

**URBAN CHOICE CHARTER SCHOOL  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES – MINUTES  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2009**

**Present:** Hanif Abdul-Wahid, Michael Abraham, John Bliss, Ron Boillat, Tom Felton, Jr., Kevin Fiscella, Susan Fox, Craig LeFeber, Jerald Noble, Harvey Reiner

**Absent:** Tamala Lynch-Bradford, Spiro Ziogas

**Guest:** Alfred (Skip) Hallenbeck, Esq.

**Media Notification:** Erica Bryant of the Democrat and Chronicle was notified of the February 5, 2009 board meeting on January 26, 2009. Public notice was also posted in the school and published in the school newsletter.

The meeting was called to order at 6:11 p.m. by Susan Fox.

**Motion 090205.1** Upon a motion by Kevin Fiscella and duly seconded by Jerald Noble, the following was submitted for adoption: RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees approves the minutes of the January 8, 2009 meeting.

**Voting in the affirmative:** Hanif Abdul-Wahid, Michael Abraham, Ron Boillat, Tom Felton, Jr., Kevin Fiscella, Susan Fox, Craig LeFeber, Jerald Noble, Harvey Reiner

**Voting in the negative:** None

Motion 090205.1 passed 9 to 0

**Mission Minute**

John shared a mission minute which highlighted an overview of some of the UCCS students' lives outside of school.

- A student was in a vehicle with an uncle who was arrested.
- A student was abused as a result of an overflowing bathtub.
- A student was forced to walk to school in bitter cold weather as a form of punishment.
- A father told his second grade son in front of a group that he would "bash his face in".
- A middle school student's father was shot this week.

- A child adopted years ago has a birth parent that was recently released from prison that wants to see him again.
- Many students' only visit to the doctor consists of visiting the school nurse.
- A second grade student refused to get on the bus and when the mother was called she refused to get involved which resulted in Jon Schmidt waiting until 7:15 p.m. when an uncle finally came to get the student.

## Chair Report

- Susan began by reporting that the Board must operate as efficiently as possible with updated By-laws. Attorney Skip Hallenbeck was introduced and available to answer legal questions related to By-law revisions.
- Discussions followed related to the following:
  - Separating responsibilities of the Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair.
  - Article 9 Conflict of Interest.
  - The Treasurer and CEO presenting audit results at the Annual Meeting in May for review and certification.
  - Open Meetings Law
  - Naming the CEO an Officer of the Corporation.
- Susan is suggesting an adjustment to the size of the Board in the interest of maintaining flexibility to reflect a minimum of 9 members with the maximum of 21 to remain the same.
- A final version of the By-laws will be available at the next meeting for Board approval.
- Craig assisted in developing an Employee Survey (*refer to Attachment A*) which will be distributed to employees on Monday.
- Susan shared an opportunity discussed previously with John and the Executive Committee. Leadership Rochester could provide the school and Board with a unique opportunity for development. Susan would like to apply for the program which would involve a nine month leadership program beginning in September 2009. It would cover areas such as Human Services, Education, Justice, Economic Development and include key note speakers. The program would provide UCCS access to many powerful individuals in Rochester and increase the school's name recognition along with furthering the Board's insight into challenges faced by Rochester and strengthening UCCS's community involvement. Approximately 35-40 are accepted into the program and Hanif and John agreed to provide Susan with references. If Susan's application is accepted, a future discussion will take place related to the \$2,200.00 tuition involved.
- A discussion followed about Leadership Rochester which two Board members (Hanif and Jerald) attended in the past. It was determined that this could be a worthwhile investment and lead to more contacts. It was also suggested that a line item be added to the budget in the future for Board Development.

- There was a discussion related to the formation of a position for a K-8 principal.

**Motion 090205.2** Upon a motion by Ron Boillat and duly seconded by Harvey Reiner, the following was submitted for adoption: RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees approves effective July 1, 2009, the formation of the position of K-8 Principal.

Voting in the affirmative: Hanif Abdul-Wahid, Michael Abraham, Ron Boillat, Tom Felton, Jr., Kevin Fiscella, Susan Fox, Craig LeFeber, Jerald Noble, Harvey Reiner

Voting in the negative: None

Motion 090205.2 passed 9 to 0

## High School Report

Ron shared the high school update. (*Refer to Attachment B*).

- 175 Humboldt Street feasibility study completed.
- Property designated as an Empire Zone – rebate on tax for construction costs.
- Drawing needed for owner to determine rental cost for green space required.
- Still determining which piece of space the owner would prefer we use.
- Prevailing Wage
- Zoning
- City Economic Development meeting with Carlos Carballada:
  - Information was provided so they can pursue development plans, barriers that may exist, and financing options.
  - Provided specifications of the building we need.
  - Mr. Carballada offered to provide a letter of support to include in our application.
- Funding
  - Met with Dixon Schwabl regarding potential capital campaign.
  - Contacted a second agency (Studio West Design) for a second quote. They were responsible for the United Way campaign.
  - Met with the Ad Council – not appropriate to help with campaign at this time.
  - Update on Bond Option which is long-term debt.
- Development Efforts

- Good conversation with Mark Seeberg (referred by Brett Costello). His client load is too full to help us at this time.
  - ✓ Recommended obtaining an employee at the school.
  - ✓ Currently high demand for development people and salaries are escalating.
  - ✓ A discussion followed about considering a part-time employee.
  - ✓ Ron contacted Laura Hamilton – currently working part-time for Saint Bernard.
  - ✓ Will attempt to contact someone he knows at McQuaid.
  - ✓ Mark shared a story with Ron about a school in Chicago fostered by Father John Folly. Students form teams of five and job share at local companies. Salaries they earn go to help fund the school and they have raised over \$12M in 1 ½ years.

## CEO Report

John shared his report. (*Refer to Attachment C*)

- ELA test completed with positive thoughts. Grades not completed yet.
- March Math Exam – two Saturday math study camps planned.
- Adam Pike received Golden Apple Award.
- Enrollment/lottery in March. Approximately 150 students are on the waiting list.
- Information Night on Wednesday, February 25.
- St. John Fisher nursing program starting later this month.
- Renewed contract with Highland Family Medicine.
- Relationship with the Harley School is growing slowly.
- Focus on professional development – meeting with RCSD.
- Professional Development Day on Monday.
- Sending students to the U of R to utilize their Community Science Lab.
- Teacher observations are on-going and time consuming.
- Per Pupil Funding should remain untouched this year.
- Councilmember Lovely Warren and others are scheduled to visit UCCS.
- The school is scrutinized annually and there is a three year review available.
- Update on grade 3 student – no new information to report at this time.
- Charter text update – CD's are distributed for review. Charter text will likely be over 3,000 pages.
- Volunteer surveys are in and positive.
- Intent to return forms are being sent and it appears that most are returning.

## Governance Report

- Jerald shared that there are three vacancies and not two as stated previously. Contact Jerald as soon as possible if he can reach out to any of your contacts with Financial, HR, Facilities, Fundraising, and Legal expertise. Craig, Kevin, and Jerald have terms expiring on June 30, 2009.

- Jerald is planning a board retreat and is compiling a list of training and strategic planning.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Craig shared his report. *(Refer to Attachment D)*

- Financial Summary
- Other Items
- New Sullivan Center Project
- Full Board Consideration of 403(b) Plan Change

**Motion 090205.3** Upon a motion by Hanif Abdul-Wahid and duly seconded by Jerald Noble, the following was submitted for adoption: RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees approves to change the 403(b) platform from American Funds to the EBS platform.

Voting in the affirmative: Hanif Abdul-Wahid, Tom Felton, Jr., Kevin Fiscella, Susan Fox, Craig LeFeber, Jerald Noble, Harvey Reiner

Voting in the negative: None

Motion 090205.3 passed 7 to 0

### **Next Board Meeting**

- Thursday, March 5, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.**