

Uplift Michigan Online School  
Board of Education Regular Board Meeting (rescheduled)  
Thursday, December 14, 2022  
6:00 p.m. Eastern Time

4451 Hunsberger Ave NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

1. Meeting called to order by Paul Marineau at 6:09 pm

Roll Call

- a. Board Members Present: Arturo Armijo, Soraida Cunningham, Paul Marineau, Brian Wood
- b. Others: Travis Gostinger, Lori LaMontagne, Tonya Lowry, Tim Wood
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Statement of Purpose
4. Regular Business
  - a. Adoption of Agenda
    - i. Motion to approve the agenda by Soraida Cunningham, seconded by Arturo Armijo, all members – aye, motion carried
  - b. Public Comment
    - i. None
  - c. Correspondence
    - i. Uplift has been identified by the state as needing comprehensive support and improvement (CSI) because our graduation for the 4-year cohort has fallen below the 67% threshold. We will receive additional support from both the ISD and MDE. We will have three years to improve which we have been doing consistently since the beginning. The board will be updated regularly as information is made available and progress is made. Updates will be included in the Uplift Board email update on non-meeting months.
  - d. Approval of Minutes
    - i. Motion to approve the September 22, 2022 regular board meeting minutes by Arturo Armijo, seconded by Soraida Cunningham, all members – aye, motion carried
  - e. Financial Report
    - i. Motion to approve the agenda by Brian Wood, seconded by Soraida Cunningham, all members – aye, motion carried
5. Leadership Update
  - a. K-12 Overview
    - i. Principal Jon DeCou was not available for the rescheduled meeting. He will try to attend the next regularly scheduled board meeting for introductions.
    - ii. NWEA testing completion rate is 94.9%. Winter testing will begin in January.
    - iii. 31% of students are receiving structured intervention via small group instruction and 53.5% of students are receiving tiered intervention due to one or more years of academic deficit.
    - iv. Uplift has seen a significant growth in Special Education to 28.6% of our student population (vs. 12% national average). This includes 15 students that are off grade level and working on a certificate of completion instead of a diploma.
    - v. We currently have 85 seniors with less than half eligible to graduate.

- vi. Student clubs have begun at all grade levels. New clubs are being recommended by students. These clubs will be added as possible with staff availability.
  - vii. A secondary English teacher has been hired and will begin before break. Still have open positions for Special Education paraprofessional, secondary Math interventionist and Social Worker
  - viii. Uplift is currently capped at 750 students, but grade-level caps are needed due to staffing. The proposed caps are based on current staffing.
    - Motion to approve grade-level caps as presented by Arturo Armijo, seconded by Brian Wood, all members – aye, motion carried.
  - ix. Superintendent Lowry is proposing the addition of high school and elementary literacy classes for second semester.
    - Motion to approve additional course offerings as presented by Soraida Cunningham, seconded by Arturo Armijo, all members – aye, motion carried.
6. Board Strategy and Planning
- a. Financial audit was presented by Melissa from Croskey Lanni. No issues were found during the audit.
    - i. Motion to accept the audit by Soraida Cunningham, seconded by Paul Marineau, all members – aye, motion carried.
  - b. Stipends will be provided to the board at \$50 per meeting, not to exceed \$600.
    - i. Motion to approve stipends by Brian Wood, seconded by Soraida Cunningham, all members – aye, motion carried.
  - c. Budget amendment presented by Lori LaMontagne
    - i. Motion to approve budget amendment as presented by Arturo Armijo, seconded by Paul Marineau, all members – aye, motion carried.
  - d. Uplift check signing resolution
    - i. Motion to approve check signing resolution as presented by Paul Marineau, seconded by Arturo Armijo, all members – aye, motion carried.
    - ii.
7. Adjournment
- a. Motion to adjourn at 7:49 pm by Brian Wood, seconded by Arturo Armijo, all members – aye, motion carried

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Harwood, Board Secretary