



UCCS Board Meeting Minutes

December 11, 2023

14613 Steele Creek Road, Charlotte, NC 28273

CALL TO ORDER – **S. Walker** called the meeting to order at 5:10pm. The next UCCS Board Meeting is Monday, January 22, 2024

1. **ESTABLISH QUORUM** – There were sufficient members for a quorum
 - a. Members Present: **L. Rakvic , S. Walker, M. McCarthy, J. Young, D. Goldfarb, T. Wiggins & B. Butler**
 - b. Administration Present: **S. Reddick, A. Abraham, A. Hamp**
 - c. Minutes taken by: **C. Brown**
2. **MISSION STATEMENT** - Through classical education’s rigor, Unity Classical Charter School will develop intellectually, morally and physically excellent citizens who embrace learning and the desire to serve.
3. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – **L. Rakvic** motioned to approve the revised December 11, 2023 agenda. **M. McCarthy** seconded. December 11, 2023 Agenda Approved.
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – **M. McCarthy** motioned to approve the minutes from November 2023. **J. Young** seconded. November 2023 Board Minutes approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - none

REPORTS/ACTION ITEMS

PTC PRESIDENT REPORT - **D. Williams**

The PTC has kicked off the 2023 Snow Scholar Fundraiser. It is one of the biggest fundraisers of the school year.

So far, \$8,031.50 has been raised. The scholars are very excited!

Upcoming events:

- Parents night Out =- Jan. 19th, location TBD (this is a fundraiser for the school)
- PTC monthly meeting, the first Thursday of the month at 5pm in Rm 334. Any parent can attend and be involved.

D. Williams thanked M. McCarthy for attending the most recent PTC meeting to talk about Classical Education.

The Board asked what the PTC plans to do with the money raised during the 2023 Snow Scholar Fundraiser? The gymnasium sound system will be completed. \$50k was already contributed, and the PTC hopes to raise another \$30k to complete the sound system. Additional funds raised will go to upcoming events, field day, dances, etc.

M. McCarthy commented that once the sound system is complete, UCCS could explore renting the gymnasium out for additional income.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (SGA) REPORT – D. Zamora, C. Broome, Evans, Josiah & D. Gutierrez

The SGA officers introduced themselves and announced their roles and goals for the school year (all officers were present except Treasurer, Olivia Ollari).

The purpose of the SGA is to foster collaboration and unity among students. SGA wants to ensure all students feel heard and represented. SGA is currently working on initiatives and events for student interests.

Athletics report from the SGA: This is the first year of Girl's Varsity Basketball. Also, the Boy's JV & Varsity Basketball teams are currently undefeated. SGA encouraged the Board to attend upcoming athletic games.

SGA Upcoming Activities:

- Winter Spirit Week
- Community Service Project

MS STEM ELECTIVE REPORT – P. Jackman (MS STEM TEACHER) -

This is the first school year that UCCS has had a MS STEM class. Mr. Jackman and his classes have been filling the STEM room with projects and wonderful student accomplishments.

Mr. Jackman handed out photos of recent projects and activities.

Recent in-class projects:

- Articulating Robot Hand
- "Home Phone" project to house student phones during the school day.

Mr. Jackman stated that his class motto is; "we fail up". If you fail, just keep trying!

L. Rakvic asked how many students are in MS STEM:

6th-8th grades = 30 scholars

5th grade = 25 scholars

Mr. Jackman stated that having enough materials in class is an ongoing issue. Mr. Jackman's vision for STEM is robotics. The class has completed some coding projects, and is being introduced to artificial intelligence right now.

M. McCarthy asked if the class needs connections to a company that works in Robotics? There may be some ongoing donations available.

B. Butler suggested Bosch as a company that may be able to help. They have a robotics team affiliated with them.

The Board suggested that Mr. Jackman write a paragraph of needs for his class, as well as the desire to introduce robotics. The Board will assist in soliciting funds from area companies.

TREASURER REPORT & BOND UPDATE - D.Goldfarb

D. Goldfarb communicated that we had a successful bond closing, at an interest rate of 6.68 percent. The school is now set at this rate for a 35-year term. This will drop ¼ million dollars from our bottom line. D. Goldfarb thanked Mrs. Reddick and her team for their hard work. The bond closing occurred on November 28, 2023.

We still have \$715k outstanding that our landlord had to contract with Department of Transportation (DOT) for street work. DOT owes that money to the school now that we own the land. When those dollars come through, they will be transferred to the school.

D. Goldfarb stated that some follow-ups are still in order:

- What are the annual reporting responsibilities?
- Work with the school Admin to put reporting in place so there are no hiccups down the road.
- The final accounting will be delivered to the Board when ready. Waiting on the underwriters to produce the final accounting report.
- Work with the bank to set up a brokerage account to put this new infusion of cash to work.

Audit report: We received the final auditor report. This happened after closing. The audit revealed no blemishes, and so far, we've never had an auditing issue.

D. Goldfarb reported that he is waiting on an update from Acadia. He is feeling great about the school's financial condition because of the cash infusion, and anticipated bottom line improvements.

STUDENT USE OF TECHNOLOGY POLICY REVIEW -

The current policy is for students to hand over cell phones when they arrive in their home room. It is then put in the “Phone Home” box. At the end of the day, they receive their phones back.

The Board will now examine whether or not students should relinquish their Smart Watches as well as cell phones.

S. Walker moved that Smart Watches be included in the Parent Handbook under the technology usage policy.

L. Rakvic seconded.

The Board will now include Smart Watches and Cell Phones in the Technology Usage Policy in the Parent Handbook.

HEAD OF SCHOOL REPORT – S. Reddick, A. Abraham & A. Hamp

A Hamp reported that over \$226k has been awarded in grants for EC teachers, special programs, tools to serve students in EC population.

Facilities Update: during Winter Break we will have the installation of bleachers, scoreboard & sound system in the gymnasium.

Our sewer was recently inspected, and we had a broken flapper. It has been fixed and now moved for easier inspection in the future.

Safety Update: A. Abraham, S. Reddick & J. Whisnant recently attended a three-day NC School Safety Conference in Raleigh. As a result of this conference, we will be focusing on fire drills. One suggestion: improve fire drill challenge by not giving students a direct path of escape during the drill. This will ensure preparation for a real fire. Allow students and staff to practice critical thinking in an emergency.

We are currently able to get all scholars and staff out of the building in just under 5 minutes, and now we can “challenge” ourselves more.

The Board asked where in the process is Admin on the Safe School Plan?

S. Reddick shared that Admin is working on making tweaks and will report to the Board as soon as complete. Schematics were sent to the state, which is an important step.

Vision to Learn recently came to UCCS to offer free vision screenings for all students. They returned last week and handed out glasses. The kids were so excited about their new glasses. Something so simple as glasses, can make a big difference in learning!

School Tours – 25 families were in attendance during our first Prospective Family Tour. We have another 15 people signed up for a tour happening tomorrow. We will continue these throughout the Spring.

New Initiative = “Paint The Container” fundraiser. Families can paint our large storage container for \$45/week with birthday messages, etc. The money will go directly to the Fine Arts Dept.

CLOSED SESSION – **S. Walker** introduced a motion that the Board go into closed session under NC General Statute 143-318,11.(6). **M. McCarthy** motioned and **J.Young** seconded the motion. The Board moved to closed session at 6:25pm.

ADJOURN - The Board Meeting returned to open session, and there was no further business. Motion to adjourn made by **M. McCarthy** and seconded by **J. Young**. The Board Meeting was adjourned at 6:52pm.