

Uplift Michigan Online School
Board of Education Special Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 6, 2020
5:00 p.m. Eastern Time

601 Fifth St NW Suite 500
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

1. Meeting called to order by President Jeff Bell at 5:01 pm

Roll Call

- a. Board Members Present: Jeff Bell, Mary Harwood, Denise Kish, Brian Wood
 - b. In person: none
 - c. Call-in: Robert Giordano, Travis Gostinger, Tonya Lowry, Victoria Malone, Max Shafik, Tim Wood
2. Pledge of Allegiance
 3. Statement of Purpose
 4. Adoption of Agenda
 - a. Motion to approve by Jeff Bell, seconded by Denise Kish, all members – aye, motion carried
 5. Public Comment
 - a. No public comment
 6. Approval of Expenses
 - a. Enrollment is continuing to grow, close to 400 students. Uplift needs to purchase computers so that we have enough equipment for all students. Since so many schools throughout the country are purchasing computers at this time, obtaining them can be quite difficult.
 - b. The cost is roughly \$80,000 for 200 computers and software needed, plus a 3 year warranty. IT pulled state pricing which offered a different type of Chromebook that is not comparable at \$440 per unit. There are also not enough units available.
 - c. Asking the board to approve the 50% down payment (\$40,000) to at least get the order going to get OR having a preapproval of a certain amount, not-to-exceed limit, as done last year with a \$250,000 not-to-exceed limit. That will allow management to purchase computers as needed. They would continue to report out on special use of funds and a monthly reconciliation. Once past the point of needing to purchase equipment, the funds left over can either go back or be used for other things that may be needed at that point.
 - d. Jeff Bell: Do we have any idea, once they enroll, what percentage of students will actually attend? Robert Giordano: Estimates 10-20% of potential no-shows.
 - e. New staff also needs new computers.
 - f. Mary Harwood: Do we need to get state bids like we did last year? Travis Gostinger: Since the number we found is already lower than the state bid, we meet the threshold for the criteria.
 - g. Mary Harwood: What is our ability to return if we do not need to utilize all the purchased computers? Travis Gostinger: Not sure of the return policy and can look into that answer.

However, right now he suggests approving an amount that the Board feels comfortable with, but allows management to purchase enough technology for the students being enrolled.

- h. Denise Kish: Have Elementary and Special Education positions been filled? Travis Gostinger: Some have been filled and offers have been sent to others. More applications have come in and they are working through the interview process. Management will make sure teachers are certified in the grade level they are being hired to teach.
 - i. Brian Wood: Do we have an optimal enrollment in mind where we have the amount of enrollment in mind but does not affect the quality of education? Travis Gostinger: About 500-600 students. As long as we have the quality staff, we have the structure in place to support these students. Tonya Lowry: As long as we are able to get staff in place, 500-600 students.
 - j. Motion to approve the \$80,000 and have a not-to-exceed limit of \$200,000 on total technology purchases by Denise Kish, seconded by Brian Wood, all members – aye, motion carried
7. Title IX Policy Update
- a. The old policy (5517.2) is in the student section and pertains to only students. The new policy (2266) will be more a comprehensive legislation including employees, students, vendors and visitors to the school.
 - b. Motion to adopt Title IX Policy 2266 subject to legal approval by Denise Kish, seconded by Jeff Wood, all members – aye, motion carried
 - c. Motion to delete Title IX Policy 5517.2 by Jeff Bell, seconded by Brian Wood, all members – aye, motion carried
8. Adjournment
- a. Motion to adjourn at 5:27 pm by Jeff Bell, seconded by Denise Kish, all members – aye, motion carried

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Harwood, Board Secretary