

True North Rochester Prep Charter School
Board of Trustees Meeting - Minutes
September 21, 2017

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Rosenberger at 12:10 pm.

Roll Call

The roll call was taken and a quorum was found present.

Trustees Present: Geoffrey Rosenberger
 James Ryan
 Rebecca Sumner
 Jean Howard
 Ron Zarella
 Josh Phillips (via videoconference)

Trustees Absent: James Gleason
 James Barger

Also Present:

Anna Hall	Chief Operating Officer, Uncommon Schools Rochester, Troy, and Boston
Paul Powell	Associate Managing Director, Uncommon Schools Rochester
John Claypool	Associate Chief Operating Officer, Uncommon School Rochester
Christy Hendler	Director of Strategic Initiatives, Uncommon Schools Rochester
Eric O'Connor	Regional Director of Special Projects, Uncommon Schools Rochester
Kaitlin Driscoll	Director of Operations, Rochester Prep West Elementary School
Emily Volpe	Principal, Rochester Prep West Elementary School
Amy Sponsler	Director of Operations, Rochester Prep Elementary School 3
Christopher Shaffer	Principal, Rochester Prep Elementary School 3
Jesika Anthony	Network Special Projects Coordinator, Uncommon Schools Rochester, Troy, and Boston

Public Comment

No public comments were made.

Approval of Minutes

The following motion was made to approve the minutes from the June 1, 2017 board meeting.

Motion: Rebecca Sumner

Second: Jean Howard

Vote: Approved unanimously

Campus Update

Emily Volpe highlighted West Campus Elementary School's 3rd grade math and ELA results on the 2017 New York State exams and compared them to Monroe County schools and schools across the Uncommon Schools Network. 2016-17 was this school's first year with a 3rd grade class and therefore the first time taking the state exams. Principal Volpe explained how the lessons learned during the past year are impacting plans for the upcoming school year.

Christopher Shaffer provided an update to the Board on Elementary School 3. He shared that school leaders are working hard to create a school where students, families and staff love to be. Principal Shaffer provided several data points as evidence of this goal, including family attendance at school events, 100% staff retention for the second year, and staff survey results. Christopher Shaffer explained that the positive school culture is translating into early achievement results and detailed some of those as well. Principal Shaffer also explained the need to continue to support high needs students more and highlighted the hiring of a SPED Coordinator to address this. Early baseline assessments for every student have already taken place within the first two weeks of school.

Amy Sponsler provided an update on the St. Jacob Street facility. A 10 week, \$1.5M renovation project was completed by the Nichols Team. The eventual intention is to house MS 3 in the building when West MS departs to 305 Andrews Street. Renovations included: classrooms, gymnasium roof, mounted projectors, parking lot expansion, security camera, etc. Every space in this building is now ready for student use.

Assistant Superintendent Update

Assistant Superintendent Paul Powell provided an update to the Board on 2016-17 New York State Test results. Comparisons were drawn between city, state, white, not economically disadvantaged, and Uncommon schools in ELA and Math. Bright spots were highlighted, noting 3rd, 4th, and 8th grade students in ELA and 3rd, 4th, and 7th grade in Math. There was discussion around the differences in trends between ELA and Math. Mr. Powell then shared some year over year and Cohort analysis for ELA and Math. Cohort growth was also discussed, and Paul Powell noted some areas of focus for the future for 4th to 5th grade. He concluded the 3-8 analysis by sharing preliminary actions steps that Rochester Prep is taking.

For Rochester Prep High School, Paul Powell explored the SAT and AP achievement of the high school students. Regents results were then explored, with Mr. Powell detailing results on each exam and total number of exams passed. The Board discussed these results and the approach to high school education broadly.

Operations Update

Anna Hall provided an update on the high school building search status. Ms. Hall shared three options that will be investigated and provided a timeline for the Board's consideration on how to proceed

Anna Hall then shared with the Board an explanation of an Uncommon Schools' audit of the current Memorandum of Understanding. Uncommon leadership will be reaching out to Board Members to share potential changes and solicit input in the future.

Geoffrey Rosenberger led a discussion on insurance coverage and requested that the Board revisit carriers to explore the option of a higher rated carrier next year. He then proposed a motion to increase D&O coverage from \$3M to \$10M for the current school year.

Motion: Geoffrey Rosenberger

Second: Jim Ryan

Vote: Approved unanimously

Anna Hall then provided a quick Finance update to the Board.

DSI Update

Christy Hendler provided an update to the Board on the High School Senior Capstone projects through the RIT Partnership, highlighting some specific projects and RIT Professors involved.

Eric O'Connor provided an update to the Board on student recruitment and enrollment. Mr. O'Connor noted that the current enrollment and waitlist numbers are similar to last year and outlined some of the efforts for the upcoming recruitment season.

Annual Officer Elections

The board discussed the position of Secretary and agreed that it was unnecessary. There is an intention to revise the by-laws to reflect this change at the November board meeting.

Geoffrey Rosenberger made a motion to keep the current officer slate as it stands: Geoffrey Rosenberger as Chair, Rebecca Sumner as Vice Chair, and Ron Zarella as Treasurer.

Motion: Geoffrey Rosenberger

Second: Jim Ryan

Vote: Approved unanimously

Meeting adjourned

Motion: Rebecca Sumner

Second: Jim Ryan

Vote: Approved unanimously

Time: 1:45 pm