

Uplift Michigan Online School
Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 23rd, 2025
5:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Location:

Dan and Pamela DeVos Center for Interprof Health
Room 401 Tubergen Conference Room
333 Michigan Street NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

1. Board meeting called to order by Betsy Webbert at 5:02 pm
 - a. Roll Call
 - i. Board Members Present in-person: Betsy Webbert, Danielle Sirianni, Rob Pennell
 - ii. Board Members Call-in:
 - iii. Call-in: Tonya Lowry, Brandy Pavlik, Travis Gostinger
 - iv. In-person: Tim Wood, Michael Gilchrist, Elizabeth Chandler
 - v. Board Members Absent: Brian Wood
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Statement of Purpose
4. Oath of Office
 - a. Rob Pennell- accepted position and took the oath of the board.
5. Regular Business
 - a. Adoption of Agenda
 - i. Amendment- add item 11- December Board meeting date discussion
 - ii. Motion to accept amended agenda- adding item 11 December Board meeting date discussion by Danielle Sirianni, seconded by Betsy Webbert
 - b. Public Comment
 - i. None
 - c. Correspondence
 - i. None
 - d. Approval of [Minutes](#)
 - i. Motion to approve the regular meeting minutes from the August board meeting by Danielle Sirianni, seconded by Rob Pennell, all members - aye, motion carried
6. [Financial Reports](#)
 - a. Presented by Brandy Pavlik
 - b. Motion to approve the financial report as presented by Danielle Sirianni, seconded by Rob Pennell, all members - aye, motion carried
7. Authorizer Update- Jerry Sardina
 - a. Jerry Sardina will try to attend the next meeting virtually
 - b. Elizabeth Chandler is attending in person for Jerry Sardina
 - i. Average salary legislation needs to be posted on the Academy website by November 1st, 2025
 1. Brandy Pavlik will update the website
 - ii. Jerry Sardina and Elizabeth Chandler are working on an updated contract for Elizabeth to continue with Stephenson Area Public Schools, currently contracted through December.

- iii. Still looking to add one more board member
- 8. Management Update- Dr. Timothy Wood and Michael Gilchrist
 - a. Enrollment Update
 - i. Started summer at 450 enrollments, 647.7 total enrollments on Count Day (+65 from last year)
 - ii. Today: 720 enrollments and adding more to start next week.
 - b. Board Candidate
 - i. Dan Shanahan will no longer be joining the UMOS board as he has moved out of state.
 - c. Montessori School
 - i. NextLvl is considering opening a K-8 Montessori school under Uplift.
 - ii. Currently looking into LMS for online Montessori
 - d. Stand Up for Kids
 - i. Thank you to Danielle for meeting every Tuesday
 - e. PD Day
 - i. Standards-Based Learning and staff-led PDs (staff teaching staff)
 - f. Graduation
 - i. Will take place at Washtenaw Community College this year.
 - g. Positive Culture Retention Campaign
 - i. Shift to Tonya
- 9. Leadership Update
 - a. K-12 Overview- Tonya Lowry
 - i. Positive Culture Retention Campaign
 - 1. Positive phone calls
 - a. Intentional calls to families to tell them something good about the students. Many families have not experienced a positive call from a school before. Last year made over 3000 phone calls, each student at least 1 time.
 - ii. Live orientation attendance
 - 1. Gone up from last year and going well
 - iii. Alternative Ed program
 - 1. Currently, 75 students with 30+ identified as possible enrollments for the program.
 - 2. Dozens of students over the age of 20, many between the ages of 18-20, and a few over the age of 22
 - 3. Many have children of their own, and most are working as well as going to school.
 - b. Academic Update
 - i. [Course offerings](#)- to include Physical Science at the Secondary level
 - 1. Motion to approve Physical Science at the Secondary Level as presented by Danielle Sirianni, seconded by Rob Pennell, all members- aye, motion carried
 - ii. [Alternative Ed Handbook](#)- updated language
 - 1. Motion to approve the Alternative Ed Handbook language update by Betsy Webbert, seconded by Danielle Sirianni, all members- aye, motion carried
- 10. Board Strategy and Planning
 - a. Treasurer Position
 - i. Rob Pennell volunteers to be Uplift Michigan Online Board Treasurer.
 - ii. Motion to approve Rob Pennell to become Treasurer by Betsy Webbert, seconded by Danielle Sirianni, all members- aye, motion carried

11. December Board Meeting date

- a. Brandy Pavlik will not be able to provide financials 7 days prior; the board agrees to waive the 7-day prior notice.
- b. Motion to change the December Board Meeting to December 4th, 2025, by Danielle Sirianni, seconded by Rob Pennell, all members- aye, motion carried

12. Adjournment

- a. Motion to adjourn at 5:55 pm by Betsy Webbert, seconded by Danielle Sirianni, all members - aye, motion carried

DocuSigned by:
Danielle Sirianni
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12/9/2025