

University Prep Board Meeting – 4/7/25

Minutes

7:05 AM – 8:30 AM

Mtg. held on Zoom

Board Attendance: Nicholas Hernandez, Brenna Copeland, Recardo Brooks, David Braemer, and Bev

Board Absence(s): Emily Eikelberner, Jean De La Mata, Cuneyt Akay and Veronica Lockett

Staff Attendance: David Singer (ED), Alastair Dawe (COO), and Liz Suarez (CAO)

Call to Order: Nicholas Hernandez (Board Secretary) called the meeting to order

Minutes Approval: Minutes from the February board meeting were unanimously approved with Bev Sloan motioning for approval and Recardo Brooks providing the second.

Meeting Launch: The meeting launched with a brief opportunity for personal connections between board members.

Academic Achievement through Q3 & ELA Transformation Efforts

Liz Suarez, U Prep CAO, in alignment with the Q3 Academic Data Dashboard, reviewed key performance outcomes for Math (3 – 5), ELA (3 – 5) and Foundational Reading (K – 3) through the third quarter of the 2024-25 school year. Ms. Suarez's presentation included details on where the network projects to land by the close of the year as a result of current achievement levels. As demonstrated in the data and discussed by the board, the network is poised to demonstrate significant improvement in mathematics, continue to excel in early literacy and remain stagnant in upper-grade ELA. With this overall picture in the backdrop, Liz shifted the board to a discussion on the networks' efforts to transform/improve ELA outcomes, particularly in the upper grades. As part of her sharing, Ms. Suarez reviewed the key shifts to programmatic elements, along with associated staffing and change management efforts as well as financial implications. Further, the board was informed of fundraising endeavors in motion to ensure additional expenses are covered during this moment of change.

Pathway to Private Facility for U Prep – Commerce City

With the support of Al Dawe, U Prep COO, the board reviewed the potential of working with a new, external partner, Blueprint, in an effort to create a more manageable and affordable pathway to private facility acquisition. The discussion with the board included why a partnership would be valuable and ways in which it works for charter networks to collaborate with Blueprint to meet their facility needs. Mr. Dawe shared a range of pathways that Blueprint, a national non-profit, can provide to support networks like U Prep from their incubation stage to their permanent home. As part of the conversation, the board also reviewed the fiduciary role Blueprint can play as they analyze key financial metrics of a network, providing a rigorous and thorough review before any engagement in underwriting. Board members shared a number of questions and comments including a suggestion to better understand the types of debt servicing terms other charters are finding in the market.

Loan Forgiveness – New Business

After reviewing a resolution to approve the loan made from the U Prep CMO to the U Prep – Commerce City campus for the start-up of the new school (capital for renovations), David Braemer provided a motion and Bev Sloan provided a second, with the resolution passing unanimously.

Updates

David Singer, U Prep Executive Director, shared a few quick updates ranging from fundraising efforts to enrollment projections to current talent acquisition.

The meeting closed at 8:30 AM