

Uplift Michigan Online School
Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 26, 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 6:02 pm

Roll Call

- a. Board Members Present: Jeff Bell, Mary Harwood, Denise Kish, Paul Marineau, Brian Wood
 - b. Call-in: Jenni Eustace, Robert Giordano, Travis Gostinger, Mary Kennedy, Tonya Lowry, Victoria Malone, Stephanie Simmonds
 - c. In person: none
2. Pledge of Allegiance
 3. Statement of Purpose
 4. Regular Business
 - a. Adoption of Agenda
 - i. Motion to approve the agenda by Mary Harwood, seconded by Denise Kish, all members – aye, motion carried
 - b. Public Comment
 - i. None.
 - c. Correspondence
 - i. UMOS will have a Title fund audit beginning in October. Monthly meetings will be held, led by Al Thomas, our MDE consultant, with a final outcome in the spring.
 - d. Approval of Minutes
 - i. Motion to approve the minutes from the July 22, 2021 Regular Board meeting by Jeff Bell, seconded by Denise Kish, all members – aye, motion carried
 - e. Approval of Finance Reports
 - i. Motion to approve as presented by Jeff Bell, seconded by Mary Harwood, all members – aye, motion carried
5. Leadership Update
 - a. Management
 - i. Board Update was sent out prior to the meeting with information regarding August teacher professional development and student data for the upcoming year.
 - b. K-12 Update
 - i. Summer school was very successful. The passing rate was approx. 70%. 68 students took a total of 204 classes with 141 classes passed. Five out of 6 seniors who took summer school classes passed and were able to graduate. The remaining student will return in the fall.
 - c. Family Handbook
 - i. Draft was provided to the Board for review. Very little was changed, but the language was updated to reflect more compassionate communication. A section was added for dual enrollment options.
 - ii. Motion to approve the family handbook as presented by Jeff Bell, seconded by Brian Wood, all members – aye, motion carried.

- d. 2021-2022 Calendar
 - i. Since some professional development days can be counted toward instruction, the last day of school has been moved from June 22 to June 15, 2022.
 - ii. Motion to approve the calendar as presented by Denise Kish, seconded by Mary Harwood all members – aye, motion carried.
6. Board Strategy and Planning
 - a. Enrollment
 - i. Enrollment stands at 502 students which includes currently enrolled, returning, and enrollments that are almost complete. Also includes 10 students who have not indicated if they are returning or not.
 - ii. NextLvl recommends allowing enrollment to reach 610 students for the 2021-2022 school year with a five-year goal to increase enrollment to 1200 students.
 - iii. NextLvl requests that the Board increase the cap set last year from 500 to 610 students with the possibility to go higher due to an average 10% decrease in enrollment during the first weeks of the school year.
 - iv. The Board would like to see continued data and strategic planning regarding grade-level and school-level (elementary, middle, high) enrollment and staffing to determine if individual grade-level or school-level caps need to be put in place.
 - v. Motion to approve the 610 student enrollment cap for the 2021-2022 school year by Brian Wood, seconded by Mary Harwood, all members – aye, motion carried.
 - b. Mindscape
 - i. For the last two years, NextLvl has been trying to improve tracking of communication with families. Conversation tracking is difficult because current systems do not interface with each other. NextLvl has researched and reached out to different companies in search of a solution with no success.
 - ii. Mindscape was approached by NextLvl to create a tool for this tracking. There is a potential conflict of interest with Jeff Bell’s affiliation with Mindscape and his role as Board President, however, Jeff’s dual role also provides him with unique knowledge and insight into the needs of Uplift.
 - iii. The cost of the software developed by Mindscape is \$13,000. This is significantly less than other software options that were researched.
 - iv. Motion to accept Mindscape Growth Engine by Brian Wood, seconded by Paul Marineau, roll call vote, motion carried.
 - Jeff Bell – abstain
 - Mary Harwood – aye
 - Denise Kish – aye
 - Paul Marineau – aye
 - Brian Wood – aye
7. Adjournment
 - a. Motion to adjourn at 7:14 pm by Jeff Bell, seconded by Brian Wood, all members – aye, motion carried

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Harwood, Board Secretary