

University Prep Board Meeting – 2/26/24

Minutes

7:05 – 8:18 AM

Board Attendance: Cuneyt Akay, Emily Eikelberner, Bev Sloan, Nicholas Martinez, Brenna Copeland, Recardo Brooks, Jean De La Mata and Veronica Lockett

Board Absence: Juan Pena

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

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

Minutes Approval: Minutes were reviewed for the regularly scheduled board meeting on January 29th. Bev Sloan motioned to approve the minutes with Recardo Brooks providing a second to the motion. The board was unanimous in their vote to approve the minutes.

Meeting Launch: The meeting launched with a brief opportunity for personal connections between board members.

Review of Lead Measures: Senior leaders led a short review of Lead Measure performance through February, focused on attendance, staff retention and classroom instruction (aligned with the Vision of Excellence rubric). Analysis included year-over-year comparison data. As part of discussion, the board asked further questions about staff retention data, which has seen a significant increase in performance (including within school year retention and projected retention for the year ahead).

Termination of Partnership MOU w/ Wyatt Academy: The board engaged in discussion focused on the notion that all schools across the Northeast Denver community remain in partnership with one another, as they always have, to ensure all children and families are successful.

In recognition and respect for Wyatt Academy based on their desire to continue forward as an independent entity, the board put forth a motion to terminate the partnership agreement MOU with Wyatt Academy. In discussing the motion, the board emphasized the importance of collaboration between the two entities given the historic relationship between the two schools and the fact that they have always served a shared community that both have been deeply committed to.

Cuneyt Akay put forth the motion.

I move to approve the termination of the Memorandum of Understanding with Wyatt Academy, and authorize the Board Chair or Executive Director to execute the MOU termination, subject to any final changes acceptable to the signor.

The motion was seconded by Nicholas Martinez and approved unanimously by the Board.

Strategic Planning: David Singer, Executive Director, reviewed the network's updated approach to strategic planning with an explicit focus on existing scholars and families who are already being served by U Prep or who have been promised to be served by U Prep via growth already in motion. Board members appreciated the sentiment of remaining hyper-focused on those we have already committed to as a center point for the next 5 years. Further discussion took place on specific strategic priorities to drive the bigger goals outlined in the plan. Mr. Singer shared that continued work would be done to complete the full plan with the intent to conclude all strategic planning efforts by the end of the school year so it can launch at the start of 2024-25 when the last five-year plan culminates.

Pathway to Private Facility: Led by the Executive Director and COO, Al Dawe, the board discussed key learning that needs to take place over the next several months to be positioned to acquire a private facility to support the long-term needs of U Prep's 3rd campus. Conversation centered around the need to establish shared parameters for any purchase and/or construction/renovation so that when the time comes to make a decision, the board is well positioned to do so. David Singer shared that the board would engage in continued, shared learning over the next several months so that by the time November's board retreat rolls around in the late fall, key learning is complete and there is a shared understanding around multiple aspects of the private facility space.

Public Comment: At 8:03 AM the meeting shifted to providing individuals from the community with an opportunity to share via public comment. John Loughridge, MiDian Holmes and Auon'tai Anderson were all provided a chance to share remarks with the U Prep Board of Trustees.

At 8:17 AM the Board Chair, Cuneyt Akay, thanked individuals for joining the meeting and sharing their comments.

At 8:18 AM the meeting was concluded and adjourned.