

University Prep Board Meeting – 1/25/21

Minutes

7:00 – 8:30 AM

Call to Order: Kimberlee Sia called Meeting to order

Board Attendance: Cuneyt Akay, Bev Sloan, Emily Eikelberner, Kimberlee Sia, Renae Bellew, Nicholas Martinez, Brenna Copeland, Juan Pena, Tracey Lovett, and Recardo Brooks

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

Minutes Approval: Minutes for December 2020's meeting will need to be approved during the February 2021 board meeting along with the January 2021 meeting minutes.

School-Year Update – Lead & Lag Measures

David Singer (Executive Director) opened the meeting reviewing a deck that illustrates key Lead and Lag measures focused specifically on critical data points outside of academic achievement (i.e. attendance, adult culture, family engagement & connectivity, etc.). During his presentation he shared updated data on the percentage of children attending school in-person (48%) in comparison with those attending remotely (52%). The board engaged in discussions based on noticings tied to performance differences between campuses on the quarterly staff survey.

Q2 Finance Report

Alastair Dawe (COO) led a review of the networks' financial position and projections for the remainder of the fiscal year. Details were shared tied to the shifts in both revenue and expenses tied to changes in enrollment, funding streams and other sources (i.e. governmental grants, Mill Levy distribution, etc.). As part of the financial review there was an update provided on fund development efforts and an overview of upcoming budgeting efforts (cadence of meetings, owners, timeline, etc.). The board engaged in discussion around what it costs per child to afford our model at each campus and how that cost is aligned to the current and future needs of students.

As part of new business related to finances, the board approved two motions.

The first motion was to approve three board resolutions detailing increases in revenue and expenses that were not originally budgeted for. Bev Sloan moved to approve all three resolution documents with a second from Cuneyt Akay. The board unanimously approved the motion.

The second motion was to have Cuneyt Akay serve as the board's treasurer. With Kimberlee Sia shifting into the Board Chair position she was no longer in a place to serve in that role and so Tracey Lovett moved to have Cuneyt take on this position with Juan Pena providing a second. The board unanimously approved the motion.

Academic Achievement Committee Report (Post Q2)

Liz Suarez (CAO) led a review of the networks' academic achievement through the mid-year point in the school year. The Committee Chair, Brenna Copeland, shared additional information with the group as highlighted in the committee's memo. Liz started with a review of the quarterly dashboard, and after everyone was acclimated to the data, the full board engaged in detailed conversations about plans (short and long-term) for addressing learning loss and achievement concerns. The board previewed a discussion coming up in March in which the world of finance and academics will merge with the staff proposing a plan for addressing key areas of under-performance through efforts in 2021-22 and beyond. There was acknowledgement that resources will need to be used to address areas of concern (i.e. math performance) and that such discussion should be done in advance of the budgeting season.

Denver Families for Public Schools (DF4PS)

Kimberlee Sia, Board Chair, led a conversation with the full board tied to the memo shared in advance of the meeting. Board members had a chance to share lingering questions and concerns as well as their perspective around U Prep's potential engagement and collaboration with the newly formed c4. Conversation ranged from legal and logistical challenges to the core purpose of the new group and other organizations that it should be collaborating with in the local and national landscape. Ultimately, the board was supportive of staff continuing to move forward in collaboration with DF4PS's with the request to keep the board looped in on the ongoing efforts.

Meeting Closure

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 AM