



UTOPIAN
ACADEMY FOR THE ARTS

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

www.utopianacademy.com

March 9, 2017

Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting type: In Person

Attendees: Sharon Daniel (Board Chairwoman)
Anthony Bryant (CFO)
Joseph Hudson
JoAnn McClinton
Angel Massey
Dr. Aquanette Salter
Gavin McGuire
Dr. Artesius Miller (Executive Director)
Candice Jimerson-Johnson (Principal)
Melissa Davis (Director of Operations)

Meeting Called to Order (6:02 PM)

Pledge of Allegiance

Led by *Board Chair*.

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve agenda *JoAnn McClinton*.

Seconded by *Anthony Bryant*.

Unanimous vote. 6-0

Motion to Accept New Board Member

Motion to accept new board member (Dr. Aquanette Salter) by *JoAnn McClinton*.

Seconded by *Angel Massey*.

Unanimous vote: 6-0

Approval of Minutes

Motion to accept the February 9, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes by *Joseph Hudson as presented*.

Seconded by *Anthony Bryant*.

Unanimous vote. 7-0

Motion to accept the February 20, 2017 Special Call Minutes by *JoAnn McClinton*. Seconded by *Joseph Hudson*.

Unanimous vote. 7-0

Motion to accept the February 23, 2017 Special Call Minutes by *Joseph Hudson*. Seconded by *Angel Massey*.

Unanimous vote. 7-0



Board Chair Report

Highlights from the report included:

- Upcoming Partners in Education Day (May 18, 2017)
- UAFA Day-Commemorates Utopian's authorization (October 30, annually)
- 6630 Camp Street property: progressions have been made, negotiations have continued
- Distribution of sample calendar of cyclical board decisions: template provided by Georgia Charter Schools Association (to be discussed at greater length at work session)
- SCSC Report Reporting deadlines
- Committees to be revised: academic and finance
- Officers to be filled: vice chair and secretary
- Recommendation from Anthony Bryant to get a recording secretary outsourced
- Work Session will be March 23, 2017

Motion to accept the Chair's Report by **Joseph Hudson** with necessary changes. Seconded by **Angel Massey**.

Unanimous vote. 7-0

Financial Report

Financial report presented on behalf of Board CFO.

- Balance sheet, as a of February 28, 2017 (*monthly snapshot*)
- Unrestricted net assets line has reduced significantly as a result of closing debts with Charter Asset Management
- Profit & Loss: snapshot of cumulative expenses (July 1, 2016-March 1,2017). Donations line is requested to be higher. (To be named "Statement of Activities" in later reports).
- Budget: projected budget for FY18
- Biggest line item adjustment is facilities
- According to state charter school laws, Utopian will be required to hold two meetings for public discussion regarding the FY18 budget.

Motion to accept the financial report as information by **JoAnn McClinton**. Seconded by **Gavin McGuire**.

Unanimous vote. 7-0

Academic Report

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

- Clayton County Public Library partnership: library card drive has begun as a competition within ELA department. Incentives will be sponsored by PTA/PTO
- Technology Day: Utopian tested its IT network infrastructure for bandwidth capacity, in preparation of Milestones Assessment and general use
- Junior Achievement: curriculum implementation
- Milestones Prep Night: March 27th
- Practice Milestones: March 27-31st
- Term Three Pass Rates: data is pending because teachers are still inputting grades. Dr. Salter requested to have data that shows where the strengths lie, where are the domains, etc.
- Second Step Grant: nationwide program that supports philanthropic support toward schoolwide curriculums for behavioral programs

Motion to accept the Academic Report by **Joseph Hudson**. Seconded by **Angel Massey**.

Unanimous vote. 7-0

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: Atlanta Metro Studios, The Pahara Institute, Odyssey Charter School, Georgia Department of Economic Development
- Trainings, conferences: GCSA Conference
- Fundraising/Development
 - NexAtlanta
 - Campaign pledge
 - City of Riverdale donation
- Misc./Meetings
 - Second Step Program
 - Inside the Actor's Studio: Terry Vaughn
 - Summer building hours
- GA DOE/SCSC: CPI reporting, upcoming federal monitoring visit
- State Charter Schools Commission: SCSC important dates

Motion to accept the Academic Report by **Gavin McGuire**. Seconded by **Anthony Bryant**.

Unanimous vote. 7-0

Board Meeting Date

Motion to move the board meeting to the third Thursday of each month, and first Tuesday of each month for board work session by **Angel Massey**. Seconded by **Gavin McGuire**.

Unanimous vote. 6-0

Abstention: 1(Joseph Hudson)

Strategic Plan Update

Mr. Hudson shared with board and stakeholders:

- Next year's plan including a retreat for the board to update the plan and decide how we're going to work to implement the plan

Review of Policies for Work Session (*Resolution for board to approve the following policies*):

- Promotion and Retention
- Compensation Review
- Disaster Recovery Plan
- Emergency Response
- Fraud
- Gift Acceptance
- Outside Income
- Public Disclosure
- Wireless Device
- Checklist for Succession Planning
- Second Step Grant

Motion to accept recommendation for the resolution of the aforementioned and to be placed in binders by the board by **Anthony Bryant**. Seconded by **Angel Massey**

Unanimous vote. 7-0

Announcements

Various upcoming events were shared by PTA/PTO President, Mrs. Deetra Poindexter



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Public Comment

- Leslie Lawrence: smaller classroom sizes and curriculum
- Julie Pizzaro: has maintained a positive experience at Utopian, met someone that will support the development of a schoolwide garden project, recent experience at the capitol to support the passage of HB 430, along with financial support toward Utopian Academy
- Xavier Poindexter: concern regarding grade

Executive Session

No topics were necessary to discuss in executive session.

Adjournment (8:42pm)

Joseph Hudson motioned for the board meeting to be adjourned. Seconded by *Angel Massey*.

DRAFT