

University Prep Board Meeting – 2/28/22

Minutes

7:06 – 8:35 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, and Recardo Brooks

Board Absence: Tracey Lovett

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

The meeting launched with an Introductory whip around where those in person and those engaging remotely all had a chance to share what's going on in their lives and re-connect with one another.

Minutes Review & Approval

Minutes from the January 28th meeting were reviewed and approved unanimously as the first point of business in the meeting.

Deep Dive on Financials through Q2

COO, Alastair Dawe, reviewed a deck illustrating the network's financial position through the mid-point of the fiscal year as well as the projected ending point of FY 21-22. Key shifts in both revenue and expenses were explored in detail, including, but not limited to, impacts of lower enrollment, staffing attrition, and additional Mill Levy and fundraising revenues. Overall, the financial picture is a healthy one, which Mr. Dawe described as critical as we explore facility acquisition options for school # 3 and ensure as much consistency/continuity as possible in staff and scholar experience moving forward given the volume of volatility over the last 3 school years related to the pandemic.

Further, AI and the finance committee reviewed the timeline for the upcoming budgeting process, which has kicked off and will run through May when the final budget for FY 22-23 is approved and then shared with Denver Public Schools by June 1st.

Deep Dive on Academic Performance through Q2

CAO, Liz Suarez, walked the board through the quarterly performance dashboard along with an accompanying slide deck to detail key take-aways (both challenges and highlights) from our Q2 academic results. In doing so, Ms. Suarez described root causes behind both success points and areas of struggle, which the network is working to address. The board discussed the impact of staffing challenges on achieving desired results and also, what efforts are in motion for the remainder of the year (and beyond) to do what's possible to keep moving achievement forward. Ms. Suarez concluded by sharing details regarding the upcoming SchoolWorks visit intended to provide a qualitative view on instruction in both buildings as well as a national perspective on all of the inputs behind the outcomes the network is currently seeing. A report will be available to the board for review from SchoolWorks at the March meeting.

Updates:

- Executive Director, David Singer, shared a few updates before the meeting adjourned, including a potential partnership with Ready Colorado to create a short documentary on the efforts to open School # 3 in Adams 14 and where things stand with A14 and ongoing charter contract negotiations.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 AM