



**Board Meeting Minutes**  
*January 14, 2025 Meeting Minutes*

**Board Members Present:**

K. Hall, M. Piernick, A. Wilder, A. Mead, C. Holzshu, L. Carter

**Guests Present:**

E. Hedgepeth, P. Adkins, T. Hedgepeth

**I. Opening Items**

**Call the Meeting to Order**

K. Hall called a meeting of the board of directors of United Community School to order at 5:32PM.

**Approve Minutes**

A. Wilder made a motion to approve the November board meeting minutes. *Seconded by M. Piernick. **Approved Unanimously.***

**Approve Meeting Agenda**

*Motion to approve by A. Wilder. Seconded by M. Piernick. **Approved Unanimously.***

**Public Comments**

None.

• **School Budget**

- T. Hedgepeth discussed the school budget with the board. The school is projecting a strong finish to the year. K. Hall asked for access to the budget online. T. Hedgepeth thought this could be done and will report on this at the next board meeting. Board also asked for proposed changes to be highlighted on the budget to make things clearer.
- T. Hedgepeth also addressed the unintentional default on the small SBA loan. He mentioned how the history of our fiscal responsibility shows that we take our financial health seriously and that we would not intentionally disregard a financial obligation. We had the money to pay this small loan back, however, he contends that we were the victim of documented technical and staffing issues going on with the SBA. Here is an article published by NBC News in December 2024 about how hundreds of thousands of SBA COVID loan borrowers have experienced erroneous defaults due to technical and staffing problems at the SBA: <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/covid-loans-collections-small-business-administration-rcna182835>
- The technical error was addressed and the loan is no longer in default.

• **School Calendar**

- E. Hedgepeth presented a draft of the 2025-26 School Calendar.

A. Wilder made a motion to adopt the 2025-26 School Calendar Draft. *Seconded by M. Piernick. **Approved Unanimously.***

- **Assessment Update**

- E. Hedgepeth provided the board with an update on the NC Report Card Data. She mentioned that students are currently doing their i-Ready testing and that 3-8 students will take mid-year NC Check-In tests during January 27-31.

- **School Improvement Minutes**

- E. Hedgepeth shared the following notes from the school improvement meeting:
  - Their last meeting was on January 8, 2025. They discussed their 2024-25 School Improvement Plan which include the following goals:
    - Goal 1: We will exceed growth in both math and reading on the 2024-2025 EOG.
    - Goal 2: We will improve our 2024-2025 EOG Reading score by 5 points.
    - Goal 3: We will improve our 2024-2025 EOG Math score by 8 points.

- **Upcoming Events**

- E. Hedgepeth shared the following upcoming events:
  - January 16: Home Basketball Game @ 4:30 p.m.
  - January 20: School Closed (MLK, Jr. Holiday)
  - January 23: Home Basketball Game @ 4:30 p.m.
  - January 28: Home Basketball Game @ 4:30 p.m.
  - January 31: UCS Enrollment Lottery @ 12 p.m.
  - February 6: Morning Buzz @ 8 a.m.
  - February 10-14: Scholastic Book Fair
  - February 11: School Board Meeting @ 5:30 p.m.
  - February 14: Donuts with Grownups (+ coffee)

- **Board Training and Evaluation**

- Due to the time constraints, P. Adkins' board training session was deferred to the next meeting.

#### **IV. Closing Items**

##### **Adjourn Meeting**

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 06:39 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, K. Hall