**University High School**

**School Council Meeting Minutes**

**October 15, 2013; 3:15 pm**

**UHS Library**

**Members Present:**

Parents: T. Adkins, R. Blumenthal, D. D’Amore, D. DeLaune, K. Elliott, T. Rankin.

Students: M. Bryson, M. Cronin, O. Keita, N. Pensak, D. Richard, M. Zarin.

Faculty: N. Barnett, D. Herring, P. Karlowicz, A. Lazarewicz, J. Stevens, T. Tobin, K. Tully, B. Yell.

Administration: A. Cislak, D. Packard.

Classified Staff: L. Blackmon.

Community: G. Eades, B. Klahr.

**Members Absent:**

Parents: S. Carmichael, G. Sharp.

Students: C. Liu, S. Liu.

Community: W. Wurr.

# Approval of the agenda

## A. Adkins moves. Rankin seconds. Passes unanimously.

# Approval of the September 10, 2013 minutes

## A. Adkins moves. Klahr seconds. Passes unanimously.

# Call to the audience

## A. No audience members present.

# Announcement of guest: Ms. Treya Allen, UHS College & Career Readiness Coordinator

# Discussion and Action Items

## A. ALE Club funding request

### Allen: The ALE is the Advanced Learning Experiences club. Its mission is to make sure that all students have as many opportunities as possible despite their backgrounds.

#### a. To encourage these opportunities, we would like to take underclassmen freshman to ASU and to a Broadway show. The club does need funding to subsidize funding for the activities.

#### b. Eades: Many people do not realize that there are students that have not had the opportunities to experience culture like this. This is a wonderful opportunity that the Site Council should encourage.

#### c. Eades moves to approve this motion. Karlowicz seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

## B. Discussion of School Council Subcommittees

### 1. Lazarewicz: Recommendation that the standing committees that we have should be maintained. There are a handful of inactive current standing committees, but there might be a role for these committees later. Of the AdHoc committes, the Vision committee as well as the Recruitment and Retention committee should be kept. The charter committee and the technology committee can be disbanded.

### a. Karlowicz moves to approve these recommendations. Stevens seconds. Passes unanimously.

## C. Motion to approve School Council goals for 2013-14

### 1. Karlowicz moves to adopt with one minor amendment. Make the first goal read **“actively pursuing the TUSD Governing Board resolution to provide UHS with its own centrally located high school campus.”**

### a. We need to make sure that the school council continues to be the voice of the school. By the school council actively adapting these goals, there is no question that these are the goals of UHS. Tully seconds.

### Tully: The second goal is unclear. This could mean that it could be any magnet school.

### a. Packard: The resolution itself includes that terminology. It makes it clear that we would like our own middle school.

### b. Blumenthal: The **specific resolution number** should be cited.

### c. Tully: There are many things that have prevented faculty from accomplishing as much as they can with their students. Recommendation to add a sixth goal**: “Promote academic excellence by eliminating distractions or extraneous duties for teaching faculty.”**

### 1. Karlowicz approves.

#### d. Adkins: What about a more global goal that addresses faculty concerns and a drive to institute some sort of project to tabulate concerns? This could lead to a forum for teachers to issue concerns that could be solved in a much easier way. An appropriate venue needs to be found.

##### 1. Packard: There is already an established structure including the Site Council and the Instructional Council. The purpose of the Instructional council is to take the issues from their constituent groups for discussion and to move forward with resolutions. This is a process, as opposed to a goal.

#### e. Packard: My door is always open. I encourage staff to come and talk to me if any issues come up.

##### 1. Klahr: There is a Recruitment and Retention Committee that could work on the retention of faculty, possible with a survey.

#### f. Keita: Many people feel that they don’t have a place to voice their concerns, including students.

##### 1. Adkins: We need to identify these concerns and decide on a channel for this information.

#### g. Blumenthal: As a parent, there are only so many things that we can do. How can we support the faculty and the administration to help the school focus on things that are the most important?

##### Packard: It seems that Dr. Sanchez is interested in significantly decreasing class sizes. We are experiencing some significant strains that are beyond previous years at every level. Anything that the Council can do to clarify the systems would be helpful.

### Yell calls motion to question. Passes unanimously.

### Karlowicz proposes motion: **In an effort to have transparency and communicate a clear and accurate message, all auxiliary institutions tied to UHS may only speak on behalf of the school with the express authorization of the school council.**

#### 1. Keita seconds.

### Karlowicz: Currently there are some groups of UHS that are speaking with the district and saying that they represent the school. Independent negotiations that sacrifice a new campus for the school are taking place in efforts to obtain new things. The issue of getting a new campus is the issue that has the potential to disrupt all of the other goals that they have. All organizations should support our administration. If they are counteracting the school’s goals, they are speaking as an individual.

#### a. Eades: There was one meeting with Dr. Sanchez but there was no mention of the site. The meeting was about trying to figure out a way to do some fundraising. There are certain board members who have never and will never support UHS. The people that are meeting this way are meeting in good faith. The board members are the people who have the agenda. There has to be a united UHS, and these side discussions are not healthy. There has got to be some way to reach board members. The Site council should support this motion.

#### b. Adkins: The Board knows that the Parents Association has no ability to make policy. It needs to be clear that the Site Council is the Policy making board of the school.

#### c. Elliott: The Parents Association as a board is behind this resolution. There is a board member who has expressed very clearly that she will not be in support of this resolution.

#### d. Pensak: We should have some sort of system in place to make sure that there is a general opinion and standpoint of the school.

#### 1. Yell: There is a Governing Board and a Council that are going in two different directions. We need to discuss whether the Governing Board is with us or not.

### e. Herring: Where does this group have the authority to negotiate in the first place? There is potential here to offend people who would not have been offended before.

#### 1. Cronin: It is not an establishment of our authority but a removal of theirs.

#### 2. Karlowicz: This gives a backbone to our administration. This motion will not hurt or offend anybody.

### f. Cislak: Suggestion to replace motion with: **In an effort to have transparency and to communicate a clear and accurate message, the UHS School Council reaffirms its role as the sole decision making body that represents UHS auxiliary groups (Students, IC, UHSPA, UHSFAA, and any unofficial or unregistered groups that have existed in the past or that will exist in the future). Decisions made on behalf of the schools will be authorized by the Site council.**

#### 1. Adkins seconds.

#### 2. Motion passes unanimously.

# Committee & Misc. Reports

## A. Principal’s report

## 1. Admissions: There will be a demographic study to help district leaders make more informed recommendations to the Governing Board. TUSD will not make decisions on school redesign before this is over. Dr. Morado said that this was a one to two year delay. UHS still needs to move forward with our goals.

## B. Tax Credit & Budget report

#### a. Eades: Working to educate people about Tax credits.

# Request for Agenda Items for next meeting (please submit action & discussion items in electronic format).

# Reminders:

## A. School Council Meeting time and place will be posted 24 hours in advance (on the UHS Admin. Bulletin Board and in public). Attendance and minutes should be submitted to a School Council officer prior to the next meeting.

## B. Please observe good meeting protocol and schedule your time to be able to attend the entire School Council meeting. Each meeting should last 90 minutes and will be adjourned by 4:45 PM. A quorum, your time, and your participation are valued assets of the UHS School Council.

# Adjournment: 5:15pm

## A. Klahr moves. Zarin seconds. Passes unanimously.

## Next Scheduled Meeting: Tuesday, November 12, 2013, 3:15 pm, UHS Library