

Uplift Michigan Online School
Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 24, 2021
6:00 p.m. Eastern Time

601 Fifth St NW Suite 500
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

1. Meeting called to order by President Jeff Bell at 6:10 pm

Roll Call

- a. Board Members Present: Jeff Bell, Paul Marineau
 - b. Call-in: Robert Giordano, Mary Kennedy, Tonya Lowry, Victoria Malone, Max Shafik, Tim Wood
 - c. In person: none
2. Pledge of Allegiance
 3. Statement of Purpose
 4. Regular Business
 - a. Adoption of Agenda
 - i. Motion to approve with addition of Item 6 to discuss Board terms and change of legal counsel by Paul Marineau, seconded by Jeff Bell, all members – aye, motion carried
 - b. Public Comment
 - i. No public comment
 - c. Correspondence
 - i. Michigan Department of Education sent correspondence to Superintendent Steve Martin at the Menominee County ISD. Jessica Arkens, the pupil accounting auditor, is being audited regarding her work on Uplift’s pupil accounting beginning July 9, 2021.
 - d. Approval of Minutes from the regular Board meeting from May 27, 2021
 - i. Motion to approve by Jeff Bell, seconded by Paul Marineau, all members – aye, motion carried
 - e. Approval of Finance Reports
 - i. Motion to approve as presented by Mary Harwood, seconded by Paul Marineau, all members – aye, motion carried
 5. Leadership Update
 - a. Management
 - i. Tim Wood has been working with National Charter Schools Institute to review the policy book. The book will be sent to Board members for review and will be discussed at the July meeting.
 - b. Enrollment
 - i. Current enrollment for 2021-22 school year is 299 students. Many students who came to Uplift during the pandemic have decided to stay.
 - ii. 30 new students have been enrolled
 - iii. Enrollment did not increase as much as anticipated during June. Management is investigating the reasons behind the slow lead conversion and making any needed adjustments.
 - c. K-12 Overview

- i. 2021 Graduation
 - Graduation rate: 58.33%
 - Virtual graduation ceremony on June 5 was a success. Pictures will be shared soon.
 - ii. Passing Rates
 - Superintendent Lowry anticipates that Uplift will have 80% of students who passed their classes this year, a significant gain from last school year.
 - iii. Retention
 - 100% of staff will be retained for next school year, enrollment-dependent
 - 84% of current students are staying with Uplift. Families who indicated they only enrolled due to the pandemic are not factored into this percentage.
 - iv. School Improvement Plan
 - Goals that were set are continuing to be assessed and updated as needed.
 - v. School Culture
 - Overall, families are very satisfied with Uplift
 - Any families with less than satisfied responses were contacted, and the situation was rectified.
- 6. Board Strategy and Planning
 - a. Line of Credit
 - i. A line of credit would allow Uplift to establish good credit as well as provide a safety net for any revenue changes. It would only be used if needed.
 - ii. Letter must be sent to Authorize for approval.
 - iii. The Department of Treasury may possibly deny the application because the school is currently in a good financial position. NextLvl will try to get a response so that Uplift does not needlessly pay an application processing fee.
 - iv. Max Shafik presented the resolution statement that was provided to the Board under separate cover.
 - v. Motion to adopt the resolution pending final legal counsel review by Jeff Bell, seconded by Mary Harwood, all members – aye, motion carried.
 - b. 2020-2021 Budget Amendment
 - i. Motion to adopt the amendment to the 2020-2021 budget by Jeff Bell, seconded by Paul Marineau, all members – aye, motion carried.
 - c. 2021-2022 Budget
 - i. Motion to approve the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year Budget as presented by Jeff Bell, seconded by Mary Harwood, all members – aye, motion carried.
 - d. Board Terms
 - i. Board members communicated by email prior to the Board meeting indicating their willingness to stay for additional time so as to preserve institutional knowledge.
 - ii. The following one-time extension of terms was proposed:
 - Denise Kish – June 2021 – willing to stay for a couple of months to assist transition to new Board Treasurer
 - Jeff Bell – June 2022
 - Mary Harwood – June 2023
 - Brian Wood – June 2024
 - Paul Marineau – June 2024
 - Motion to approve the above Board terms by Paul Marineau, seconded by Mary Harwood, all members – aye, motion carried.

iii. Replacement of Board Legal Counsel

- Doug McNeil will be stepping down. He recommends John Kava with Collins and Blaha to replace him. John assisted with the agreement between Uplift and NextLvl. It would be a very smooth transition with Doug available for follow-up questions as needed.
- The Board thanks Doug for his service to our school.
- Doug will facilitate an introduction between John Kava and Jeff Bell. The Board will review Collin and Blaha's engagement letter at the July meeting.

e. Adjournment

- i. Motion to adjourn at 7:22 pm by Paul Marineau, seconded by Jeff Bell, all members – aye, motion carried

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Harwood, Board Secretary