

## **University Prep Board Meeting – 9/25/23**

### **Minutes**

**7:08 – 8:27 AM**

**Board Attendance:** Cuneyt Akay, Emily Eikelberner, Nicholas Martinez, Kimberlee Sia, Brenna Copeland, Jean De La Mata, Bev Sloan, Juan Pena, and Veronica Lockett

**Board Absence:** Recardo Brooks

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

**Guest Attendance:** Cheri Wrench, representing DPS, was present to observe the board meeting as part of the governance portion of U Prep’s charter renewal process for the Steele St. campus

**Call to Order:** Cuneyt Akay (new Board Chair) called Meeting to order

**Minutes Approval:** Minutes were reviewed for the regularly scheduled board meeting on August 28<sup>th</sup>. Nicholas Martinez motioned to approve the minutes with Bev Sloan providing a second to the motion. The board was unanimous in their vote to approve.

**Meeting Launch:** The meeting launched with each individual having a chance to share how they and their family enjoy the fall season. This portion also provided a chance for individuals to update the board on any important happenings in their lives.

### **Deep Dive – Academic Achievement**

David Singer, Executive Director, launched this portion of the meeting with a focus on ensuring the full board understands how the State’s School Performance Framework (SPF) is calculated. Once everyone had reviewed the components of the State’s SPF, including a review of how the state’s calculations are different in a variety of ways from how the historic DPS SPF used to work, the board reviewed U Prep’s SPF ratings from 2022-23. Both campuses moved up a level from their 2021-22 ratings with Arapahoe St. now at “Improvement” and Steele St. at “Performance.” In closing this portion of the data dive, the board also discussed why the State SPF ratings are important and how they impact charter renewal decisions and opportunities for growth and expansion.

The board transitioned from the State SPF to a complete examination of the network’s data dashboard, which illustrates performance from the year prior, interim data from within the current school year, and the end of year results (3 columns providing a two-year picture of performance across all grades, K – 5). In that discussion, Liz Suarez, Chief Academic Officer, and Brenna Copeland, Chair of the Academic Achievement Committee, shared rationale for a proposed shift to the network’s data dashboard moving forward. In summary, early literacy outcomes will be displayed for K – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade rather than 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade since 3<sup>rd</sup> grade is demonstrated within ANet, interim data, and, rather than looking at quarterly outcomes as a snapshot in time, graphs will demonstrate the percentage of children who are cumulatively averaging cut scores (providing a more accurate correlation to end of year CMAS proficiency).

The deep dive on academics closed with a discussion on thresholds and goals, ensuring clarity amongst the board on what baseline achievement should look like and what our goal lines represent. Lastly, the board reviewed a set of questions to consider as quarterly data becomes available throughout the school year.

**Lead Measure Update:** David Singer, with support of Al Dawe, COO, and Liz Suarez, CAO, reviewed updated Lead Measures against goals to provide a snapshot of how the schools are performing through the first several weeks of the year specific to attendance (LM1), projected staff retention (LM2), and quality of classroom instruction (LM3). All lead measures, particularly attendance and staff retention, are ahead in performance from one year ago.

**Updates:** David Singer, Executive Director, closed by previewing the upcoming board meetings including the annual retreat in November.

Cuneyt Akay motioned to close the meeting at 8:27 AM with Emily Eikelberner providing a second. The board voted unanimously in favor.