

Uplift Michigan Online School
Board of Education Special Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 28, 2020
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 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call

- a. Board Members Present: Jeff Bell, Wayne Coleman, Mary Harwood, Denise Kish, Brian Wood
 - b. In person: none
 - c. Call-in: Robert Giordano, Travis Gostinger, Ron Kraft, Tonya Lowry, Victoria Malone, Doug McNeil, 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

Public Comment

- a. No public comment

Correspondence

- a. No correspondence

Approval of the minutes from the regular Board meeting on April 23, 2020

- a. Motion to approve by Jeff Bell, seconded by Brian Wood, all members – aye, motion carried

Financial Report

- a. Motion to approve financial report as presented by Denise Kish, seconded by Mary Harwood, all members – aye, motion carried

5. Leadership Update

- a. Management

- i. New agreement in place with Grand Canyon University as of May 3, 2020. Over 150 leads have already been generated.
- ii. An extensive social media campaign has been launched across all platforms to provide information to prospective families.
- iii. Five new NCSI policies will be provided to the Board for review. The Board will vote at June 25 meeting.

- iv. There is speculation, but no concrete information regarding state aid deductions for the 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 school years. NextLvl is working on budget scenarios for cuts happening in either or both school years. There is a lot of pushback at all levels against cuts happening for the 2019-2020 school year. Numbers will be updated as more information is available from the state.
- b. K-12 Overview
 - i. Superintendent Lowry presented academic data and progress toward school goals.
 - ii. Passing rates continue to improve. The goal is to be 10%+ higher than first semester.
 - iii. J. Bell – what is the expected/normal passing rate? T. Lowry – most online schools hover in the 50-60% range, UMOS’ long term goal is to exceed that and hit 75% passing.
 - iv. M. Harwood – The numbers provided are really showing the work the staff is putting in to keep the students engaged and successfully completing work. Kudos to the team for working with the students and finding ways to help them be successful throughout the semester.
 - v. D. Kish – Seeing the consistency, even though she knows Mrs. Lowry would like to see it higher, is much better to see than it going up and down. It’s very encouraging to see the consistent improvements during this time with COVID-19.
 - vi. UMOS is going to continue with Accelerate for curriculum for the 2020-2021 school year. This avoids an additional change for parents during these uncertain times. Teachers will continue to create additional content to support the curriculum.
 - vii. NWEA: 95% of students have tested. Scores stayed consistent or dropped slightly. This is to be expected as the test is adaptive and continues to get harder.
 - viii. Testing data is showing that incoming students struggle with ELA. Students in lower grades who start with UMOS show good progress due to the work of our amazing early elementary teacher. Middle school and high school students show significantly lower scores. Students are being provided special education services as needed. Next year, all teachers will be providing additional ELA interventions across the curriculum to help bridge the gap.
 - ix. State Report Card: UMOS Proficiency Grade overall is a C. Growth Rate is a D. Test Participation is showing as 87.31%. Some students who withdrew were still being counted against UMOS. Test Participation should show 92-95%.
 - x. Overall retention rate: 74%. Currently 66% of students have re-enrolled for 2020-21 school year. Only 5% have indicated they will not be returning. The goal is to re-enroll 85% of students.
 - xi. Graduation will be on Saturday, June 20 at 1 p.m. via Zoom.
 - xii. Continuing to evaluate offerings for the 2020-21 school year including student clubs and virtual fields trips. Will continue successful initiatives like Fun Friday and Study Halls.

6. Board Strategy and Planning

- a. FOIA request was received asking for administrative payroll costs for 2018, 2019 and 2020. NextLvl responded to the request within the appropriate time frame. There was nothing to provide for 2018 and half of 2019 since they did not have those payroll records.
- b. CAP Updates

- i. Corrective Action Plan was received from the Department of Treasury. DOT reviewed the financial data and questioned the budget process and use of fund balance. Some additional (largely one-time) expenses were necessary due to the transition from A3 to Nextlvl. A response was provided with budget preparation, projections for year end and projections for the next 3 years.
 - ii. Corrective Action Plan on May 15th was received referencing timeliness on IEPs from 2018-19 school year. T. Lowry and the special education team are working with the Menominee County ISD to complete their response which is due July 1. Expect that the plans moving forward will be sufficient.
 - c. 2020/21 Budget Review
 - i. Formal recommendation will be made in the June meeting.
7. Meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m. (Motion to approve by Jeff Bell, seconded by Denise Kish, all members –aye, motion carried)

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Harwood, Board Secretary