

## **University Prep Board Meeting – 2/24/25**

### **Minutes**

**7:06 AM – 8:28 AM**

**Board Attendance:** Cuneyt Akay, Nicholas Hernandez, Brenna Copeland, Jean De La Mata, Recardo Brooks, David Braemer, Bev Sloan and Veronica Lockett

**Board Absence(s):** Emily Eikelberner

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

**Call to Order:** Cuneyt Akay (Board Chair) called the meeting to order

**Minutes Approval:** Minutes from the January board meeting were unanimously approved with Nicholas Hernandez motioning for approval and Recardo Brooks providing the second.

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

### **Update / Discussion on Campus-Based Budgeting Efforts**

Reviewing the core content he shared via a memo to the board, Chief Operating Officer, Alastair Dawe, led a discussion on efforts in motion to ensure positive, annual operating margins at each of U Prep's DPS authorized campuses. Mr. Dawe shared guardrails established at each school to ensure campus-based leaders can effectively engage in staffing decisions and other budgetary choices for the year ahead. As part of the conversation, board members discussed what level of net annual operating margins was most appropriate and how to balance the need for healthy reserves with the need to focus on maximizing spending in support of children being served. In addition, board members shared the importance of providing school leaders with some levels of autonomy tied to budgeting given the need for high performing individuals to carry some level of decision making rights while honoring and maintaining key elements of core U Prep programming. Lastly, Alastair shared updates tied to round 1 of DPS enrollment to preview any shifts in anticipated revenue for FY26. As partier of that information, Mr. Dawe illustrated the significant increase in year-over-year round 1 numbers, with an overall 85% increase in families selecting a U Prep campus as one of their choices.

### **Policy Review and Approval**

After sharing a brief overview of the unique nature of operating a CSI-authorized public charter school in comparison to U Prep's historic experience operating two DPS-authorized public charter schools, Alastair Dawe reviewed three policies in need of board-level approval. Policies focused on Harassment & Discrimination Investigation, Nondiscrimination and Suspension/Expulsion were all reviewed and discussed before a motion was made by Brenna Copeland and seconded by Cuneyt Akay to approve the policies specific to U Prep's Commerce City campus (authorized by CSI). The motion was approved unanimously by the board. During discussion, a recommendation was made to reference the Colorado Association of School Board resources as more policies are developed, given the annual review that organization works through to update/maintain key policies. Further, it was suggested that U Prep work towards establishing either a single set of policies that cover all schools/entities across DPS and CSI-authorized campuses, or clearly distinguish between the two on all communications (and wherever policies are posted).

### **Executive Session:**

Pursuant to CRS 24-6-401(2)(d.5)(II)(B), the board transitioned to executive session to discuss a personnel matter involving a disciplinary decision for a staff. Board Chair, Cuneyt Akay motioned for the

transition to executive session, seconded by David Braemer, and at the close of executive session, again, there was a motion made to close the session and return to the regular meeting.

**Updates:**

To close the meeting, David Singer, Executive Director, quickly reviewed preparations in motion to enroll kindergarten scholars at U Prep's Commerce City campus along with fundraising efforts tied to the expansion of the network. He closed by sharing efforts tied to the academic team's endeavor to transform ELA programming.

The meeting closed at 8:28 AM