
Minutes
Feb. 25, 2021 Regular Meeting
UChicago Charter School Board of Directors

Feb. 25, 2021, 5:02 to 6:24 p.m.
The University of Chicago Charter School

Via ZOOM

Attendees

Board of Directors Members in attendance: D. Abebe (presiding); D. Gorman-Smith; T. Island Childress; S. Vasquez; I. Samstein, P. Ziegler

Board of Directors Members absent: K. Callow-Wright

Also in attendance were numerous UCCS Staff, UEI staff and Charter School parents.

I. Welcome and Purpose of the Meeting

President Abebe called the meeting to order on the Zoom platform at 5:01 p.m. He thanked everyone for attending. He gratefully acknowledged CEO Island Childress' leadership through the continuation of remote learning at UCCS due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

III. Public Comment (5:05 p.m.)

President Abebe called for any members of the public who wished to comment. Ms. Boursin addressed the needs of students at UCCS. Ms. Walters spoke briefly about 5th grade activities at NKO.

IV. Minutes (5:09 p.m.)

Vice President Dean Gorman-Smith made a Motion to approve both the Minutes of the Dec. 3, 2020 Regular Meeting and the Jan. 29, 2021 Special Meeting which had been included in the Feb. 25, 2021 Board Book. Secretary Vasquez seconded the motion, and on a voice vote, both sets of Minutes were unanimously approved.

IV. Presentation UCCS Social Emotional Supports for Students (5:10 p.m.)

CEO Island Childress began her CEO report by introducing Ms. Cushing, Social Worker at the University of Chicago Charter School High School on the Woodlawn Campus. Ms. Cushing, at the direction of the CEO, had worked with the other UCCS social workers at each campus to prepare an overview of the social work services provided to UCCS students during remote learning throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as in pre-pandemic in-person schooling. The presentation offered by Ms. Cushing and her colleagues is attached as Exhibit A. The members of the Board participated in an engaged discussion with Ms. Cushing regarding the data surrounding social emotional needs and services. Future plans for continuing to grow UCCS' social emotional services were also discussed.

V. CEO's Plan for Phase I Return to In-Person Learning (6:03 p.m.)

The CEO outlined for the Board of Directors' UCCS plan to begin a gradual return to in-person learning at UCCS beginning on March 1, 2021. She highlighted that the students most in need, reflected in IEPs, attendance and grade point data would be invited to come back first in "Phase I." No student would be required to attend in person: remote learning options would continue to be available for Phase I, and looking forward, to Phase II. The CEO shared the parent survey data regarding those who chose to return in person, and those who chose to remain remote. This data is attached as Exhibit B, the CEO's Phase I Power Point, also attached in the February 25 Board Book.

The CEO also asked the HR Director to review the process for reasonable accommodations which were made by UCCS staff, given that all UCCS staff in grades Pre-K to 8 were requested to return in person on March 1. The HR Director noted that approximately 10% of UCCS total staff of 180 persons, requested the accommodation to teach remotely due either to their health, a family member's health, or in a few cases childcare concerns. The HR Director also briefly reviewed COVID-19 protocols in place at UCCS campuses, as these were important to reassuring families and staff about a return to in-person learning.

The CEO briefly shared that internal planning for Phase II had already begun, and would include inviting more students back to in-person learning after Spring Break, in early April, 2021.

VI. Quarterly Budget Report on FY21 & Forecast for FY22 (6:08)

The President of the Board asked CFO Mardyla to present the FY21 Quarterly Budget Report, and a forecast for FY22. The CFO did so, with COO Epstein, and the Board discussed the challenges of the next year's budget, potential sources of revenue from the federal government, and related matters. The FY21 Budget Report is attached as Exhibit C, and was also included in the February 25, 2021 Board Book.

VIII. Adjournment.

The President asked if there was any new business, and hearing none, called for a motion to adjourn. On a unanimous voice vote, all six members of the Board who were present voted to adjourn the meeting at 6:24 p.m.

FINAL APPROVED Minutes of Feb. 25, 2021 Meeting
APPROVED 20 MAY 2021.