

**University Academy Board of Directors’
September 27, 2011 Regular Session
Executive Session to be Announced**

The meeting began at 4:01 pm with Board Chairman, Bush Helzberg changing the order of business and announcing that the agenda would be changed a bit to include a report from the Wellness Center and Children’s Mercy Hospital. Chairman Helzberg stated that the report they submitted was fabulous. Dr. Daryl Lynch, Section Chief of Adolescent Medicine and Director of the Wellness Clinic introduced himself and addressed the Board regarding the partnership with University Academy. He shared the story of funding from the Trinity Lutheran-Baptist Legacy Foundation and announced they will provide funding for another five years. He introduced the Nurse Practitioner, Renae Altenhofen who works in the Clinic. Dr. Lynch reminded the Board that this is the sixth year of CMH being at UA, and that it has been a very successful and happy arrangement. Dr. Lynch stated they’ve seen lots of growth and enjoy being at UA. Referrals from the new UA school nurse, Stephanie Williams, have increased 85%-90% due to the collaboration of CMH and the Nurse Stephanie. Dr. Lynch presented each board member with a copy of CMH’s annual report. Chairman Helzberg spoke of his appreciation of the CMH Clinic and added he was very excited about the participation levels of UA students and families.

At 4:12 pm, Chairman Helzberg requested that roll be called. In Ms. Strong’s absence, roll was called by Ms. Baker and a quorum was present to transact business.

Present: 8 Mr. Jonathan Angrist
 Mr. Tom Bloch
 Father Tom Curran (arrived at 4:05 p.m.)
 Mr. Barnett Helzberg
 Chairman Bush Helzberg
 Mrs. Shirley Helzberg (arrived at 4:05 p.m.)
 Dr. Gersham Nelson
 Mr. Joshua Rowland (arrived at 4:05 p.m.)

Absent: 0

Chairman Bush Helzberg called the meeting to order officially at 4:50 p.m. with 100% attendance.

Attending: Dr. Tiffany Anderson, Superintendent
 Mrs. Lisa Bado, Director, Human Resources
 Ms. Kellie Baker, Student Services Coordinator
 Ms. Leah Banks, Director, Security
 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 began recognitions with the Senior of the Month, Miss Jackie Crawford. She invited Miss Crawford, her parents, Mr. Ukaoma, and Mrs. Mathews to come forward. Dr. A stated she had the pleasure of having lunch with Miss Crawford and found out she works every night and 8 hour shifts on the weekend, in addition to taking dual-credit classes at Rockhurst, being on the National Honor Society, and being a straight-A student, has already been accepted into the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Jackie addressed the Board, sharing that she has attended UA for 4½ years. She said her friends would characterize her as being optimistic because she always thinks positive; determined and hardworking because she never settles for less than proficient; and empathetic and encouraging because she always looks at the other person's situation as her own and encourages others to make good decisions. Jackie feels her community service has been the most meaningful activity she's participated in while at UA because she gets to help others and enjoys the interactions with other people. Mentoring Lower School students has encouraged her to be the best role model she can be. She says she has developed leadership skills and a work ethic that will help her in many situations in life. She concluded with, "Looking 10 years from now, I see myself with a degree in Emergency Medicine. My experience at UA has helped me prepare for the future by pushing me beyond my limits by showing what thinking outside the box could actually do. The educational experience has given me the understanding of why working hard is more important than slacking off. My experiences have also helped mold me into the person I need to be in order to achieve my goals." Dr. Anderson asked Jackie to introduce who was with her—her mother, Jeannette Crawford. Mr. Bloch told Jackie "That was a beautiful speech you just gave and I think, makes other people here proud; not just your mother—a lot of us. Congratulations to you." Dr. Anderson informed Jackie her certificate and gift from UMKC would be in the school office for her tomorrow.

Dr. Anderson shared that next for recognition would be the Student Volunteers of the Year. Ms. Baker called for Jeffrey and Michael Rubel to come forward and she introduced them to the Board as Student Volunteers of the Year. Ms. Scott and Ms. Harmon (who is now in Colorado) were the teachers Jeffrey and Michael Rubel with whom they worked. Ms. Scott spoke for herself and Ms. Harmon sharing the weekly commitment Michael showed for over two years volunteering for the Kindergartners and started a reading club. Mrs. Dedmon stated she felt it an honor to say a couple of words about Jeffrey and the huge contributions he made to her 3rd grade classroom. Everyone looked forward to Jeffrey coming to her class every Friday. Students would beg to work with Jeffrey. He would work one-on-one tutoring or mentoring her high performing students. He even taught some of her students to play chess. Mrs. Dedmon added she could trust him every time to go to the Library/Media Center and never received reports of misbehavior. Jeffrey was extremely courteous to each of her students and treated the students with the ultimate respect. She congratulated him adding, "[He] truly deserves it." Ms. Scott added that last year, Jeffrey also volunteered with her 2nd grade classroom and had a "Secret Scientist" club. He would come every Friday (with Ms. Farr—"to make sure they didn't blow anything up or burn anything down; it's a beautiful building") and he enjoyed it as much as the students did. Chairman Helzberg added his appreciation to Jeffrey, Michael and the whole Rubel family for being incredible friends to the school and the community.

Dr. Anderson then shared that last year at the Teacher Appreciation Luncheon, these teachers who were selected as Teachers of the Year, received their certificates at that time but are just now being recognized in front of the Board. Mrs. McTighe came forward to introduce the two teachers: Mr. Powell and Mr. Alldaffer. Mrs. McTighe shared Mr. Powell has been teaching for over 31 years (11 at UA). He has been known to tutor students in their homes as well as at school and uses humor in his teaching. Mr. Alldaffer, or "Mr. A" as he is known, arrives to work early, stays late and always displays his students' works of art in the hallways of UA. Mr. A also displays his art during the

annual Galas. Mr. A has been with UA since they moved to this location. Mr. A thanked everyone for their support.

Dr. Anderson stated Mr. Wilson would continue the teacher recognitions and he introduced Mr. Ellery Clark, the Entrepreneur teacher. He related that Mr. Clark brings 15 years of teaching experience and this is his 3rd year at UA; Mr. Patrick Ward, Lead Teacher, who was tutoring and not in attendance, is in his second year at UA; Mrs. Leslie McTighe, some may know her as Ms. Burns, has been with UA for 6 years and had an 85% advanced and proficient rate on the MAP; Mr. Shane “Dancing” O’Neal has been with UA for 2 years and had a 100% advanced and proficient rate on the MAP; Ms. Pedram has been with UA for 2 years and had a 93% advanced and proficient rate; Mr. Powell who has been teaching for over 31 years; Mr. Ian Young, who was also tutoring and not in attendance, has been with UA for 2 years; and Mr. Veal, who was testing students and has been teaching for over 30 years and he has an 85% rate advanced and proficient rate in Government and has been with UA for 10 years.

As the Teacher Recognitions concluded, Dr. Anderson announced that the next presentation will be by students and staff who participated in the trip to South Africa. Imani Everette spoke to the Board revealing her thoughts and appreciation for the opportunity to go on the trip. Ms. Farr, Science teacher, also expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to go on the trip. Ms. Farr shared that prior to their departure, the parents of UA students who are of African descent, prepared some of the cuisine that they would be enjoying while in South Africa. She presented certificates of appreciation to Mr. & Mrs. Eke, Mr. & Mrs. Okonkwo, Mr. Amin who was in the building, and Mrs. Powell who provided everyone with journals to keep for a lifetime. Mr. Bloch asked if the students could tell the Board something about the clothing they were wearing as they were “out of uniform.” Nosa Eke explained what several of the students wore and what the colors mean. Uche Okwonko, of Nigerian descent, shared that some students purchased jewelry and trinkets to help them remember the trip. Chairman Helzberg added that the trip was paid for by Friends of University Academy, which is the separate 501(c)3 non-profit organization that runs the annual Gala at UA. He knows all the people who contributed to the Gala to help support the trip would be thrilled to see you and hear about your experiences. He also urged the students to continue to do well in school because this type of experience is available when you’re in college. There are semesters abroad and if you’re doing well, he’s sure there will be opportunities for these types of experiences. He congratulated them and thanked them for coming to the Board meeting. Dr. Anderson reminded the Board that the students who visited South Africa were in the top 5% of UA from grades 6-9.

Dr. Anderson introduced the final presentation and asked for Mrs. Creal and Mrs. Pribnow to begin the NOLS presentation. Junior, Tyler Morris thanked everyone who provided the opportunity for the 11 students to attend the NOLS (National Outdoor Leadership School) Camp. Mrs. Pribnow, who is a 1st grade teacher this year, volunteered to accompany the students on the trip and shared it definitely was an “adventure” and that everyone learned something new about themselves and grew in terms of character-building and leadership skills and knowing that you can accomplish something even though you really didn’t think you could. She added that all of the students ended the week with feelings of pride and hoping to experience it again. Chairman Helzberg added that the reason Friends of University Academy supports these types of programs/study abroad/NOLS courses is because there is a fundamental belief that if you get outside your comfort zone, then college will not be so daunting and scary as being out in the wilderness. He hopes that they will use the experience and think about it as they enter other challenging phases of their lives and tackle higher hurdles. He thanked them for being at the Board meeting. In closing, Mrs. Creal revealed that the students wrote some amazing reflective essays and combined them into a book for the Board to read. She also

thanked the parents for trusting them and allowing them to participate. She also thanked the students as well adding that they were very responsible from beginning to end.

Chairman Helzberg invited the Board and those in attendance to enjoy refreshments during a short break.

COMMUNITY FORUM

When the meeting resumed and Chairman Bush Helzberg called for the Community Forum, which is an opportunity for the Board to hear comments from community members. He added that if anyone had a comment to limit to 5 minutes each. He wanted to make sure that any sort of “complaint” that is brought to the Board’s attention should have already gone through the normal channels with the administration. If a parent ever has a complaint, they should take it to administration first (the principals or superintendent) before bringing it to the Board. The Board’s primary role is vision, policy, and to set visionary goals for the school and engaging the superintendent and delegating authority to him or her. Chairman Helzberg opened the floor for fifteen minutes of public remarks with participants permitted to speak. There were no participants.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Chairman Helzberg reported that immediately preceding the Board meeting, the Finance Committee (himself, Mr. Zigeler, Dr. Anderson, and Mr. Bloch) met. Mr. Bloch commented that they reviewed the financial results through August and things are pretty much as expected. Enrollment does affect the financial results in a significant way and steps have been taken to fill openings in the school, which should help us in subsequent months. They also reviewed the warrant lists. Mr. Zigeler added the results show a slight surplus for the activity for the month of August and we appear to be in fairly good shape. Revenue is a little lower but by the same token, expenses are a little bit lower.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Approval of Minutes of the August Board Meeting:

Chairman Helzberg had one small correction on the meeting minutes towards the end of the minutes there were actually seven Board members present and the vote should reflect that. Mrs. Helzberg also had a correction as her name was omitted in two places and she needs to be added to the minutes. Mr. Rowland mentioned the same correction as the Chairman. Dr. Anderson assured the Board that the minutes would be amended to include all corrections.

Mr. Helzberg moved for the approval of the August minutes as amended. Mr. Bloch seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Yes: **8** Mr. Jonathan Angrist
 Mr. Tom Bloch
 Father Tom Curran
 Mr. Barnett Helzberg
 Mrs. Shirley Helzberg
 Chairman Bush Helzberg
 Dr. Gersham Nelson
 Mr. Joshua Rowland

No: ____

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Enrollment Update:

The student enrollment and withdrawal list was presented to the Board for review. Ms. Baker explained the information provided in the Board packets. Enrollment is a little bit over 1,000. Father Curran asked how the numbers compare as for the students who come to UA from the KCMSD. Ms. Baker stated the waiting list has grown and the number of phone calls has increased.

Benefit Renewal:

Benefit renewal is next. Mrs. Bado came forward to discuss the summary. She discussed the benefits from last year compared to this year. All vendors from last year were retained. The plan changed a bit in that in the past 2 years, we have been able to save a little over \$78,000 in renewal rates. This report was presented as informational only.

Report from UMKC:

The next items are the revised recommended Board Goals and the school improvement goals. Dr. Anderson reminded the Board that at the last meeting, they received a report from UMKC. Dr. Steve McClure is here with UMKC so he will talk about UMKC's assessment of UA and then will go right into the Boards goals.

Dr. McClure introduced himself as the Assistant Director of the UMKC Charter School Center. He added that prior to that he had 20 years experience as Superintendent in two districts. He wanted to go over a couple of items with the Board. UMKC is extremely proud about UA reaching 14 of 14 standards. He explained the color-coded information provided which showed no concerns with the data for University Academy due to the high standards set for staff and students. The recognition of teachers indicates significant improvements in the faculty. He acknowledged that Dr. Anderson has placed a lot of emphasis on grades K, 1 and 2. Dr. McClure informed the Board that next year, the target for AYP would change from 72.5 in math (proficient and advanced) to 81.7 and in Communication Arts, from 75.5 to 83.7. Dr. McClure stated that UA actually met 15 of 15 standards.

Dr. McClure stated that UMKC is excited about what UA has done and apologized for the earlier letter that the Board received from Dr. Cooper, which was a draft and not the final version. Dr. McClure noted that Dr. Anderson is very into measurements and continual improvement and if that continues, in about three more years, UA will be among the top districts (suburban public schools) in the State of Missouri. That is UMKC's goal for UA. The question was asked, "What does UMKC do to help schools who are in red and purple boxes?" Dr. McClure explained that they look at a plan for each school and evaluate the data they have submitted. Mr. Bloch asked Dr. McClure, "For the State of Missouri, not so much Kansas City and not so much UMKC, the under-performing charter schools, do you expect to see some of the charter schools to be closed?" Dr. McClure answered,

“Yes.” Two schools will be on probation this year. If their 2012 tests results are not acceptable, which will not come in until August, they will submit an improvement plan or a closure plan.

Dr. Anderson informed the Board that UA would be on Channel 4 as they recognized UA for the Distinction in Performance. They spoke with teachers and students.

Dr. Anderson thanked Dr. McClure for his report. Dr. Anderson recommended that the goals that the Board will review be discussed and be incorporated into the improvement plan. Chairman Helzberg reminded that the first three goals were in the prior version that the Board adopted last Board meeting. Number four was changed and the next change is number seven. The SAT-10 goal was tweaked. There were no radical changes.

Chairman Helzberg asked for a motion to approve the revised list of school goals. Father Curran moved that the revised list of school goals be approved. Mr. Rowland seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Yes: **8** Mr. Jonathan Angrist
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Father Tom Curran
Mr. Barnett Helzberg
Mrs. Shirley Helzberg
Chairman Bush Helzberg
Dr. Gersham Nelson
Mr. Joshua Rowland

No: ____

Dr. Anderson next asked the Board to approve the Board policies that were presented to members for first reading at the previous meeting. Mr. Bloch moved that the Board policies be approved. Father Curran seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Yes: **8** Mr. Jonathan Angrist
Mr. Tom Bloch
Father Tom Curran
Mr. Barnett Helzberg
Mrs. Shirley Helzberg
Chairman Bush Helzberg
Dr. Gersham Nelson
Mr. Joshua Rowland

No: ____

Dr. Anderson suggested moving the October Board meeting from the current date to one week prior (October 17, 2011) or one week after (November 1, 2011). Chairman Helzberg suggested that it be determined via email.

Chairman Helzberg thanked everyone for being at the meeting and announced Executive Session.

The meeting ended at _____ p.m.

Next meeting: October 25, 2011 or as decided by Board members