

University Prep Board Meeting – 9/26/22

Minutes

7:07 – 8:30 AM

Call to Order: Kimberlee Sia called Meeting to order

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

Board Absence: Tracey Lovett

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

Minutes Approval: Minutes were not finalized and ready for a vote due to staff illness. Executive Director, David Singer, assured the board that minutes from the August meeting would be available for review and approval (along with minutes from the September meeting) during the October session.

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 2021-22 Academic Achievement Data – Discussion Follow-Up from Aug. 2022 Mtg.

Based on a memo shared by the Academic Achievement Committee led by Brenna Copeland, along with an updated annual data dashboard, the full board engaged in further discussion regarding performance from 2021-22. In addition to proficiency data, the board had a chance to review growth data along with the preliminary SPF ratings for both campuses.

Discussion by the board included a revisiting of root cause analysis and questions with the senior leadership team about efforts in motion to address areas of concern. The board also discussed whether goals and thresholds were appropriate as currently positioned and/or if any changes would be needed moving forward. On the threshold front, there was a general consensus to maintain those figures. Along those lines, the board discussed what additional actions could potentially be taken or would need to be taken in a circumstances when comparable achievement were to continue similar to 2021-22.

Lastly, the Academic Achievement committee shared the likely need for updating the internal data dashboard given its intentional composition and alignment to what was the DPS School Performance Framework. Given the shift of the district to the State SPF, it was recommended that potential changes be made to ensure the board continues to have line of sight in parallel to the overall accountability system that the board is responsible for meeting.

Update on Lead Measures

In alignment to what was shared in the August meeting tied to goals for the new year (both Lead & Lag measures), senior leaders including the Executive Director, CAO and COO reviewed current Lead measures through the first 5 weeks of the school year. These measures included Attendance, Vision of Excellence rubric performance (quality of instruction), and projected staff retention. David Singer emphasized the importance of the board having a clear line of sight on what the campuses are most focused on this school year.

Enrollment Preview

In advance of a deep dive on end of year financials from FY21-22 and Q1 financials for FY22-23, the Chief Operations Officer, Al Dawe, walked the board through the most up to date enrollment figures for each campus. The overview included a short analysis of how those figures impact revenue and also shed light on a number of key historical data points (i.e. new enrollments in 2022-23 vs. previous years, student attrition as a result of mobility or non-mobility and student attrition against historical figures). The board discussed the reality of ongoing enrollment challenges across the public education landscape, recognized the incredible efforts of the team at U Prep, and specifically, Thelma Behkne, and identified a need to dig deeper on the topic during the annual board retreat in November.

Updates & Board Retreat Scheduling

Beyond providing updates on charter contracting efforts in A14, updates included a recap of current fund development successes.

Prior to closing the meeting, Kimberlee Sia worked with board members to determine the highest potential dates for the upcoming board retreat (to take place in mid-November or early December).

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 AM