

**URBAN CHOICE CHARTER SCHOOL
BOARD OF TRUSTEES – MINUTES
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2009**

Present: Hanif Abdul-Wahid, Mike Abraham, John Bliss, Ron Boillat, Ed Cavalier, Thomas Felton, Jr., Susan Fox, Tamala Lynch-Bradford, Sidney Moore, Gail Sklair, Spiro Ziogas

Media Notification: Erica Bryant of the Democrat and Chronicle was notified of the December 3, 2009 Board of Trustees meeting on November 24, 2009. Public notice was also posted in the school and published in the school newsletter.

The Board of Trustees meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Susan Fox.

Motion 091203.1 Upon a motion by Gail Sklair and duly seconded by Mike Abraham, the following was submitted for adoption: RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees approve the November 12, 2009 minutes.

Voting in the affirmative: Hanif Abdul-Wahid, Mike Abraham, Ron Boillat, Susan Fox, Tamala Lynch-Bradford, Sidney Moore, Gail Sklair, Spiro Ziogas

Voting in the negative: None

Motion 091203.1 passed 8 to 0

Committee Reports:

Finance – Spiro Ziogas (*Refer to Attachment A*)

- Spiro updated the information shared at last month's meeting. YTD was strong – even stronger this month.
- Title I money has been added and the net number did not change much due to expenses.
- Financially sound school.

Fundraising – Gail Sklair

- Gail shared that the Fundraising Committee is working on the web bios.

Personnel Committee – Mike Abraham

- First meeting was held on Monday, November 23.
- Committee was created to ensure that sensible policies are in place.
- Addressed proper compensation models.
- Focus was on directives received from SED:

- Restarting the K-8 Principal search process. This will involve a smaller committee to include a parent and teacher in addition to a nomination process.
 - ✓ Qualifications were discussed along with job description.
 - ✓ Recommend a state certified individual or a candidate working towards this certification to meet increased scrutiny and requirements for charter schools.
 - ✓ Compiling important information regarding marketing this position to be addressed at the next meeting.

CEO Report – John Bliss

- Review of CEO Report (*refer to Attachment B*):
 - Stimulus Grant
 - Asbestos Issue
 - After School
 - Title I Funding
 - Garth Fagan Dance
 - Saturday Programs – January
 - Open House
 - School Make-up Day
 - School Safety Team reviewed response to October 16 fire alarm and lock down.
 - Parent Satisfaction Surveys
 - NYS Social Studies Exam Results – 95% passing with two new students failing.
 - Behavior Incidents in Middle School
 - SED Questions and Responses
 - Lobbying for High School – Not Recommended
 - Need for meeting with families after the BOR meeting/decision.
- There are minor changes in the Safety Plan.
- Minor adjustments were made to the Emergency Plan for individual buildings which is separate from the Safety Plan.
- Discipline issues are more frequent in the middle school.
- Choice stories – families sharing why this school is so important.
- January 6 – Harry Bliss – possible fundraising event.
- Requested assistance from Sidney to develop recommendations for systems/methods to address significant staff absences.
- Suggested change to school calendar: Monday, March 15 to be the date for making up a lost school day. This date was previously planned for Professional Development.

Motion 091203.2

Upon a motion by Mike Abraham and duly seconded by Sidney Moore, the following was submitted for adoption: RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees approve to designate Monday, March 15, 2010 as a school make-up day.

Voting in the affirmative: Hanif Abdul-Wahid, Mike Abraham, Ron Boillat, Ed Cavalier, Thomas Felton, Jr., Susan Fox, Tamala Lynch-Bradford, Sidney Moore, Gail Sklair, Spiro Ziogas

Voting in the negative: None

Motion 091203.2 passed 10 to 0

Chair Report – Susan Fox

- Status regarding communication with SED:
 - SED shared verbally that they were supporting K-8 but not the high school with a list of reasons.
 - Official letter from SED received with additional follow up questions related to clarification of some of our initial responses.
 - We were directed to take the high school out of the charter application based on their recommendation.
 - This resulted in many conversations and discussions – able to reach all on the BOT.
 - There was general agreement – with concerns about the merit of the reasons given by the State.
 - BOT would like full application to go before the BOR and wait for their recommendation/answer.
 - Respectful note returned indicating that we are working on responses to their questions and stating that we are not going to remove the high school from the application.
 - Susan followed up with SED again after Thanksgiving and was reminded that the implication of leaving the high school in the application without their recommendation will result in the BOR not approving it and the need to amend and remove all references. Susan requested reasons in writing for denial of the high school from SED.
 - BOT is faced with decisions about how to execute related to issues with our current charter: (1) Approved for a K-8 Principal and we do not have one, (2) Fingerprinting volunteers.
 - Discussion followed about the merits of the BOT attempting to reach Milton Cofield to confirm support of the K-8 program and consider requesting a tabling of the decision on the high school until January which would give UCCS time to resolve any questions from SED.
 - Ron agreed to approach Dr. Walter Cooper and request his assistance in reaching out to Milton Cofield. John offered to help with this.
 - A letter is being drafted to SED from the BOT to respond to all concerns related to the high school.

Public Forum – Questions from Guests

- Several staff members and some parents in attendance at meeting.
- Questions were asked to clarify the Principal search process the Personnel committee is working on.
- Question from staff on whether or not the current CEO could be “nominated” for the Principal position.
- Another comment from staff stressed the need to find fully qualified candidates for the position and ensuring the Board had the right people in place to screen and interview candidates.
- Board responded that all qualified candidates will be welcome to apply for the Principal position and that a Board member with decades of experience as a city high school principal would be very involved in the hiring process as well as representatives from staff and parents.

Motion 091203.3

Upon a motion by Hanif Abdul-Wahid and duly seconded by Mike Abraham, the following was submitted for adoption: RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees enter Executive Session to discuss personnel related issues.

Voting in the affirmative:

Hanif Abdul-Wahid, Mike Abraham, Ron Boillat, Ed Cavalier, Thomas Felton, Jr., Susan Fox, Tamala Lynch-Bradford, Sidney Moore, Gail Sklair, Spiro Ziogas

Voting in the negative:

None

Motion 091203.3 passed 10 to 0

Motion 091203.4 Upon a motion by Hanif Abdul-Wahid and duly seconded by Mike Abraham, the following was submitted for adoption: RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees end Executive Session.

Voting in the affirmative: Hanif Abdul-Wahid, Mike Abraham, Ron Boillat, Ed Cavalier, Thomas Felton, Jr., Susan Fox, Tamala Lynch-Bradford, Sidney Moore, Gail Sklair, Spiro Ziogas

Voting in the negative: None

Motion 091203.4 passed 10 to 0

Next Board Meeting:

Thursday, January 7, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.