

## University Academy Board of Director's Meeting Minutes

September 22, 2009

Regular Session 4:00 p.m.

Closed Session to be Announced

Present: Chairman, Bush Helzberg  
Secretary/Treasurer, Damon Porter  
Member, Tom Bloch  
New Member, Joshua Rowland  
Superintendent, Dr. Tiffany Anderson  
Chief Financial Officer, Ron Zigeler  
Chief Operations Officer, Kelly Bowland  
Lower School Principal, Mark Landes  
Middle School Interim Principal, Lisa Thomas  
Upper School Principal, Clem Ukaoma

Absent: Chairman Emeritus, Barnett Helzberg  
Member, Shirley Helzberg  
Member, Father Tom Curran

### **I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Chairman Bush Helzberg called the meeting to order at 4: 01 p.m.

Chairman Helzberg stated that before the meeting progressed to the Community Forum, he would like to go ahead with the vote to select a new board member (Joshua Rowland).

- Appointment of new board member, Joshua Rowland  
Motion: Damon Porter  
Second: Bush Helzberg  
Vote: 5-0

### **II. COMMUNITY FORUM**

UA Student, Jessie Schaff presented information to board members about her desire (and two additional students) to go to Australia through People to People but would like Board consideration for financial assistance. Chairman Helzberg responded to Ms. Schaff by stating he appreciated her initiative but that was something that needed to be addressed at the school level.

There were no other comments from the community.

### **III. STUDENT RECOGNITIONS**

Chairman Helzberg called on Coach Damon Paul to address the Board and congratulated him on the success of the team. Coach Paul introduced his star players, Darrenn White, All-State QB and Auston LaBlance, All-State DB who traveled with him during the

summer while participating in a national football game against a Pennsylvania team that wasn't supposed to be beaten by a Missouri team which is exactly what happened. CBS has recognized them as Pre-Season All-State players and the local press has been following them as well. Chairman Helzberg stated it was great to see our students have great athletic success and that athletics teaches good teamwork skills and that dedication pays off. He added that he hoped that Darrenn and Auston will take advantage of their skills and parlay it into a great college education. Darrenn has already verbally committed to play for Wyoming and Auston is considering his options to a Division I school as well.

#### **IV. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

Chairman Helzberg suggested they table the approval of the minutes. Dr. Anderson informed the board of the recent new hires that occurred since the last board meeting. Ms. Julie Kirby, part-time French teacher for Upper School and Ms. Sarah Lay, Kindergarten teacher for Lower School, and Raedel Vail, former temporary employee has now been hired as a UA employee.

- Approval of hiring of certified personnel  
Motion: Tom Bloch  
Second: Damon Porter  
Vote: 5-0

Dr. Anderson reported that withdrawals are primarily those students who enrolled to attend UA for the 2009-2010 school year but did not show up or did not live in the district. A discussion occurred regarding the current enrollment status and the waiting list. Current student enrollment stands at 1,106. Dr. Anderson also informed the board that starting this year students will be required to take a placement test to determine if they have the skills necessary for a particular grade. Mr. Bloch felt it was an excellent idea.

#### **V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS, RECOMMENDATIONS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Dr. Anderson's report was the amended budget, presented by Chief Financial Officer, Ron Zigeler. He stated that this year's budget is different from last year's which showed a surplus. This year he is taking a more traditional approach and adjustments have been made accordingly. There was discussion regarding the adjustments made due to staffing, purchase of supplies and materials, funds earmarked for the football field, upgrading technology, and building improvements.

Further conversation pertained to stimulus money, moving accounting functions back in-house, per pupil costs and public school expenditures per student vs. charter school expenditures per student.

- Approval of amended budget

Motion: Tom Bloch  
Second: Bush Helzberg  
Vote: 6-0

Kelly Irby, College Liaison and Donna Wilson, 8-12 Counselor informed the board about the Junior and Senior Seminars which assist students in applying for college. They have invited college representatives to come speak to UA juniors and seniors who have given them the necessary information to successfully apply to the college of their choice. Students will be taking college tours this year and attending college fairs. Next week they are scheduled to begin searching for scholarships to assist with the cost of attending college.

Alumni are reportedly doing well and the most recent graduates are finding success in college. Gary Swanson is ordering name plates to keep the wall information updated.

## **VI. ACADEMY REPORTS**

Dr. Anderson informed the board that the topic this month is parental involvement and that each school will be sharing what they are doing under the area of parental involvement and turned it over to Mark Landes, Principal of the Lower School.

Mr. Landes shared that they are working with their PTA to plan activities geared toward parental involvement such as recognizing students at PTA meetings for Student of the Month Awards and introducing new UA parents to the PTA. He added that two of the newest members have already expressed an interest in filling the office vacancies in the PTA. They will be having more Family Movie Nights and next week, they will have their yearly Family Curriculum Night, where parents will spend part of their time in their child's classroom and the remainder of their time in the Theater where they will discuss the changes that are in the parent handbook. Additionally, for the first time ever, they will have committees to assist in planning incentives for the students in areas beyond the MAP.

Mrs. Thomas, Interim Middle School Principal, reminded the board that all of the school participated in the Meet the Teacher Night where parents were provided the opportunity to meet the middle school teachers, receive a syllabus, see textbooks being used, and learn about classroom expectations. She added that daily contact with parents keep them abreast of their child's academics, behavior, and attendance. Contact is also made with parents in regards to tardiness and improvements as well. Mrs. Thomas added that during Parent-Teacher Conferences next month, they will be working on school culture, making sure that she knows how parents feel about the school and informing parents that they will work hard to address any concerns they may have.

Mr. Ukaoma, Upper School Principal, distributed copies of his August/September newsletter to parents which centered on awards. Due to the success of upper school students' achievement, approximately \$9000 will be awarded to students. At the upper school Parent-Teacher Conferences, parents will go to their child's first hour class where

they will learn or refresh their memory on how to access PowerSchool, the instrument for checking students' attendance, grades, and behavior. The final bit of information from the upper school related to the upper school's ranking as compared to the only other charter high school in the area—Hogan Prep. The Kansas City Star ran a special on test scores and UA were above Hogan's and he felt that was important.

## **VII. BOARD REPORTS**

Chairman Helzberg stated that the goals were developed by him and Dr. Anderson. He acknowledged that there was some similarity between the goals from last year and that this year's goals were changed to what the state is requiring for MAP test success in math. Since Communication Arts scores are ahead of the state goal, they want to develop, maintain, and dramatically increase improvement in mathematics scores. Chairman Helzberg added that at the next board meeting, the goals would be discussed further.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Chairman Helzberg deferred discussing the sick leave/vacation leave policy until the next board meeting when more members would be present.

Regular session was dismissed at 5:20 p.m.

## **VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION (closed)**

The Board entered into executive session at 5:25 p.m.

## **IX. AGENDA PREPARATION**

Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, October 27, 2009

## **X. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

### **Calendar Items:**

October 27, 2009, Board of Directors' Meeting

- Student Recognitions regarding advanced MAP scores