

University Prep Board Meeting (Launch of 2025-26) – 9/4/25

Minutes

3:36 – 5:30 PM

Board Attendance: Cuneyt Akay, Jean De La Mata, Bev Sloan, Breanna Copeland, Nicholas Hernandez and David Braemer

Board Absence(s): Emily Eikelberner and Recardo Brooks

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 for the June board meetings will be approved along with the September 4th meeting at the close of September meeting (9/29/25)*

Agenda Review: The meeting launched with a brief review of the agenda, setting a clear set of purposes for the meeting.

2024-25 Academic Achievement Deep Dive & 2025-26 K Baseline:

With preliminary SPF results released, the board had a chance to review the SPF ratings of the network's two DPS schools. Both demonstrated improvement from 2024-25. Led by Liz Suarez, U Prep's Chief Academic Officer (CAO), the discussion was an opportunity to compare actual outcomes with CMAS (proficiency) in comparison to projected results from quarterly, interim assessments. Ms. Suarez shared that there were no surprises in end-of-year outcomes, demonstrating a strong correlation between internal assessments (ANet) and the state assessments (CMAS). As part of the discussion, Mr. Singer, the network's ED, revisited the DPS charter renewal matrix and shared the expected renewal terms based on the school's performance from 2024-25.

Shifting from a review of 2024-25 outcomes, Liz revisited the ELA transformation work in place, updating the board on all aspects of the program that are being executed from the launch of the new school year.

As a final component to the academics discussion, Ms. Suarez reviewed baseline DIBELS (Read Act) data for kindergarten, demonstrating that this cohort of incoming scholars is the lowest performing group the network has received since administering baseline DIBELS testing more than five years ago. The board discussed the potential root causes behind the reality faced, and Liz shared her confidence in the teams' ability to move kids forward despite their starting point.

2025-26 Enrollment Preview (Tied to Budget):

Alastair Dawe, the network's Chief Operating Officer (COO), led a quick review of projected enrollment based on figures at the launch of the school year, and associated budget implications. Per his presentation, the network is on track to once again grow enrollment year-over-year and surpass budgeted enrollment figures.

U Prep – Commerce City Updated / Discussion:

The board had a chance to hear updates regarding efforts at its newest campus, now serving PreK and K scholars. As part of that discussion, and related to the academic deep dive, David Singer (ED) and Liz Suarez (CAO), shared how significant the speech/language services needs are of the founding class of kindergartners, with potentially more than 30% of the class in need of those supports. Leadership shared that they'd keep the board informed as screening efforts were completed and more information was learned. The board was informed that additional, unanticipated costs would likely be associated with the high level of acute needs, well beyond a typical spectrum of kindergarten students.

Board Priorities for 2025-26 and Executive Committee Assignments:

After a quick refresher on goals for 2025-26 (Lead & Lag Measures), the board pivoted to discussion its Executive Committee composition for 2025-26 and proposed committee assignments. During this discussion the board made a motion and approved unanimously approved the motion for the Executive Committee compositions (Cuneyt Akay (Chair), David Braemer (Vice Chair), Jean De La Mata (Treasurer), and Nicholas Hernandez (Secretary)). As a final component of the discussion, the board agreed to revisit and finalize committee compositions during the next board meeting and to engage in a deep dive on new board member recruitment.

New Business – Budget Resolution:

A motion was made and unanimously approved by the board to pass a budget resolution for the U Prep – Commerce City campus budget. The updated budget included no material changes, but ensured that the lease agreement with the Boys & Girls Club of Metro Denver is documented in alignment with the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB).

Logistics & Updates

David Singer, U Prep’s Executive Director, reviewed the remaining board meeting schedule for the year, previewed remaining components of Arapahoe Street’s charter renewal process, reminded folks of the ‘conditional approval’ of the CSP grant and previewed the upcoming ED evaluation process.

The meeting closed at 5:30 PM