

**FINAL APPROVED MAY 19, 2022**

**Minutes**

**May 13, 2022 Special Meeting**

**UChicago Charter School Board of Directors**

May 13, 2022, at 4:03 p.m.

At Chapin Hall, Room 119, 1313 East 60<sup>th</sup> Street, Chicago, IL 60637

And Via Two Zoom Links for Public and Executive Sessions

**Attendees**

Board of Directors Members attending in person: Vice-President Dean Gorman-Smith, P. Ziegler, K. Callow-Wright.

Board of Directors Members attending via zoom: President D. Abebe (presiding); S. Vasquez

Board of Directors Members absent: Ivan Samstein, Tanika Island-Childress

Also in attendance in person: Outside Counsel N. Bazer and UCCS Staff J. Nowaczewski.

**President's Opening Remarks (4:03 p.m.)**

President Abebe welcomed everyone to the meeting. He asked for a roll call vote to be taken for attendance. By roll call, Members Gorman-Smith, Ziegler and Callow-Wright identified themselves as being present in person and Members Vasquez and Abebe identified themselves as present via zoom. Counsel Nicki Bazer, of Franczek, P.C. identified herself for the record, as did staff member J. Nowaczewski, both of whom were present in person.

The President made a finding that given the rising rates of COVID-19 in the City of Chicago, causing the City to designate COVID-19 risks as “medium,” and given that persons in the school and on the Board had contracted COVID recently, it was found to be prudent to hold the Special Meeting of May 13 in a hybrid fashion, with some Board Members present in person and others present by zoom.

**Public Participation**

The Agenda for the Special Meeting of the Board of Directors noting the meeting was in person at Chapin Hall, and also available via zoom had been published on the UChicago Charter’s website, at Chapin Hall, at UCCS’ campuses and by email to the parent of the student. However, no member of the public came forward to speak during the Public Participation section of the meeting, either in person at Chapin Hall or via zoom.

**Executive Session (4:08 p.m.)**

At approximately 4:08 p.m., Board Vice President Dean Gorman-Smith moved to enter executive session to discuss a student disciplinary matter as allowed by the Open Meetings Act exceptions clause, and Ms. Callow-Wright seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, the Board voted Ziegler, aye; Vasquez, aye; Abebe, aye; Gorman-Smith, aye and Callow-Wright, aye, thus unanimously agreeing to enter into Executive Session.

The Board closed the public zoom for the public meeting. The Board entered the private zoom link for the Executive Session at 4:15 p.m. Counsel Bazer remained in Executive Session in person, and staff Nowaczewski left the Meeting Room for the Executive Session.

**Return to Open Session**

At approximately 5:21 p.m. the Board returned to Open Session. The Board re-opened the public zoom link. President Abebe asked if any Board Member wished to make a motion regarding a disciplinary action.

**Action Item (5:23 p.m.)**

Member Ms. Callow-Wright made a motion that the Board accept the recommendation of the UCCS administration to expel Student ID # 15829 for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year, and all of the 2022-2023 School Year, until June 30, 2023. Vice President Gorman-Smith seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, Board Members voted as follows: P. Ziegler, aye; S. Vasquez, aye; D. Abebe, aye; K. Callow-Wright, aye; D. Gorman-Smith, aye. The motion carried unanimously with all 5 members present voting in favor of the request to expel.

President Abebe noted that a written expulsion report would be provided indicating that this expulsion is in the best interest of the UChicago Charter School, pursuant to Senate Bill 100. Counsel advised staff to promptly inform the parent of the student that the Board had voted in favor of the expulsion, and staff agreed to do so.

The Board Members extended their appreciation to Counsel Bazer for her assistance to the Board in executive session.

**New Business & Adjournment (5:29 p.m.)**

President Abebe asked for any new business, but hearing none, asked for a motion for adjournment. On a voice vote of acclimation, the Board adjourned the Special Meeting of May 13, 2022, at 5:30 p.m.

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