

UCS Board Meeting

January 21, 2020

Present: Antonio Wilder, Mark Piernick, Guy Lane, A. Mead, Erika Hedgepeth, Tim Hedgepeth, Phillip Adkins

I. Opening Items

A. *Meeting Called to Order.* 5:30 pm.

B. *Agenda Approval.*

- i. A. Wilder made a motion to approve the agenda. M. Piernick seconded the motion.

Approved unanimously.

C. No public comments

II. Finances

A. **Budget Update:** T. Hedgepeth provided the board with an updated budget for their review.

B. **Mod Building Update:** T. Hedgepeth updated the board on the new mod. He explained that the modular has been completely installed. The electrical is almost finished. Things are moving along. He hopes to have the modular move in ready in a month or two.

C. **Performance Framework:** E. Hedgepeth provided the board with the 2018-19 Performance Framework for UCS. DPI did not have any findings. UCS is in good standing.

D. **Federal Funding Audit Update:** James Popp and Melissa Nixon (from the Department of Public Instruction) came for a monitoring visit on January 15. They interviewed a group of parents, teachers, and leaders for one hour each. During our leadership interview, they were very complimentary of our school and shared the following:

- i. Parents described our school as a "breath of fresh air."
- ii. They loved overhearing positive statements like, "Choose your attitude."
- iii. Upper grade parents really appreciate their teachers using Google Classroom.
- iv. Parents and teachers love looping because of the strong relationships that are established and connections with students that are made.
- v. Our school has a "family feel" that so many love.
- vi. They mentioned specific hands-on activities they were impressed with: 5th grade Autopsy of a Character, Mr. Twitt's Beard Story in Life Skills, the Wings of Encouragement that Mr. Popp posed and took a picture in front of, and more.
- vii. Parents appreciate the descriptive notes and "how to help your child" guidelines that are emailed or placed on your web pages so they can understand how to help their children complete their homework.
- viii. DPI was happy that our amazing Teaching Partners were able to continue instruction in the classroom so that teachers could be interviewed as part of the audit.
- ix. Parents also feel included and "in the know" because of the Morning Buzz live recordings.
- x. Parents love Khan Academy and other resources our teachers provide so that their children can practice at home. They also love our user-friendly website, and see the benefits of having an instructional coach this year.
- xi. One suggestion they had during the meeting is that we ensure that stakeholders are aware of the school's Equity Plan. We are implementing the plan, but when the

question arose, we were not well-versed in the answer. (FYI, the equity plan ensures students who are at-risk or underperforming in any way are not intentionally placed with lower performing teachers. Also, to ensure our school has a plan for supporting and providing training to beginning teachers or inadequate teachers)

E. TP Salary Escalators

- i. T. Hedgepeth provided the board with a new pay structure for TPs at UCS. He asked that they look over it and be prepared to discuss it at the next board meeting.

F. UCS Board Meeting Schedule for 2020: The board discussed their meeting schedule for 2020. A list of dates were created.

- i. G. Lane made a motion to approve the Board Meeting Schedule for 2020. A. Mead seconded the motion. **Approved unanimously.**

III. Academics

A. **Assessment Data.** E. Hedgepeth provided the board Assessment Data from iStation. The NC Check-Ins will begin on Friday, January 24 with 5th grade reading. This 2nd round of check-ins will end on February 20th with 5th grade science. More data will be shared at the February and March board meetings.

B. **School Improvement:** E. Hedgepeth provided the board with the meeting minutes from the last school important meeting. She pointed out a few highlights from the meeting.

C. **High School Expansion:** E. Hedgepeth provided an update on the feasibility study of expanding to high school. She provided some schools that she interviewed. She also provided a list of schools she intends to reach out to.

IV. Upcoming Events

A. E. Hedgepeth provided the following upcoming events:

- i. January 24: NC Check-In Assessments Begin (2nd Round)
- ii. January 27-31: National School Choice Week (1/31 at 2:00 = School Choice Dance)
- iii. January 30: 100th Day of School
- iv. February 7: Annual Fresh Take Conference (Community School of Davidson)
- v. February 11: School Board Meeting at 6:00 p.m. (Onsite)
- vi. February 19: National Honor Society Inductions (NEHS & NJHS)
- vii. February 22: UCS Family Dance 6:30-8:30 p.m. (Board members are welcome!)
- viii. February 25: Curriculum Day (Are YOU Smarter than a ____ Grader?) *during school
- ix. February 28: Book Fair Starts
- x. Friday, March 6: United Cultural Festival at 6:00-7:30 p.m.
- xi. Friday, March 27: Color Run (Board members are welcome!)
- xii. Friday, April 3: Career Day

V. New Hires

A. E. Hedgepeth recommended the following staff changes:

- i. Hire: J. Johnson – 5th-7th Grade EC Resource and Inclusion Teacher
- ii. End contract: C. Madix - K-3rd Grade EC Resource Teacher
- iii. A. Wilder made a motion to accept the recommendation to hire the above applicants. A. Mead seconded the motion. **Approved unanimously.**

VI. Closing Items

A. Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 6:33 pm.