

**University Schools
Board of Governors
Special Meeting
January 23, 2008
Minutes**

Board Members Present: Kristen Anderson, Tony Arguello, Dick Bond, Eric Carlson, Julie Fraser, Bryan VanDriel, Christie Malnati, Chuck Olmsted,
Staff Present: Sherry Gerner, Paul Kirkpatrick, Holly Sample,

Kristen called the meeting to order at 5:47pm. A quorum was present.

University Schools "Pillars"

- Kristen explained the purpose of the "Pillars" as a brief description of our identity. These are not to take the place of our Mission, Vision and Philosophy Statements, but rather as a brief description to be utilized just as other schools might use the Terms "Core Knowledge", "Arts Magnet School" or "I.B. School".
- It is expected that the Pillars will be freely distributed to all potential students and their families as well as potential faculty, to help them make informed decisions about whether this is the right environment for them to thrive.
- Sherry distributed a packet including our Mission, Vision and Philosophy Statements, a list of suggested Pillars, and excerpts from various handouts utilized by different teachers at different levels (different PLP forms, information on the Senior Project, Shadowing, Internships and Community Service from the Student Handbook, etc.)
- Sherry reported on student responses when asked why they are at University. The responses included:
 - Safety
 - Small class size
 - Lack of gang activity
 - Lack of cliques
 - "People sincerely like each other"
 - "Smart people go here"
- A free-flowing brainstorming session followed, with each BOG and Administrator contributing. The comments included:
 - Eric: Self direction that broadens the curriculum outside the confines of our school.
 - Holly: Student driven environment
 - Chuck: K-12 Community focused school implying both benefits and responsibilities.
 - Dick: University Schools is a large family, K-12, in a safe environment where students are (really) individuals, self directed and demanding in their learning and enabled by their experiences to become active and contributing citizens.
 - Student centered or self directed learning
 - A dynamic (non-static) environment
 - Continuously raising the bar of expectation for each student and demonstrating growth as an educator.
- After lengthy discussion, the BOG agreed upon the following as the Pillars of our Community:
 - K-12 community focused school
 - Self directed, student centered community
 - High academic standards and expectations for personal responsibility

Supportive, nurturing environment
Small class size

- These Pillars will be on the agenda for our next meeting for final approval.

Next Meeting:

- The next regular meeting of the Board will be February 13, 2008 at 6:30pm in the library.

Adjournment:

- A motion was made by Julie (Chuck) to adjourn. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.