APPROVED

Urban Montessori Charter School

Minutes

Regular Board Meeting

Date and Time
Thursday September 24, 2020 at 6:15 PM

Location
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5102904005
Meeting ID: 510 290 4005
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Meeting ID: 510 290 4005
Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kb8IDmVDDD

PER GOVERNOR NEWSOM'S SHELTER IN PLACE EXECUTIVE ORDER DATED MARCH 19, 2020 (WHICH IS HERE IN ITS ENTIRETY) AND BY ORDER OF THE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA DATED JUNE 5, 2020 (Revised June 18, 2020, July 15, 2020, and August 20, 2020) (WHICH IS HERE IN ITS ENTIRETY):
THIS WILL BE A VIRTUAL-ONLY MEETING

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One tap mobile +16699006833,,5102904005# US (San Jose) +13462487799,,5102904005# US (Houston) Dial by your location +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose) +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston) +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma) +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago) +1 929 436 2866 US (New York) +1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown) Meeting ID: 510 290 4005 Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kb8IDmVDDD

Important Notice: Due to increased demand, dial-in by phone audio conferencing capabilities may be unavailable. During this time, Zoom strongly recommends using computer audio capabilities (or via phone with the Zoom app) while on wifi.

If you have any trouble getting on the Zoom, please text 510-290-4005 for support.

Members: Loren Bentley Tammero, Olivia Couch, Jan Faraguna, Christina Greenberg, Greg Klein, Davis Leung, Hae-Sin Thomas, Stacey Wang

Urban Montessori Charter School welcomes your participation at Board meetings. The purpose of a public meeting of the Board of Directors ("Board") is to conduct the affairs of the organization in public. Your participation assures us of continuing community interest in our school and assists the Board in making the best decisions for our school. To assist you in the ease of speaking/participating in our meetings, guidelines are provided at the bottom of this agenda. All materials for all board and committee meetings, including audio recordings of Regular Board Meetings, are available via on our BoardOnTrack public portal and is also accessible via the UMCS School Calendar.

Directors Present
C. Greenberg (remote), D. Leung (remote), G. Klein (remote), H. Thomas (remote), J. Faraguna (remote), L. Bentley Tammero (remote), O. Couch (remote), S. Wang (remote)

Directors Absent
None

Directors who arrived after the meeting opened
H. Thomas

Guests Present
D. Bissonnette (remote), K. Feeney (remote)

I. Opening Items

A. Call the Meeting to Order

D. Leung called a meeting of the board of directors of Urban Montessori Charter School to order on Thursday Sep 24, 2020 at 6:17 PM.

B. Record Attendance

C. Review of Action/Discussion Items

No changes needed.

D. Board and Community Appreciations

Greg appreciated Teacher Camisha Fatimah.
Davis appreciated the teachers for all their work.
Loren appreciated all of the Support Teachers, and all the teachers, for their work administering NWEA MAP at a distance -- appreciate their time, patience, and energy.
Parent Deborah Jue appreciated the staff, the teachers, parents, and the kids!, for sticking with it during assessments.
Krishna appreciated the fundraising committee for their work around the Read-a-Thon.
Daniel appreciated students for creative work, projects, and follow-ups during Learning Everywhere.

E. Board Member Comment

Greg commented on the lack of justice for Breonna Taylor.
Davis commented on the need for more empathy, to rear children who can be more successful than we are.
Olivia commented on how our own laws and structures create the harms for which we need justice. Need to look inwards in our own organization as well.

F. Presentations from the Floor

No public comment.

II. Head of School Report

A. Head of School Report

Krishna shared her report for the month.

Teacher Tobie from Sunflower shared sample student work that was turned in via Seesaw, showing the creativity students show in choosing how they do follow-up work from their lessons. Tobie shared about staying true to Montessori during Learning Everywhere.

Calendar and professional development: tomorrow, 9/25, is a non-student day of staff professional development. Later in October, back to school evening and family education nights coming. At PD, community building, data analysis, SEL training, planning time, and

more. Recently had more anti-racist / anti-bias training supported by Dr. Rachelle Rodgers-Ard.

H. Thomas arrived.
Krishna spoke about reviewing policies and procedures -- the documents themselves -- surfacing and addressing racism in codified policies and changing to anti-racist language, policy, and procedure.

Enrollment: currently at 400 with 1-2 offers still out. Attendance is at 95.1% with outreach begun to support students with attendance.

Seesaw dashboard shows over 31,000 student work posts.

Regarding reopening: Alameda County is out of purple and into the red tier. County must remain in the red tier for two weeks prior to reopening school. Oakland and zipcode data doesn't simply match Alameda County averages overall. Our community includes families who want in-person ASAP and families who want distance learning all year. Much more communication would come first from County and the school prior to any reopening for any students -- even if only for a relatively small number of students.

Loren shared a concern about handling a future "positive case" amongst the staff -- how might that work if a staff member has to quarantine. Krishna share that is exactly the sort of dynamic that has to be planned for prior to reopening -- want to avoid the disruption of reopening and then having to shut down again right away.

Jan asked about the SEL screener. Krishna shared that the Counselor is being trained now on it, YIPS and YEPS, and done later in mid October. Youth Internalizing Problems Screener and Youth Externalizing Problems Screener. Can be done in surveys and also during conferencing with teachers.

Greg asked about disaggregated Seesaw data -- not available on the platform currently, but staff are looking at solutions.

Greg appreciated teacher Tobie for sharing tonight.

No other public comment.

B. Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan

C. Greenberg made a motion to approve the Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan.
S. Wang seconded the motion.
Krishna shared the Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan, including how the school has received feedback from families, staff, and the board.

Hae-Sin shared that the Academic Committee recommends approval.

No other public comment.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call	
G. Klein	Aye
O. Couch	Aye
H. Thomas	Aye
J. Faraguna	Aye
C. Greenberg	Aye
L. Bentley Tammero	Aye
S. Wang	Aye
D. Leung	Aye

III. Finance Committee

A. Discussion Item - Committee Report, including year to date financial report

Greg presented the August 2020 financial summary and update. The forecast has changed slightly. There was as small unexpected spend on the alarm system at the new school campus. We also allocated a stipend for teachers who did work over the summer to help the school. Cash balance remains very strong (especially in comparison to last fiscal year). We are currently over 2 months of expense on our cash balance. Our goal is to have 3 months expense, as there is timing uncertainty of payments at the state level. We are also attempting to grow as a school. There is a waiver for growth funding that we will be applying for (under SB 820). That potential funding is NOT included in the monthly cash balance. The cash issuance under this waiver would actually be paid in FY 2021-2022 if we did receive the funding.

Questions or public comment:
Loren asked what fundraising will look like this year. The categories under the fundraising and grant portion of our budget will not necessarily be applicable. What does matter is that we are trying to reach the total give amount. The fundraising committee is actively looking at what can be done in terms of read-a-thon, a possible auction, and other thoughtful ways that we can reach our fundraising goal, which includes $78,000 from families, a historic low for the school overall and historic low per student enrolled, under $200 per student. We ultimately want to run our quality and expensive two-teachers-per-classroom model without *any* fundraising. This will take more time.

IV. Academic Oversight Committee

A. Discussion Item - Committee Report

Hae-Sin shared the committee report.

The committee reviewed the Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan. The committee discussed the data capacity needs to support with renewal. The committee talked about COVID in the red tier, but still really hard hit zip codes in Oakland. The committee agreed to create a roadmap document and engage the board and community related to reopening. The criteria would include COVID case rates, along with staff and family intentions. We'd need to consider if we are operationally ready, like reviewing HVAC systems and PPE supplies. We will use data and need to identify which students need in-person the most.

Davis left briefly from 7:17 to 7:19pm.

Hae-Sin shared that facilities-based learning is not likely to occur at a large scale for a while. We would need to give staff lead time to set up physically in the new campus.

Greg shared that there are multiple pathways to reopening under different legal guidance, and Hae-Sin shared that regardless, we have to make sure we're prepared no matter what.

Loren shared about the importance of communicating with families who may be hearing about the County's status. Krishna shared about starting to communicate more at committee meeting, tonight, and in tomorrow's Friday email.

Jan commented about how the committee discussed how important it was to get to in-person instruction, and that Learning Everywhere is going relatively well, and that switch to in-person will take time and resources -- which could have an impact on current distance learning. Need to balance helping kids continue learning now, while preparing for future phases of the school year.

No other public comment.

V. Family Advisory Council

A. Committee Report

Loren shared the FAC committee report. They met with Krishna regarding Back to School night ideas. The FAC is working on a form to help gather questions from families at anytime -- could help inform future parent engagement evenings. FAC continues hear about how amazing teachers are doing in such a difficult situation -- and things are going about as well as could be, but it's still very difficult for many families to function this way. Some families are reporting that students are having more instruction than ever before, and others reporting students finishing sooner. Some families are asking for more support in students working with peers and student-to-student contact. Loren also shared some concerns from families about NWEA being administered at a distance and that it may not be accurate for their student. Loren suggested additional communication about the nature

of an adaptive assessment to support parents and students to persevere. Suggestion of surveying families on how assessment went for their child.

Greg shared about how the school needs multiple ways to "triangulate" around a student to understand their progress. Loren clarified about how it may or may not relate to renewal, and Greg shared that the data and its context are still whatever they are, and it's always important to understand and present academic data in context.

Jan shared resources from NWEA and about an adaptive assessment. Important that everyone knows that these aren't the type of assessments where a student would get a 100%, say.

Loren raised an issue with a specific MAP item that a parent felt was racially biased. Krishna shared about the bias in pretty much all standardized assessments. That item was flagged for Krishna, and Krishna agreed with the parent -- unclear who else may have received that specific item in an adaptive test. Krishna sent on the item to NWEA and has not yet heard a response. Important to look at multiple data points to mitigate the bias in any one assessment.

Greg agreed with Loren that is difficult work to analyze data and share how students are progressing. Loren asked about assessment options. Hae-Sin shared about limited assessment options under new AB 1505. Greg shared about leveraging all the data sets, student achievement and other data sets, when making a case for renewal.

Jan asked about parents "over helping" and Loren shared that she didn't hear about that.

No other public comment.

VI. Executive & Governance Committee

A. Discussion Item: Committee Updates, including candidates for board service, Form 700, and training

Christina shared the committee report. The committee reviewed the annual topics calendar, noting that some were different given COVID. All committees should review that calendar of topics.

BoardOnTrack joined and we looked at the Board Self Assessment. Christina shared the results and how a lower rating isn't necessarily an issue, but definitely want to investigate areas where Board and Krishna may not be assessing similarly. BoardOnTrack shared some recommended goal areas for the Board to consider.

Greg shared about the annual training resources.

No other public comment.

B. Discuss and vote on Board Officers, committee chairs, and committee members for 2020-2021

No changes needed.

No public comment.

VII. Other Business

A. Oakland and California Updates

Hae-Sin shared about Families in Action candidate forums for Oakland school board. D5 is tonight. D7 already occurred. D1 and D3 forums are next week. Important to communicate with families about forums. The forums are recorded and the links can be shared.

Christina recruited one of the candidates for District 5 to be a principal back years ago, and would be happy to answer questions offline about him.

No other public comment.

B. California Proposition 13

G. Klein made a motion to approve the resolution in support of Proposition 15.
C. Greenberg seconded the motion.
Hae-Sin shared about proposition 15. Fifteen. If passed, it would amend Proposition 13. Prop 15 would amend Prop 13 for commercial and industrial properties over $3 million. Tax revenues would go to support public schools. An organization called Schools and Communities First is supporting Proposition 15.

Hae-Sin shared the resolution in support of Proposition 15.

Greg shared about his support for the resolution, and hoped that future resolutions can be worked through committee structure.

Davis shared about past experiences where clients definitely sought to avoid higher taxes on properties. Changing this law could bring real change for schools.

No other public comment.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

H. Thomas	Aye
L. Bentley Tammero	Aye
J. Faraguna	Aye
O. Couch	Aye

Roll Call

C. Greenberg	Aye
G. Klein	Aye
D. Leung	Aye
S. Wang	Aye

C. Approve Minutes from August 27, 2020 Special Meeting

H. Thomas made a motion to approve the minutes from UMCS Special Board Meeting on 08-27-20.
D. Leung seconded the motion.
No discussion. No public comment.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

C. Greenberg	Aye
S. Wang	Aye
O. Couch	Aye
J. Faraguna	Aye
H. Thomas	Aye
G. Klein	Aye
D. Leung	Aye
L. Bentley Tammero	Aye

D. Approve Minutes from August 27, 2020 Regular Meeting

C. Greenberg made a motion to approve the minutes from Regular Board Meeting on 08-27-20.
H. Thomas seconded the motion.
No discussion, no public comment.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

D. Leung	Aye
J. Faraguna	Aye
G. Klein	Aye
L. Bentley Tammero	Aye
S. Wang	Aye
H. Thomas	Aye
C. Greenberg	Aye
O. Couch	Aye

E. Collect New Business items for Future Meetings

No new items at this time.

VIII. Return to Open Session

A.

Report out of any closed session action(s)

No actions taken.

IX. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 9:04 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
D. Leung

Documents used during the meeting

- UMCS-September_Presentation.pdf
- UMCS-August_Financials.pdf
- Urban Montessori Charter School Resolution to Support Passage of Proposition 15.pdf

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THE ORDER OF BUSINESS MAY BE CHANGED WITHOUT NOTICE Notice is hereby given that the order of consideration of matters on this agenda may be changed without prior notice.

REASONABLE LIMITATIONS MAY BE PLACED ON PUBLIC TESTIMONY The Governing Board's presiding officer reserves the right to impose reasonable time limits on public testimony to ensure that the agenda is completed.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS MAY BE MADE Notice is hereby given that, consistent with the requirements of the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, special presentations not mentioned in the agenda may be made at this meeting. However, any such presentation will be for information only.

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION WILL BE PROVIDED FOR ANY INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY Pursuant to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, any individual with a disability who requires reasonable accommodation to attend or participate in this meeting of the Governing Board may request assistance by contacting UMCS at 4551 Steele Street, Oakland, CA 94619 or info@urbanmontessori.org.

FOR MORE INFORMATION For more information concerning this agenda or for materials relating to this meeting, please contact UMCS at 4551 Steele Street, Oakland, CA 94619 or board@urbanmontessori.org. All materials are available via the Governance Section of our website: http://www.urbanmontessori.org/governance or directly via our BoardOnTrack public portal.