

UTAH VIRTUAL ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL
Board Minutes
August 26, 2015 6:30 PM

A. Role Call

Bryan Maxwell, Matt Thue, Royce Van Tassell, Andrew Harvey, Wade Faraway, Stacey Hutchings, Johanna Hofmeister, Paul Glanton, Shelly Strahan, Mike Livesy. Stacey Linrud appears via phone.

B. Call to the Public

No public present

C. Preliminary Motions

- Wade makes motion to make Matt board secretary. Andrew Seconds. Motion passed unanimously.
- Wade makes motion to make Andrew board treasurer. Matt Seconds. Motion passed unanimously.

D. Presentation: Johanna Hofmeister—Innovations Education (See Addendum)

- Johanna suggests board sit in on classroom instruction.
- Bryan interested in virtual school because of future impact on his family.
- Paul is excited about comments regarding teachers. Wants to have marketing events showcasing teachers. Would help attract high-achieving students.
- Johanna's team just did appraisal of a different on-line school. Was not as positive as UTVA.
- Stacy appreciates Johanna and her team. Important to keep working with them.

E. Head of School Update

- Royce explains that two charter schools—Alianza academy (4 years) Wasatch Institute (1 year)—closed. First involuntary school closures in UT. Marks an important turning point in UT charter school development. Accountability matters. Charter schools hold themselves to a high standard, will not perpetuate failed experiments. 250 students looking to be absorbed. UT Virtual Academy may absorb some. UT Association of Charter Schools can be a resource to charter schools to avoid involuntary closures.
 - Stacey thanks Royce for helping direct displaced students to UTVA. Paul also helped. Also possibly absorbing staff. Stem coordinator from Alianza has contacted UTVA.
 - Wade asks if we picked up students. Yes, according to Paul and Stacey, a few have come into office to enroll.
- Mike: Every year, state evaluates 3rd grade reading. Been a big focus for him. Last year 72%. This year board gave goal of 80%. State goal was only 64%, with 80% for 2020. Achieved 82.8%, five years ahead of state schedule. Plans to maintain above 80%. Mike believes we beat most other schools.
 - Johanna says some schools did not meet goals and may lose funding. Also promising for SAGE data.
 - Mike clarifies this includes all students, even special ed.

- Wade points out that Mike turned white when the goal was set last year. Good to set goals high.
- Mike had been worried about goal. Frequently brought it up to teachers over course of the year.
- Wade asks Mike to find out if individual teachers exceeded 82%.
- Stacey Mentions that adjustments are made for special ed students.
- *Mike moves that two highest teachers be brought to next meeting to consider bonuses. Bryan agrees. No formal motion made.*
- Stacey explains she expects embargoed SAGE scores tomorrow, in advance of 9/15 release date.
- Charter Fidelity Assignment
 - Royce provides details.
- Enrolment Metrics
 - Currently have 1817 students. Down from 1929 last year. 1929 number recorded later in the school year.
 - Wade asks about retention. Stacey thinks we were at 70%. Still not settled. Will know on October 1.
 - Wade asks if there is a way to track what type of students we are retaining, good or bad.
 - Continue to be Caucasian school, 86%.
 - Still growing toward goal of 2050.
 - Bryan reminds board that hitting cap is not as important as enrolling good students, that will stay involved in school. Stacey believes that we are enrolling more serious students.
 - Mentions that last year, 40% of enrolled students didn't have credits to graduate. This year 20%
 - Wade tells Royce we need cap raised to 2100 to be financially viable. Royce notes that charter school funding task force is looking at a mechanism that may eliminate all caps. Will become a political question.
 - Currently have 93 withdrawals, which is normal.
 - Tracking students that have not logged in yet. Currently 240 students. Has happened in the past. Sometimes find out that students have enrolled in other schools. New 10-day policy will require withdrawal of these students. Currently focusing on getting in touch with the missing students, calling multiple times each day. If unsuccessful, enrollment will drop to around 1600. If missing students come back, they can be reenrolled. Stacey mentions that the 240 number is not current, and has been shrinking.
 - UTVA Blended Pilot
 - Learning support centers. Parents had been dropping kids off for babysitting. Program goals narrowed to 8th and 9th grade, math and writing. Largest school population and greatest need.
 - Locations (Usually in Public Libraries)
 - Weber/Davis County
 - Utah Conty
 - Southern Utah
 - Salt Lake County
 - Starts 9/28

- Two days a week, 1 day math, one day writing, 90 min for 8th and 90 min for 9th.
- Students get credit for attending
- Attempting to coordinate to avoid conflicts with class.
- All 8th and 9th invited. Individual invitations to struggling students.
- Will measure outcomes.
- Wade wants to know how we can tabulate single class students. Are we offering part time brick and mortar students. We have 145 part-time students. Do not count against our cap. Funded, but not by WPU. Paid by course. Those students typically do better than full-time students. Do contribute to scores. Paul discusses marketing efforts to attract part-time students. Most students do not know about the option of taking classes with another school. UTVA has to staff members dedicated to this.
- Wade encourages ongoing targeting of high-performing students.
- Wade asks when to expect grades. No definitive answer. Supposed to be 9/1
- Wade asks about STEM position. Received first qualified application yesterday, but applicant would need to get additional license. Updated posting to narrow applicants to qualified individuals.

F. Finance session

- Stacey Linrud provides financial overview.
 - Wade moves to approve payment register. Matt seconds. Unanimously approved.
- Stacey has verified bank statements.
- Stacey asks why we have Wells Fargo account. Wade says we've had problem with account, and Wells fargo facing legal action. Zions doesn't have those problems. Working to transition account. Andrew to talk to Zion's President to facilitate transition.
 - Wade moves to accept state revenue. Unanimously approved.
 - Bryan moves to approve payments to K 12. Seconded by Andrew. Unanimously approved.
- Special Ed Services Contracts.
- Shelly explains process for securing contractors. OT's are rare, and know it. Wanted to avoid headhunting/therapy hybrids like arder sp? Health.
 - Andrew moves to approve contracts. Matt seconds. Unanimously approved.
- Office renovation payment approval
 - Wade moves to approve renovation payment. Andrew seconds. Unanimously approved.
- Innovations education contract approval.
 - Wade asks about effectiveness. Mike/Dan? says their services completely trained
 - Wade moves to approve. Andrew seconds. Unanimously approved.

G. Presentation: Royce Van Tassell—Executive Director of Association of Public Charter Schools.

- Explains purpose of APCS:
 - Advocacy work—gov office, school board; charter school board, legislature, etc. Been fighting to overcome school board hostility from school board. Charter school enrollment increasing rapidly.
 - Training and mentoring—provide training and mentoring services to schools that want them. Tailored to schools perceived shortfalls. Worked on finding effective ways for

boards to evaluate their directors. Now schools are looking for help with operational issues. Operate 401K program. Wants to make life easier for members.

- 2/3s ish of charter schools are members. Competes with Utah Charter Network.

H. Additional Motions

- Wade moves to continue board business item C to next meeting. Matt seconds. Unanimously approved.
- Wade moves to continue board business item D to next meeting. Matt seconds. Stacey won't be here next time. Motion withdrawn.

I. Stacey Hutchings: Charter Board Performance Measures

- Stacy explains current goals, and that charter school board will be requiring and helping with updates. Wants to have goals ready by November. Presents plan to get there.
- Wade suggests that this should be primary focus of next meetings.
 - Wade moves to put planning on agenda for next meeting. Andrew seconds. Unanimously approved.

J. Additional Motions

- Wade moves to adopt last meeting minutes. Matt seconds. Unanimously approved.
- Wade moves to approve Parent Organization President Jenette Scott as a board member. Andrew seconds. Unanimously approved.
- Wade moves to solicit additional parent board members. Andrew seconds. Unanimously approved.
- Wade moves to adjourn. Matt seconds. Unanimously approved.