

Uplift Michigan Online School
Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 26th, 2024
5:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Location:

Northview High School
4451 Hunsberger Ave NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

1. Board meeting called to order by Betsy Webbert at 5:00 pm
 - a. Roll Call
 - i. Board Members Present in-person: Betsy Webbert, Soraida Cunningham, Brian Wood, Arturo Armijo, Danielle Sirianni
 - ii. Board Members Call-in: none
 - iii. Call-in: Tonya Lowry, Ashley Shehow, Lori LaMontagne, Travis Gostinger
 - iv. In-person: Tim Wood, Mike Gilchrist
 - v. Board Members Absent: none
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Statement of Purpose
4. Regular Business
 - a. Adoption of Agenda
 - i. Motion to adopt the agenda by Arturo Armijo seconded by Danielle Sirianni, all members - aye, motion carried
 - b. Public Comment
 - i. None
 - c. Correspondence
 - i. None
 - d. Approval of Minutes
 - i. Motion to approve the [reorganizational board meeting minutes](#) from the July board meeting by Arturo Armijo, seconded by Danielle Sirianni, all members - aye, motion carried
 - e. [Financial Reports](#)
 - i. Presented by Lori LaMontagne
 - ii. Motion to approve the financial report as presented by Danielle Sirianni, seconded by Arturo Armijo, all members - aye, motion carried
5. Board Strategy and Planning
 - a. Strategic Goals presented by Dr. Tim Wood
 - i. Board Strategic Goals: (Originally developed in 2019)
 1. Engage students academically
 2. Build positive student and parent relationships
 3. Create a caring environment
 4. Provide a world-class online curriculum aligned with state standards
 5. Fiscally responsible
 - ii. Q. How do we measure that we are meeting these goals? A. Mrs. Lowry has a presentation about goals and where we are at (which will be shared with the board electronically.)

- iii. Q. If we are not meeting these goals, what are we doing to change the outcome?
- iv. A. Mrs. Lowry will prepare bullet points of our actions to achieve these goals.
- v. Motion to approve the strategic goals as presented by Arturo Armijo, seconded by Danielle Sirianni, all members - aye, motion carried

6. Leadership Update

a. Management update

- i. Enrollment Update with Galapagos Marketing
 - 1. Galapagos added bus wrap servicing with English and Spanish flyers
 - 2. Tonya and her team created testimonials for Galapagos to be viewed on social media.
 - 3. Uplift enrollment and budget with diminished enrollment and resources
 - 4. The enrollment goal was not met, Tonya and her team along with Nextlvl will be meeting to discuss cuts in the budget.
 - a. Will also be looking at retention, marketing, and enrollment.
- ii. Cognia Accreditation- Beth Brophy, Regional Accreditation Evaluator, Midwest Region
 - 1. Possibly, will have a review in January with Cognia
- iii. Mike, Tonya, & Brook conduct the UMOS alternative pilot program with over-age kids
 - 1. Currently have 2 students enrolled, that were about to age out of the public school system, and we will be able to get them a diploma, still working with MDE and pupil accounting to see if we can get them counted and funding for them.
- iv. Dates and times with Richard Lemons providing professional development
 - 1. Plan on having in-person in June for professional development. Due to budget concerns, this is on hold right now.
 - a. Q. is there board professional development available?
 - b. A. Travis and Tim to look into board training (Place on agenda for next board meeting.)

b. K-12 overview- Superintendent

- i. Academic update
 - 1. The start of school is going well building good connections with families due to lower enrollment with the advisory model
 - 2. Retention is good, no negative interactions with families so far this year.
 - 3. Welcomed 16 new team members including related services for Special Education. Have 2 new teachers this year, who are previous engagement specialists, that have transitioned into the classroom. These teachers also meet with mentors and 'buddies' bi-weekly
 - 4. 87.9% completed NWEA
 - 5. 550 students enrolled currently
 - 6. NCAA accreditation approved we are now an NCAA-accredited school

7. Cogna- submitted everything that they have requested (calendars, handbooks, etc.) moving on to the live review accreditation on 11/15/24 she will then recommend us to Cogna for accreditation.
7. New business
 - a. January Boarding Meeting date/time discussion
 - i. Motion to add new business to board meeting agenda on 9/26/24 by Arturo Armijo, seconded by Danielle Sirianni, all members - aye, motion carried
 - ii. President Betsy Webbert will be leaving in January and returning in March
 1. Can move the January board meeting date to 1/16/25
 2. Motion to move January board meeting to 1/16/25 at 5:00 pm EST by Danielle Sirianni seconded by Soraida Cunningham, all members - aye, motion carried
8. Adjournment
 - a. Motion to adjourn at 5:59 pm by Danielle Sirianni, seconded by Arturo Armijo, all members - aye, motion carried

DocuSigned by:
Betsy Webbert
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1/28/2025