

Meeting minutes

Kids Unlimited Academy

A public charter school

Board meeting

Date: Sept. 26, 2023

Time: 7:30 a.m. (in person)

1. Preliminary

Call to order: 8:04 a.m. by Chair Jani Hale

Determination of quorum: Jani Hale, Pat Barry, Ignacio Sanchez, Ryan Bernard, Greg Aldridge

Absent: Martha Ibarra, Julia McFadden, Judy Duffy, Lisa Hutchins

Guests: Vanessa Lim

Staff: Tom Cole, Lindsay Ochs, Emmanuel Balan, Sarah Lemon

Approval of agenda (additions/corrections): Approved without changes

2. Review and approval of minutes: Minutes unanimously 6.27.23 and 8.29.23

3. **Public comment:** none

4. Student representative report:

Vanessa Lim gave a report. She attended KUA beginning in 2013. She is now a senior at St. Mary's. The school was a life changing experience for Vanessa including activities, meeting foreign exchange students adjusting to academic expectations, and making a completely new group of friends. She described her freshman year as a bit of a struggle, and she felt a bit behind in the beginning. She was grateful for additional time after school that she received from teachers to get help (up to two hours daily). She also learned about community involvement. She shared some of the additional opportunities she has had, including attending a robotics seminar in Houston. Her dream school is U. Penn and she mentioned the nationally renown Wharton School of Business. The Board had some questions for her. Her suggestions included preparations for smoother transition: Vanessa suggested a shadow day to experience the differences in setting. She also recommended getting the right content in math and physics (curriculum alignment) to prepare students for success. She went on to mention forming new friendship groups, and not being fearful about getting out there with new groups. Ryan added some comments related to better preparation at both St. Mary's and KUA, and more coordination with KUA.

5. **Teacher/staff report:** None

6. Business update (Treasurer's report) — Cass Weiland/Pat Barry:

Cass sent out a report. Our ADMW is down, more information to follow; there will be further discussion Cass' return.

7. KU Executive Director report — Tom Cole:

Tom reported the new building is nearing completion, but they may be able to begin moving into the facility around the middle of October. Delays are currently do to elevator contractors. Tom spoke to student behavior and parent accountability. Tom cited as an example of a parent making a social media post based on a false accusation and lack of communication/investigation/verification. Investigation showed the posted material to be completely false. Tom spoke to the impacts of the perceived truth of social media posts, and its effect on the school culture. He feels the "pendulum is shifting." These incidents become a time sink, that may involve attorneys, the PD, etc., losing valuable time in the improvement of instructional delivery. Tom went on to note that KUA is outperforming all schools in southern Oregon in similar demographic bands. Tom attributes this to the change last winter to hold students and staff accountable. "We are not going to wait around to witness failure;" earlier intervention is the appropriate response. The candidate pool is dwindling. In addition, Tom stated he has never seen a situation like this: many parents assume they can offload responsibility on the school, and there is a notable lack of parenting and responsibility.

8. KUA Principal report — Lindsay Ochs:

Lindsay supplied testing data for 2023. The comparison graphs are limited to Title 1 schools. The data is somewhat misrepresented since KUA is a K-8 school compared with K-6 (one K-5) schools. There was substantial positive Board discussion around the Math and ELA scores (K-5 and K-8) including many questions. Generally, KUA is outperforming Title 1 schools in the similar demographic band. In math, KUA performs better in the grades 3-5 than all grades combined. With the very high amount of limited English proficiency, the opposite trend occurs in English Language Instruction where the K-8 outperforms K-5/6. This underscores the need for students to be immersed in English for 5-7 years to reach proficiency.

9. Board Chair Report:

Jani spoke to attendance and elicited input from the Board about continuing zoom, vs. in person. In addition Jani brought up the scope and function of committees in keeping Board meetings focused but informed with some important work being done outside of the regular Board meetings in the interest of time resources. The Board discussed our existing committees: governance and finance, in particular the scope and function of governance. The governance committee will be meeting again soon, TBA. In addition, the Board explored the possibility of an Executive Committee meeting from time to time.

10. New Business: None

Consent agenda

None

Executive session

None

11. Adjournment: a.m.

Next meeting: 7:30 a.m. Oct. 31, 2023, in person

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Aldridge, Secretary