

University Prep Board Meeting – 1/28/22

Minutes

7:07 – 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, 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.

Revisiting Growth – Greenlighting Criteria:

- Senior leadership put forth a robust examination of the decision making process tied to approving growth and expansion (building on original greenlighting criteria the board has examined in the past)

- A range of internal and external factors were included in the updated “matrix” tied to board decision making when it comes to growth

- After robust discussion including a focus on the current performance and challenges faced by existing campuses along with a dialogue tied to the realities of the authorizing school district for school # 3, the board set forth a motion.

- The board moved and voted in favor to delay the opening of school # 3 until the Fall of 2023, with key monitoring in place this spring and upcoming fall that includes ongoing examination of academic performance (including quantitative and qualitative indicators), and continued consideration tied to staffing.

Governance:

- The board had an opportunity to review each members' terms in relation to the bylaws, which provide an initial 3-year term with no more three consecutive 3-year terms to follow.

- Shifting into board member recruitment, the governance committee chair, Nicholas Martinez, led a discussion around potential individuals from the Commerce City community who are being considered for vetting. Mr. Martinez laid out a potential sequence for engaging with those individuals and a rationale for their potential engagement with U Prep – particularly focused on their history in the community and commitment to improving public education (along with their demonstrated support of U Prep in its efforts to launch the new campus within A14).

- The discussion finished with a reminder of the three focus areas of expertise the board is interested in attracting to the group. Board members were reminded to share names with Nicholas and the governance committee as soon as possible so they may review additional, potential new members and create a prioritized list for moving forward.

Upcoming Meeting Preview

- David shared that February's focus would be fully on the network's performance through Q2, including a deep dive on all things financials and academic performance. And, he reminded the board that March would provide a review of the site visit being conducted by SchoolWorks.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 AM