Daniel: It is my hope that we will see progress from "do not use" to more use of the applications available through Microsoft.

Motion to accept the Academic Report by *JoAnn McClinton*. Seconded by *Angel Massey*.
Unanimous vote. 4-0

Executive Director's Report

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

- Enrollment
- Partnerships and programing: Southern Crescent Technical College (educational program, move-on-when ready, TCSS grant)
- Trainings, conferences: SCSC governance board training
- Misc. Meetings:
 - Education Town Hall
 - Visits by award-winning stage directors and television/radio personalities
 - Clayton County Chamber meeting
 - 2017 National School Choice Rally



- Charter School Growth Fund
- Human Resources: Department of Labor hearing
- Federal Programs: letter of interest in the consolidation of funds pilot
- State Charter Schools Commission: new application process, high school planning meeting

Motion to accept the Academic Report by **Joseph Hudson**. Seconded by **JoAnn McClinton**.
Unanimous vote. 4-0

Strategic Plan Update

Mr. Hudson shared with board and stakeholders goals for the remainder of the school year, along with five year goals.

- Parental engagement
- Pay-step increase
- Permanent facility

Review of Policies for Work Session (including but not limited to):

- Student Code of Conduct
- Financial Policy
- Promotion and Retention Policy Proposal

Motion to accept recommendation from the facilities committee by **Joseph Hudson**
Seconded by **JoAnn McClinton**
Unanimous vote, 4-0

Announcements

- Junior Achievement Programming
- Brandi Harvey: February 10, 2017
- Hidden Figures Field Trip: February 14-16, 2017
- Final basketball game: February 16, 2017
- Muffins with Moms: February 14, 2017
- Clayton County Board of Education Visits: Facility Procurement
- Black History Dinner Theatre production: February 24, 2017

Public Comment

- Danielle Reed: Grateful for the work that is being done at Utopian Academy. Interested in making a presentation about National Sustainable Energy Group.
- Melvin Godfrey: Academic expectations of local high schools within Clayton County.
- LaKenya Godfrey: Communication internally and externally for local constituents

Executive Session

Topic to be discussed, land acquisition.

Motion by **Joseph Hudson** to enter executive session to discuss land acquisition, Seconded by **JoAnn McClinton**

Unanimous vote, 4-0

Motion by **Joseph Hudson** to recommend to full board to sign the letter of commitment from American Charter Development to be our agent with a cap rate of no more than 8.95%, and a budget not to exceed \$2,000,000. Seconded by **JoAnn McClinton**.

Unanimous vote, 4-0



UTOPIAN
ACADEMY FOR THE ARTS

Motion to end executive session by *JoAnn McClinton* and seconded by *Angel Massey*.

Motion by *Joseph Hudson* to accept the recommendation from executive session to accept American Charter Development as our agent and financier by signing the letter of commitment that includes a cap rate of no more than 8.95%, and a budget not to exceed \$2,000,000. Seconded by *JoAnn McClinton*
Unanimous vote, 4-0

Adjournment (8:08pm)

Angel Massey motioned for the board meeting to be adjourned. Seconded by *JoAnn McClinton*.

DRAFT