

University Prep Board Meeting – 2/27/23

Minutes

7:09 – 8:49 AM

Call to Order: Kimberlee Sia called Meeting to order

Board Attendance: Cuneyt Akay, Emily Eikelberner, Bev Sloan, Nicholas Martinez, Kimberlee Sia, Recardo Brooks, Juan Pena, and Brenna Copeland (remote)

Board Absence: NA

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

Minutes Approval: Minutes for the January Board Mtg. were approved unanimously by the board. Cuneyt Akay motioned the approval, which was seconded by Emily Eikelberner.

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

Q2 Academic Deep Dive

Liz Suarez, CAO, and David Singer, Executive Director, led the board through a discussion focused on academic achievement through Q2 of the school year. The presentation started with an update of the lead measures (attendance, vision of excellence rubric performance (classroom instruction), and staff culture (measured by intent to return). Brenna Copeland, as chair of the Academic Achievement Committee, provided further insight in support of the conversation.

Root causes for both successes and challenges were unpacked along with steps being taken in the short and long-term to continue driving bright spots and close critical gaps. As part of the discussion, staff retention/attrition, both year over year and within the school year, was elevated as a topic for revisiting along with any needed shifts in academic programming to match both student need and talent quality/consistency. Also in connection with academic achievement, the board reviewed attendance data and conversed about the connections between the depth of family engagement/commitment and academic achievement. Brenna elevated the fact that many studies have been done as of late focused on the impact of attendance initiatives in districts around the country and the alignment between those findings and the various efforts in motion to address gaps at U Prep.

As a final component of the deep dive on academics, there was a short discussion about the State SPF and the reality that U Prep's current data dashboard isn't aligned to some elements of how the state analyzes data. In the case of mean scale scores, as an example, the board discussed the importance of always been able to see the full range of where children are performing in an effort to be accountable for all students in the schools.

Governance

There was as brief update tied to new board candidate recruitment, the qualities/attributes the board is looking for in its efforts to bring on new members, and the timeline along with individuals involved in the recruitment efforts.

Executive Session

Per **C.R.S. §24-6-402(4)(f)** the board transitioned into Executive Session at 8:15 AM. Recardo Brooks motioned and Cuneyt Akay provided the second. After discussion focused on legal matters, the board moved to end Executive Session at 8:35 AM with Cuneyt Akay motioning and Emily Eikelberner providing the second.

Updates:

David Singer, Executive Director, provided a few updates to the board before the meeting closed. The first was a reminder of the focus for March's meeting, which will be a deep dive on 'all things talent.' Singer then reminded folks about details tied the upcoming graduation party fundraiser to honor the founding 1st graders from U Prep's Arapahoe St. campus who are now in their senior year and about to transition to their post-secondary careers. Lastly, singer previewed round 1 enrollment figures which are nearly 40% ahead of last years.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 AM