
Minutes
May 30, 2019 Annual Meeting
UChicago Charter School Board of Directors

May. 30, 2019, 5:00 to 5:58 p.m.
The University of Chicago Woodlawn Campus
First Floor College Counseling Classroom
6300 South University Avenue, Chicago, IL 60637

Meeting Minutes

Attendees

Board of Directors Members in attendance: D. Abebe (presiding); K. Callow-Wright; T. Island; S. Vasquez

Board of Directors Members absent: D. Douglas; D. Gorman-Smith; I. Samstein

Also in attendance: UEI/UCCS Staff: C. Epstein, A. Hull; U. Mardyla, D. Warren; J. Nowaczewski

I. Welcome

President Abebe called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. President Abebe asked CEO Island to review with him Agenda Item 1.a. concerning the Advisory Council Meeting on May 16, 2019. President Abebe and CEO Island shared that the focus of the May 16, 2019 meeting had been a presentation from students of Carter G. Woodson who had been engaged in a community action project. She shared that a presentation regarding Diverse Learners at UCCS was also discussed, and then thereafter the Council had gone into executive session, with a brief public session thereafter. Chair Abebe noted the Board had simultaneously conducted its meeting as a part of the Council's meeting, with its own vote to enter into executive session.

President Abebe discussed Board attendance at Council Meetings in 2019-2020, noting that the Board did not seek to create a quorum or to conduct business by attending Council Meetings, and that further communication regarding Board attendance at Council Meetings would be shared at a later date.

The President then asked Board Member Gorman-Smith to address Agenda Item I.c., and Member Gorman-Smith shared that the University was continuing to plan to make the School of Social Services Administration, ("SSA"), the new academic home of the Urban Education Institute, ("UEI"). Member Gorman-Smith reiterated that structuring of UEI within an academic unit conferred benefits, in terms of stability and sustainability, within the University. She

emphasized the shared nature of the vision and purpose of SSA and UEI. Gorman-Smith confirmed that the new arrangement was scheduled to become official as of the new fiscal year, July 1, 2019.

II. Approval of Minutes

Chair Abebe asked for a Motion to approve the Minutes of the Board's Mar. 19, 2019 Meeting, as included in the Board Book. Member Vasquez so moved, Member Callow-Wright seconded the motion, and following a voice vote, the Minutes as drafted were unanimously accepted by the Board.

III. Public Comment

Chair Abebe called for any members of the public who wished to make public comment. No member of the public had signed up for public comment and none came forward with public comments.

IV. CEO's Report

CEO Island noted that the Contract for UCCS' 5 year renewal was still in negotiation with CPS. She then reiterated that the enrollment data was the same as had been shared at the May 16 Advisory Council Meeting. The CEO noted plans for the closing of the Carter G. Woodson Campus on June 30, and thanked Director Jarred Brown, Operations Manager Carol Love and UEI COO Charna Epstein for leading the closing protocols. She noted that over 75% of the 8th graders were transitioning to the Woodlawn High School. Finally, CEO Island Childress noted that graduation was scheduled for the High School on Friday, June 7, 2019, and encouraged all Board members to attend.

V. Action Item V.a. Approve Budget for 2019-2020.

Chair Abebe asked UEI Chief Financial Officer Mardyla to present the proposed Budget for 2019-2020 to the Board. The CFO reviewed a power point included in the Board materials. She noted that the Advisory Council Member Mark Hansen, Chair of the Advisory Council Budget Committee had reviewed the Budget with his committee, and recommended that the Board approve the FY20 Budget. The CFO summarized that the FY20 Budget represented a 2% increase in public funds, and provided a 3% salary increase for employees. She noted that \$2,150,000 in private dollars had been allocated to the Charter.

The CFO noted the likelihood that the FY19 budget would end at or better than budgeted at year end. Upon questioning, the CFO discussed the methods used by Chicago Public Schools for special needs funding, and also, the fee charged to each UCCS school to fund Charter Corp.

The Board discussed the Waiver on Funding required by CPS, and then reviewed the historical pattern of philanthropy at UChicago Charter. Chair Abebe noted that at the May Advisory

Council, Member Pratter had asked that a strategy concerning philanthropy be discussed at the first Council Meeting in the 2019-2020 school year. Member Vasquez asked if staff ran scenarios for different funding options from CPS, and staff confirmed these analytics were performed.

Following this discussion, Board Member Callow-Wright made a motion to accept the FY2019-2020 Budget as submitted to the Board. Member Vasquez seconded the motion, and on a voice vote, the FY20 Budget was unanimously approved as submitted in the Board Book.

V.b. Action Item to Approve Amendments to the UCCS Student Code of Conduct.

President Abebe asked CEO Island to review the proposed amendments to the UCCS Student Code of Conduct. CEO Island reviewed the modest changes proposed, which were advised by UCCS' counsel, given CPS' annual review of the Code of Conduct, and the requirement that the Board President aver that UCCS follows Illinois law in its Student Code of Conduct. Proposed changes included updating the Parent Teacher Advisory Council provisions, clarifying certain obligations around suspensions and expulsions, and reporting data annually to the Board. Member Vasquez noted sections where certain conformities could clarify the Code. With these suggestions, Member Vasquez moved that Code be adopted as orally amended, and Member Callow-Wright seconded the motion. On a voice vote, the Board unanimously approved the motion to amend the Student Code of Conduct as set forth in the Board Book and as orally amended in the Board Meeting.

V.c, d, e, f. Action Items regarding Appointments, a New Board Date, and 2019-2020 Meetings.

President Abebe advised the Board that as an Annual Meeting, certain procedural matters regarding appointments and Board and Council dates required the Board's review and vote. Serially, Member Callow-Wright made a motion, and Member Vasquez seconded the following items from the Board Book, including Item Vc. Annual Election of Officers & Member Terms; Item V.d Annual Appointment of Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the Advisory Council; Item V.e. The Approval of an Additional Board Meeting Date of June 26, 2019, and, on a unanimous voice vote all three Items were approved by the Board as presented in the Board Book. Member Vasquez then made a motion to approve Item V.f., the Annual Calendar of Meetings for the 2019-2020 School Year; Member Callow-Wright approved, and on another unanimous voice vote, the Board approved the new calendar as written.

V.g. Action Item to Approve New UCCS Policy regarding Document Retention.

CEO Island Childress asked Staff Nowaczewski to review the Document Retention Policy as proposed. Nowaczewski noted that UCCS staff had worked closely with the Office of Legal Counsel as well as the University's Department of Labor Relations to develop the Document Retention Policy. The Policy follows University Policy, but is tailored to the Charter School's needs, and in particular, clarifies the length of time the Charter School need keep certain types of personnel documents. Member Vasquez made a motion to adopt the Policy as presented, Member Callow-Wright seconded the Motion, and the Policy was adopted on a unanimous voice vote.

VI. Closed Executive Session

President Abebe asked if the Board wished to go into Closed Executive Session, as noted on the Agenda, but the Board declined to do so. The Board briefly discussed the timeline for interviewing new candidates for open Director positions, and was told 12 candidates had been interviewed to date.

VII & VIII. Updates, New Business & Adjournment

The President discussed, in connection with Item VII.a., regarding Renewal Conditions, that during the May Council Meeting the presentation given on Diverse Learners by staff members Brown and Oros was helpful, and other Board Members agreed. The Board Members continued discussing the schedule for interviewing candidates for open Director positions, including the dates of the Board and Council interviews with candidates, as well as the dates of the Community Forums at the NKO and Woodlawn campuses.

The Chair called for a motion to adjourn. Board Member Callow-Wright moved that the Board adjourn; Member Vasquez seconded the motion. On a voice vote, all members present voted to adjourn the meeting at 5:58 p.m.

FINAL Minutes APPROVED SEPT. 2019.