

Uplift Michigan Online School
Board of Education Reorganizational Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 22, 2022
6:00 p.m. Eastern Time

4451 Hunsberger Ave NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

1. Meeting called to order by Paul Marineau at 6:06 pm

Roll Call

- a. Board Members Present: Arturo Armijo, Mary Harwood, Paul Marineau
 - b. Board Member Call-in: Brian Wood
 - c. Others: Soraida Cunningham, Lori LaMontagne, Tonya Lowry, Ashley Shehow, Tim Wood
2. Introduction of new board member, Soraida Cunningham
 3. Pledge of Allegiance
 4. Statement of Purpose
 5. Regular Business
 - a. Adoption of Agenda
 - i. Motion to approve the agenda by Arturo Armijo, seconded by Mary Harwood, all members – aye, motion carried
 - b. Public Comment/Correspondence
 - i. None
 - c. Approval of Minutes
 - i. Motion to approve the agenda by Arturo Armijo, seconded by Paul Marineau, all members – aye, motion carried
 - d. Financial Report
 - e. Motion to approve the agenda by Mary Harwood, seconded by Arturo Armijo, all members – aye, motion carried
 6. Leadership Update
 - a. Management update
 - i. The board should receive a stipend to cover travel expenses for attending meetings. Leadership will bring recommendations to the next meeting. The stipend would be retroactive to 7/1/2022.
 - ii. Enrollment is at 675 today, moving toward the goal of 700 students. The budget was based on 675, but 700 gives a cushion against students who withdraw.
 - iii. The application for a line of credit of \$500,000 is in the final stages. There are no plans to access at this time, but this helps the school develop a credit score/credit history in case we need purchasing power at a later time.
 - b. K-12 Overview
 - i. The start of the school year is going well, a lot of moving pieces, many new students. Attendance is significantly higher than previous years due to increased communication of expectations to families. Week 1 had 70%+ live attendance. New and returning families are happy with the start of the year.
 - ii. The retention rate at the end of last year was 81%, but over the summer it dropped to approximately 70%. Many families left due to the COVID situation changing for their family. They were happy with the school, but it was no longer what worked best for their family.

- iii. This year we offered summer school for elementary students. Students had a lot of fun! Teachers used themes to help students learn and guide them through lessons in math, reading and tech fluency. At the high school level, we had nine additional graduates, bringing the total to 30 for the year. 98 high school students participated in summer school and 60% earned credits.
 - iv. Currently seeking to fill several positions include math, special education, social worker and teacher assistants.
 - v. Other initiatives:
 - Student clubs will begin in October.
 - Field trips will take place this year. Current outings include the Holocaust Memorial Museum and a college fair
 - Our cultural exchange program with the school in Nigeria has gone well and will continue.
 - New live lesson platform, Jigsaw. It is similar to Zoom but has more activity options allowing for more collaboration.
 - Work continues on an alternative education program.
 - The special education program at Uplift is very unique. The national average is 12% of the student population. Uplift is at 28%. The special education team has grown and will continue to grow to meet the needs of our students.
7. Board Strategy and Planning
- a. Uplift and Nextlvl are pursuing accreditation through Cognia. The process will take about 1.5 years.
8. Adjournment
- a. Motion to adjourn at 6:45 pm by Soraida Cunningham, seconded by Arturo Armijo, all members – aye, motion carried

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Harwood, Board Secretary