

**University Academy
October 27, 2009
Board Regular Session**

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

Present—6: Bloch
 Curran
 Porter
 B. Helzberg
 S. Helzberg (*arrived at 4:40 p.m.*)
 Rowland
 Chairman Helzberg

Attending: Dr. Tiffany Anderson, Superintendent
 Mr. Mark Landes, Primary Academy Principal
 Ms. Lisa Thomas, Middle Academy Principal
 Mr. Clem Ukaoma, Upper Academy Principal
 Ms. Kellie Baker, Student Services Specialist
 Dr. Chace Ramey, Director of Student Services
 Mr. Nelson Madden, Director of Human Resources
 Mr. Ron Ziegler, Chief Financial Officer
 Ms. Kelly Bowland, Chief Operating Officer
 Ms. Renae Altenhofen, Nurse Practitioner, Children's Mercy Clinic

The meeting was called to order at 4:13 p.m.

COMMUNITY FORUM

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

University Academy PTSA (Parent Teacher Student Association) President, Darlene Guess, expressed appreciation for the support of the PTSA and invited Board Members to attend any meetings, which are conducted on the same day as Regular Board Sessions, at 6:00pm in the Cafeteria/Forum.

University Academy student, Morgan Graves, addressed the Board, expressing her appreciation of the Atlanta College Tour Trip that Dr. Anderson sponsored. Dr. Anderson explained to the Board that the trip to Atlanta included several college tours, as well as a Staff Development activity at the Ron Clark Academy, a high performing school in the Atlanta area. The trip was very successful and has offered students support in college selection and preparation.

STUDENT RECOGNITION

None presented for this meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Chairman Helzberg brought approval of minutes before the board. The August Board minutes were revised, and brought for approval, with the September meeting minutes.

Damon Porter moved for approval of the August and September minutes. Joshua Rowland seconded the motion

Yes—6: Bloch
Curran
B. Helzberg
Porter
Rowland
Chairman Helzberg

No—0 None

Thomas Curran noted one correction, to grammar, and not substance in the minutes, page ten under the section marked Agenda Preparation, which was noted and corrected, for the sake of a good record. The minutes were approved, with a vote of all in favor.

The personnel report was next on the agenda. Clarification of the contract with AOS and University Academy in regard to hiring full time personnel, who was contracted part-time through AOS, was presented. The school maintains its contract with AOS with regard to services, and excluding the expense of a part-time contract employee. In lieu of said contract, we now have the same employee as a full-time staff person, at a savings of school expense. The motion was adopted.

Damon Porter moved for the approval of hiring certain certified personnel and was seconded by Tom Bloch.

Yes—6: Bloch
Curran
B. Helzberg
Porter
Rowland
Chairman Helzberg

No—0: None

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Thomas Curran asked about this year's enrollment compared to last year's. Enrollment is about the same as the last meeting and consistent with the enrollment of last year.

Dr. Anderson explained that the UMKC letter explains the sponsor's expectations of a School Improvement Plan. Every charter school has this expectation. Each school level is drafting an Improvement Plan, which will be submitted for Board Approval at the next board meeting. Upon approval of the Board, the Improvement Plans will be submitted to the UMKC sponsors and acted upon to align the school with the requirements for accreditation from the North Central Agency, which the school is up for renewal of in 2011. Dr. Anderson explained that administrators will be part of future review teams, in order to prepare University Academy for its review in 2011. The schools accreditation is its own responsibility since we are

not part of a state accredited program. The North Central Accreditation is not mandatory, but has some value, as it may distinguish graduates as having graduated from a school with national accreditation. Notice of pending action is required at next month's meeting for approval of the school improvement plan, at next month's Board Meeting.

Rena Althenhofen, Nurse Practitioner from the Children's Mercy Clinic, provided Children's Mercy Wellness Center Annual Report. The Children's Mercy Clinic has increased in hours and enrollment in the clinic. Children's Mercy will offer flu immunizations again this year, and cover the cost of those vaccines, as well as offer H1N1 vaccine when it becomes available later in the year.

Dr. Chace Ramey gave a report on Healthy Kids and the First Hand Foundation, sponsored by the Cerner Corporation, a program that was conducted at University Academy. The follow-up from the Healthy Kids screenings is that the school nurses will conduct basic screenings for hearing and vision of all students.

The board was updated on the effect that the flu has had on attendance, including percentages, which have not fallen below 85%. The nurses have monitored students who leave school with flu-like symptoms. The school's Flu Plan was explained and reviewed. Staff had free flu vaccines offered by Coventry, and 63 staff members received the vaccine. The school flu plan is aligned with the State of MO recommendations for flu season. The safety of the students, as it relates to student health, was explained by Dr. Ramey and Gary Swanson, including the measures that the school is taking to keep the school clean, germ free, and safe to attend with minimal risk of spreading infection. The school is consistently kept at hospital level cleanliness and hand sanitizer stations have been set up throughout the building and also in every classroom.

Dr. Anderson requested that the Board approve the school's flu plan. Motion was made by Damon Porter and all voted in favor of approval of the school flu plan. The motion was adopted.

Yes—7: Bloch
Curran
B. Helzberg
S. Helzberg
Porter
Rowland
Chairman Helzberg

No—0: None

ACADEMY REPORTS

Mark Landes reported that "Parent Teacher Conference" is the focus of this month's school reports. He added that the Primary Academy achieved 90% attendance at Parent Teacher Conferences. Parent Conferences included a demonstration of PowerSchool, and log on instructions for parents. The new PowerSchool rate, which will be reported at the next Board Meeting, is expected to show an increase.

Ms. Thomas reported Middle School had about 70% participation for Parent Teacher Conferences. MAP incentive cards, only distributed during conferences, increased their parent participation and the numbers are still increasing as parents schedule conferences in order to receive their student's MAP incentive gift card. Ms. Thomas reported that the Middle School had approximately \$7,000 awarded in incentives for MAP test scores.

Mr. Ukaoma reported that the High School has about 70% participation, with conferences continuing. MAP incentive gift cards distributed during conferences, along with longer hours for parents to attend conferences, may be attributable to the higher participation than past years. Thomas Curran questioned if including a health information component to the Parent-Teacher Conferences would increase parent involvement in the health education offered by Children’s Mercy Wellness Clinic.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

The Sick and Vacation Leave Policy will be visited again at the November regular session. There has been some question of cash-value and compensation flexibility to the current written policy. Dr. Anderson will send the current policy, including staff input, to be reviewed before presenting this item at the next meeting. Attorney reviews, as well as input from the UMKC Sponsor with regard to what other charter schools have implemented, are in consideration. The Board will consider, at a future meeting, any changes to the current Sick and Vacation Leave Policy.

The Alumni Support Program should be done, but should be funded separately, in line with the vision of the school, but outside of the scope of the charter. DeAndre Kershaw presented a report on the alumni of the school--where they are and how they are doing. An alumni newsletter, a winter luncheon, and a Facebook page are future plans for the program. Barnett Helzberg mentioned the Helzberg Foundation’s plan of a longitudinal study of alumni.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Helzberg queried members for scheduling of the next Board meeting, possibly moving the meeting back one week to the first Tuesday in December since there is no regularly scheduled meeting in December. The board will follow-up with notice of the next board meeting through email.

Damon Porter moved to adjourn the meeting, Chairman Helzberg seconded the motion.

Yes—7: Bloch
Curran
B. Helzberg
S. Helzberg
Porter
Rowland
Chairman Helzberg

No—0: None

The meeting adjourned at 5:17 p.m.

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