

**University Academy Board of Directors' Monthly Meeting**

**Tuesday, August 23, 2011**

**Regular Session**

**Executive Session to be Announced**

Board Chairman, Bush Helzberg, called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

The roll was called and a quorum was present to transact business.

Present: 7 Mr. Jonathan Angrist  
Mr. Tom Bloch (via conference call)  
Father Tom Curran  
Mr. Barnett Helzberg (arrived at 4:08 p.m.)  
Chairman Bush Helzberg  
Mrs. Shirley Helzberg  
Dr. Gersham Nelson

Absent: 1 Mr. Joshua Rowland

Attending: Dr. Tiffany Anderson, Superintendent  
Mrs. Lisa Bado, Director, Human Resources  
Ms. Kellie Baker, Registrar & Coordinator of External Partnerships  
Ms. Kelly Bowland, Chief Operating Officer  
Mr. Clem Ukaoma, Upper School Principal  
Mr. Floyd Wilson, Director, Student Services  
Mr. Ron Ziegler, Chief Financial Officer

**ACADEMY RECOGNITIONS**

Dr. Anderson announced that August recognitions will be presented at the next Board meeting (September 27, 2011).

**COMMUNITY FORUM**

Chairman Helzberg opened the floor for fifteen minutes of public remarks with participants permitted to speak up to five minutes each.

Zannyell White, current 8<sup>th</sup> grade UA student thanked the Board for providing her opportunity to attend Camp Lake Hubert during the summer. Zannyell stated she had lots of fun and remains in contact with other campers through Facebook and Skype. She also gave Chairman Helzberg a thank you card.

Mrs. Ru'da Looney addressed the Board thanking them for selecting Dr. Anderson as Superintendent. She expressed her appreciation for the numerous positive changes that have occurred since Dr. Anderson arrived at UA.

## **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

### ***Approval of Minutes of the June Board Meeting:***

Mrs. Shirley Helzberg moved for the approval of the June 14, 2011 Board Meeting minutes. Father Tom Curran seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Yes: 7 Mr. Jonathan Angrist  
Mr. Tom Bloch  
Father Tom Curran  
Mr. Barnett Helzberg  
Chairman Bush Helzberg  
Mrs. Shirley Helzberg  
Dr. Gersham Nelson

No: 0

### ***Financial Report:***

Chairman Helzberg shared the Finance Committee met prior to this meeting. Mr. Bloch joined the meeting via telephone. He also stated that the 2010-11 school year ended “just barely in the positive.” The beginning of this school year appears to be significantly worse than other years due to timing issues--nothing alarming at this point. Mr. Zigeler added that the anticipation of grant funding from Trinity-Baptist (\$83,000) and UMKC (\$25,000) would be coming in August instead of July. He added that the State reimbursement did not include Summer School revenue and will start in August.

Chairman Helzberg stated that the consent agenda items be combined into a “batch.” Shirley Helzberg moved that the combined consent agenda items be approved. Father Curran seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Yes: 7 Mr. Jonathan Angrist  
Mr. Tom Bloch  
Father Tom Curran  
Mr. Barnett Helzberg  
Chairman Bush Helzberg  
Mrs. Shirley Helzberg  
Dr. Gersham Nelson

No: 0

## **REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

### ***Enrollment Update:***

Ms. Baker informed the Board that she would enroll new Lower School students next week to replace the ones who did not return. Chairman Helzberg asked what was going on with Kindergarten as there were usually 140 Kindergarteners. Ms. Baker explained that instead of seven classrooms there are only be five. Dr. Anderson responded, saying that there are actually four

classrooms. Mr. Angrist asked if classrooms were empty. Dr. Anderson responded yes, they are empty. Dr. Nelson asked if the student numbers have changed as a result. Ms. Baker answered that current enrollment stands at 1,011. Mrs. Helzberg requested that the grades be included in future withdrawal reports.

Dr. Anderson presented for discussion the UMKC Charter School Center report. Father Curran asked questions about the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade results stating he would like to see a 2-year trail of actual numbers. He also mentioned that he would like UMKC to provide information on the baseline or context for that baseline. He also shared his disappointment in the number of typos and grammatical errors that were located in the report.

Dr. Nelson asked about the levels of improvement. He was interested in the level of improvement and wondered if Dr. Anderson feels confident that she has the needed resources for Lower School to improve. Dr. Anderson stated that a 10% increase would be a goal she feels is attainable. She added that she feels that the staff also believes Lower School will meet that benchmark.

Mr. Barnett Helzberg shared that he felt the information on page 68 was excellent and asked if it would be appropriate for all grades.

Next Dr. Anderson presented the policy regarding the MO Revised Statutes and policy as it pertains to Spencer, Fane, Britt, & Browne, followed by 2010-11 Board Goals. Dr. Anderson expressed that most of the goals had been met and progress is being made on all levels. Father Curran asked if the ACT goal of 19 could be raised to 20. Dr. Anderson responded that an incremental increase is preferred. Dr. Nelson asked about the highs and lows. Mr. Helzberg wondered how the current scores compared to previous years' scores. Chairman Helzberg stated it would be interesting to look at median scores. Board members will receive an email of scores without student names. Dr. Nelson added that this is at the end of a process. He explained that testing is not helpful if students do not have academic skills. Students should be "turned on to learning" and excited about learning. Dr. Anderson shared that 3<sup>rd</sup> grade now has grammar books. Dr. Nelson stated if our students read, much of the trouble goes away. Students should develop a passion for reading. There was more discussion on ACT scores and Mr. Angrist researched it and discovered that the National average score is 21.0 and the Missouri average is 21.6.

Discussion turned to the Board Goals for the 2011-2012 school year. After some discussion, Mr. Barnett Helzberg moved for the acceptance of the Board Goals for 2011-12. Father Curran seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Yes: 7 Mr. Jonathan Angrist  
Mr. Tom Bloch  
Father Tom Curran  
Mr. Barnett Helzberg  
Chairman Bush Helzberg  
Mrs. Shirley Helzberg  
Dr. Gersham Nelson

No: 0

