

Uplift Michigan Online School  
Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, January 27, 2022  
6:00 p.m. Eastern Time

4451 Hunsberger Ave NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

1. Meeting called to order by President Jeff Bell at 6:08 pm

Roll Call

- a. Board Members Present: Arturo, Armijo, Jeff Bell, Mary Harwood, Paul Marineau, Brian Wood
  - b. Others: Robert Giordano, Travis Gostinger, John Kava, Lori LaMontagne, Tonya Lowry, Victoria Malone, Ashley Shehow, Tim Wood
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 Paul Marineau, all members – aye, motion carried
    - b. Public Comment
      - i. Introduction of Arturo Armijo
    - c. Correspondence
      - i. None.
    - d. Approval of Minutes
      - i. Motion to approve the minutes from the November 28, 2021 Regular Board meeting by Jeff Bell, seconded by Arturo Armijo, all members – aye, motion carried
    - e. Approval of Finance Reports
      - i. Motion to approve as presented by Jeff Bell, seconded by Brian Wood, all members – aye, motion carried
5. Leadership Update
    - a. Management Update
      - i. Waiting on approval of ESSER III funding.
      - ii. Introduction of John Kava from Collins & Blaha.
      - iii. Recruiting and Retention
        - Enrollment team is focused on enrollment and retention efforts.
        - New enrollment leads are already coming in for the 2022-23 school year.
        - One goal is to work to convert leads to enrollments earlier in the year rather than having the majority convert at the end of July/August.
        - The website is being upgraded to improve the type of information that is provided to prospective families and the information that it collects.
    - b. K-12 Update
      - i. Satisfaction surveys:
        - Parent satisfaction survey: 95.75% scored the school a 3/5 or better. 70% scored 4/5 or better.

- Student satisfaction survey: 99.63% of students who responded are satisfied or highly satisfied with the compassion and care they receive at Uplift.
  - 98.91% satisfied with Orientation.
  - Approximately half of students and parents completed the survey. It is left open for two weeks for responses. Students and parents also have the option to leave comments at the end of the survey. These comments are reviewed by staff within 24 hours. Students also have the opportunity to give feedback when a course is completed.
- ii. Staff are focused on three areas to support student learning and increase student outcomes:
- School-wide inventions for math and reading
  - Increasing engagement including home visits as the situation warrants.
  - Administrative oversight and support with course setup and live lessons.
  - Question: What options do we have to get students to work and not play games/watch videos? Response: Distractions from technology is definitely a concern and is common in education. Common game/distraction sites are blocked on school computers. Uplift focuses on giving the adults at home the tools they need to be a Learning Coach for their student(s). We offer a robust orientation that teaches Learning Coaches and students what a virtual learner looks like. We also offer individual support for students/families who are struggling with the virtual learning environment. There also incentives offered to students like UpRoar Points.
  - Question: Do we have data on students who have support at home and who is supervising their learning? Answer: No. Families sometimes volunteer the information, but it is not something we collect.
- iii. Fundamental Program Outcomes
- 23 students enrolled in the Fundamental Graduation Pathway. Four withdrew from Uplift. Approximately 50% of students who started passed their classes. 91% of engaged students passed.
- iv. 2022-2023 School Year Calendar
- Motion to approve 2022-2023 calendar by Jeff Bell, seconded by Brian Wood, all members – aye, motion carried.

6. Board Strategy and Planning

- a. MDE had an Assurances and Verification visit with Stephenson Area Public schools. A follow-up visit is scheduled for February 15, 2022.

7. Adjournment

- a. Motion to adjourn at 7:02 pm by Jeff Bell, seconded by Brian Wood, all members – aye, motion carried

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Harwood, Board Secretary