

Uplift Michigan Online School
Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 20th, 2025
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 5:03 pm
 - a. Roll Call
 - i. Board Members Present in-person: Betsy Webbert, Soraida Cunningham, Danielle Sirianni, Brian Wood
 - ii. Board Members Call-in:
 - iii. Call-in: Brandy Pavlik, Lori LaMontagne, Ashley Shehow, Mike Gilchrist
 - iv. In-person: Tim Wood, Tonya Lowry
 - v. Board Members Absent: Arturo Armijo
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Statement of Purpose
4. Regular Business
 - a. Adoption of Agenda
 - i. Motion to adopt the agenda by Danielle Sirianni, seconded by Soraida Cunningham, all members - aye, motion carried
 - b. Public Comment
 - i. None
 - c. Correspondence
 - i. [Audit Narrative](#)
 1. 100% error-free, no findings
 2. 30.52 FTE gained from section 25E funding
 - d. Approval of Minutes
 - i. Motion to approve the regular meeting minutes from the September board meeting by Soraida Cunningham, 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 Soraida Cunningham, all members - aye, motion carried
5. Leadership Update
 - a. Board Strategy and Improvement
 - i. None
 - b. Management update
 - i. Stephenson Area Public Schools MDE Assurances and Verification visit
 1. Scored 96%
 2. Done about every 3 years
 3. Looking into the Epicenter software program (houses all information needed for A&V visit)- currently getting pricing
 - ii. Cognia Accreditation update

1. By the end of March, we will hear if the Cognia board has approved.
 - iii. NCSI board policy link regarding Sexual Assault and Harassment Information.
 1. Information must be included in our student handbook.
 - iv. Online Academic Program for Imprisoned Students update
 1. Working with MDE and exploring the possibility of providing educational services to incarcerated youth.
 - v. Governor Whitmer proposed a 20% cut in funding for Cyber Charter Schools from \$10K to \$ 8K. Tonya and Tim spoke to the House School Aid Appropriations Committee, asking them to reinstate the 20% funding cut.
 1. The chair of the House School Aid Appropriations Committee is very supportive of us and wants to reinstate equal funding for all students in Michigan.
 - vi. Morgan Haga, Director of Enrollment and Marketing, is redesigning orientation, messaging, and video marketing for UMOS and the Alternative Education program. She also met with the Uplift Administrative team for input.
 - vii. [National Charter School Institute \(NCSI\) policies](#)- to be voted on by the Board.
 1. Motion to approve the NCSI policies as presented by Danielle Sirianni, seconded by Brian Wood, all members- aye, motion carried
- c. K-12 overview- Superintendent
 - i. K-12 Overview
 1. An international field trip to Spain and France starts tomorrow. 2 students from Uplift and our Special Educational Director, Erin Pielin, are attending with a group of students from Landmark Academy.
 2. Several field trips have taken place, including Michigan Career Day in Grand Rapids and museum visits. Charter Day at the Capitol is also happening on May 6th.
 3. Grad rate tracking at 65% currently, being conservative with this rate
 4. Graduation planning is done. Currently preparing for the Graduation Event in June
 5. Popsicles in the park will happen again this year, regionally around the state.
 6. Michigan Adventure field trip for the end of the year is also being planned. The secondary team is working on this, anticipate great attendance.
 7. State testing- sites booked and ready to go.
 8. Staff are helping students with taking senior pictures so they do not miss out on having their senior pictures in the graduation slideshow.
 9. The prom closet is growing for students who can not afford prom clothing.
 10. Go Guardian system- alerts staff when student activity indicates a risk of self-harm or possible harm to others.
 - ii. Uplift Mission Statement Update

1. Empower-Learn-Succeed
 2. Would like to update and make it more impactful by making it shorter and easier to remember.
 3. Motion to approve new Uplift Mission statement as presented by Brian Wood, seconded by Soraida Cunningham, all members-aye, motion carried
- iii. [School District Calendar](#) for SY 25/26- for approval
1. Motion to approve the School District Calendar by Soraida Cunningham, seconded by Danielle Sirianni, all members- aye, motion carried
6. Adjournment
- a. Motion to adjourn at 5:47 pm by Danielle Sirianni, seconded by Brian Wood, all members - aye, motion carried

DocuSigned by:
Betsy Weibert
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6/30/2025