APPROVED

Urban Montessori Charter School

Minutes

Regular Board Meeting

Date and Time
Thursday October 26, 2023 at 5:30 PM

Location
4551 Steele Street, Oakland, CA 94619. Ring the front bell or call/text 510-290-4005 for entry. Signage on campus will direct you to the correct room, generally the Head of School's Office.

The public may comment and participate via Zoom if they prefer. The public may also email comments to board@urbanmontessori.org to be shared by the Board's Secretary during the meeting. Please make that intention clear in your email.

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82592855160?pwd=cG02OTRoUVdrdngwOTI2WFBrOTBzQT09

Meeting ID: 825 9285 5160; Passcode 510 842 1181

One tap mobile
+16699009128,,82592855160# US (San Jose)
+12532158782,,82592855160# US (Tacoma)
Dial by your location
- +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)
- +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
- +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
- +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
- +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
- +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 825 9285 5160
Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/k1Y3eQWvA

Additional teleconference locations:

This meeting will be audio recorded. The public can find documents related to this agenda either linked directly on the agenda or under "Documents" after selecting the meeting in BoardOnTrack prior to viewing the agenda. Downloading the "packet" may not include all of the "Documents" that are still otherwise available to the public via the Meeting on BoardOnTrack.

Members: Kara Fortuna, Greg Klein, Sarah Morrill (Chair), Ann Rhodes, Donald Williams

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 on our BoardOnTrack public portal and also through the UMCS School Calendar.

Directors Present
A. Rhodes, G. Klein, K. Fortuna, S. Morrill

Directors Absent
D. Williams

Guests Present
D. Bissonnette, K. Feeney

I. Opening Items

A. Call the Meeting to Order

S. Morrill called a meeting of the board of directors of Urban Montessori Charter School to order on Thursday Oct 26, 2023 at 5:36 PM.

B. Record Attendance

C. Review of Action/Discussion Items

No changes needed.

D. Board and Community Appreciations

Kara shared an appreciation for the support in Manzanita while Teacher Amy is out on a Leave.
Ana shared an appreciation for the Reading Buddies.

Sarah shared an appreciation for staff, and for the upcoming classroom observations.
Mr. Daniel appreciated afterschool staff.
Ms. Feeney appreciated Teacher Lisa and Mr. Daniel.

E. Board Member Comment

No comments by Board members on items not on the agenda.

F. Presentations from the Floor

No public comments on items not on the agenda.

G. Community Agreements Discussion

Sarah framed the discussion on starting with the school's agreements used by staff, and then the board discussing how the agreements might translate for the board's use.

Welcome Discomfort is the first agreement that the board discussed. Mr. Daniel shared how the staff has agreements to communicate on issues as soon as possible and not to wait for meetings. Sarah shared about welcoming discomfort of an issue being raised, while avoiding attacks on individuals. Ms. Feeney shared that the nature of public school board meetings is that community members can come and share what they want, comfortable and uncomfortable things, and it can be uncomfortable for board members to sit and listen when that topic is not on the agenda and the board isn't legally allowed to go back and forth discussing that topic at that time. The board also discussed the agreement Learn from Silence. Sarah shared that it's important to support folks to speak up who may not usually do so.

No public comments on this item.

II. Head of School Report

A. Head of School Report

Ms. Feeney shared the Head of School Report.

Recent and upcoming events included the recent ACOE staff yearly visit; first round of NWEA complete; family observations November 3 - November 9; family conferences week of November 13th; and Minimum day week for family conference week.

County staff shared that they were impressed with student engagement across classrooms. Data highlights included improved rates of chronic absence for African American students and the growth in SBAC scores from the prior year.

There were also three teachers observing UMCS from two other schools at the same time. Earlier in the day, two members of the National Association of Charter School Authorizers visited (one from Colorado and one from Massachusetts). Amy Ng shared

that on her recent visit, the amount of noise produced by classrooms was a "Joy" -- hearing students engaging productively.

The Site Leadership Team SLT has been meeting every other week on Thursdays from 4:15 - 5:15pm. Working on priorities produced by staff last spring: Data Analysis; Instruction; Professional Development; and Staff Support.

Ms. Feeney shared a major Instructional Goal for the year: 60% of K, 3, 6th grade students will be proficient or master 60% of Math transition checklist items. To support achieving this goal, Ms. Feeney shared upcoming actions including getting an accurate baseline; and using data to schedule lesson study and instructional conversations throughout the year. Teachers are also working this year to calibrate on student mastery for those key transition skills, when students are using the Montessori materials, and connect those specific lessons to the CA state standards and how it is assessed traditionally. The SLT is supporting teachers with social emotional learning curriculum and resources. Ms. Feeney also shared the SLT's staff development goal that connectedness and feeling of inclusiveness will be at 90% or above by May 2024 as measured by staff surveys, and how the SLT will work to support that goal over the year.

On enrollment, Ms. Feeney shared that the school is at 353 students currently and 25 students have signed up for a tour on Nov 17th. On staffing, our new Occupational Therapist starts next week and still hiring for Student Support Assistants and Aftercare Program Leaders. Ms. Feeney was asked and she responded that the SSA positions are full time and aftercare may be part-time, but could include regular day work additionally.

Amy asked about effective enrollment strategies. Ms. Feeney responded that it's still difficult to know still coming back from the pandemic, but that for now folks coming on the tours are asked, and that interest in TK and K is very strong in particular.

No other public comments on this item.

III. Student Outcomes

A. Discussion of 2022-2023 Student Outcomes

Mr. Daniel shared about recent statewide data released publicly by the state. Today will be high-level sharing with more details to go into at the committee level. On Spring 2023 SBAC, 40.79% and 25.7% of students met or exceeded standard in reading and math, respectively. Not shown on the slides, was a large jump in 7th grade proficiency, where the day-to-day program model shifts to more closely align with the more traditional form of assessing as done by the annual state exams. Chronic absence was higher overall than the county last year, but discussed previously, rates for African American students were 10% lower than the county. On ELPAC, the percentage of students reaching Level 3 and Level 4 ten or more percentage points higher than OUSD, and five to seven more percentage points higher than the county. Over 60% of UMCS English Learners scored in

Level 3 or Level 4. Finally, 2.1% of students were suspended last year, compared to OUSD's 3.5%.

No public comments on this item.

IV. Executive & Governance Committee

A. Discussion Item: Committee Report

Sarah shared the committee's report. Sarah shared about the need for the Board to hold more of the institutional understanding of the vision and the direction of the school. The Admin team are going to work to codify and clarify their recent work around the training center and high-fidelity Montessori, and then the Board can work to socialize that information with more people. The board discussed looking for examples of how schools represent this information visually. Amy asked about audience, Sarah shared that for now it's internal staff and board, and could be later further be augmented for families. Ms. Feeney emphasized moving from prior board's work of legal compliance towards student outcomes visioning (without losing legal compliance routines). Sarah shared about checking in again on this in January what support the Board may need to offer to Admin on this work. Sarah reminded the Board about Forms 700 as needed, along with recent Brown Act training materials.

No public comments on this item.

B. Discussion and votes on Board Members

S. Morrill made a motion to approve the board membership of Kara Fortuna for a second term.
A. Rhodes seconded the motion.
Sarah discussed Kara moving from an FAC-appointed rep to board member voted in by the rest of the board. No public comment on this item.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

G. Klein	Absent
D. Williams	Absent
K. Fortuna	Abstain
S. Morrill	Aye
A. Rhodes	Aye

S. Morrill made a motion to to approve board membership of Amy Ng for a two year term starting November 1.
K. Fortuna seconded the motion.
Amy shared background information about her interest in board leadership. Amy has younger students who went to a language immersion Montessori pre-school and spoke to her personal, family, and professional experiences that drive her interest in volunteering for the board.

Amy's term would begin November 1.

Daniel asked Amy about her interest in public Montessori. Amy responded that her students have become self-driven and self-advocates, are building independence at a young age.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call	
S. Morrill	Aye
D. Williams	Absent
K. Fortuna	Aye
A. Rhodes	Aye
G. Klein	Absent

C. Board and Committee Officers & Members

Sarah commented that Donald will complete his board term through the end of February. The board unanimously discussed that Amy Ng will join the Academic Committee.

No public comments on this item.

V. Family Advisory Council

A. Discussion Item - Committee Report

Ann shared that there will be an upcoming family morning coffee, and a Fall Fest Potluck. Left Coast Yoga has upcoming family night out fundraisers. The FAC will soon hear the Finance Committee's recommendation on our first annual donation specific to the UMCS Land Acknowledgement.

No public comments on this item.

VI. Other Business

A. Oakland and California Updates

Sarah shared that district five has an upcoming special election for OUSD school board and encouraged eligible voters to vote.

No public comments on this item.

B. Approve Minutes from September 28, 2023 Regular Meeting

K. Fortuna made a motion to approve the minutes from Regular Board Meeting on 09-28-23.
S. Morrill seconded the motion.

No discussion, questions, or public comments on this item.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

S. Morrill	Aye
A. Rhodes	Aye
D. Williams	Absent
K. Fortuna	Aye
G. Klein	Absent

C. Action Item - Vote on General Consent Report

S. Morrill made a motion to approve the general consent report.
K. Fortuna seconded the motion.
No discussion, questions, or public comments on this item.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

A. Rhodes	Aye
D. Williams	Absent
S. Morrill	Aye
G. Klein	Absent
K. Fortuna	Aye

D. Collect New Business items for Future Meetings

Kara commented about receiving future updates on the School Leadership Team's progress on their goals.

VII. Closed Session

A. Closed Session Items

At 6:58pm, Sarah announced that the Board would go into closed session on Public Employee Performance Evaluation - Head of School. No public comments on this item.

VIII. Return to Open Session

A. Report out of any closed session action(s)

At 7:22pm, the board returned to open session. 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 7:22 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
K. Feeney

Documents used during the meeting

- Amy Ng Resume_10.2023.pdf
- Kara Fortuna Resume - UMCS.pdf
- UMCS_September_Balance_Sheet_10.19.23.pdf
- UMCS_September_Cash_Flow_10.19.23.pdf
- UMCS_September_Forecast_10.19.23.pdf
- UMCS_Finance_Committee_Presentation_10.19.23.pdf

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 BoardOnTrack portal of our website: https://www.urbanmontessori.org/boardontrackportal.