

## University Prep Board Meeting – 6/3/24

### Minutes

7:16 – 8:37 AM

**Board Attendance:** Cuneyt Akay, Emily Eikelberner, Nicholas Martinez, Brenna Copeland, Jean De La Mata, Brenna Copeland, Veronica Lockett and David Braemer

**Board Absence(s):** Juan Pena

**Staff Attendance:** Alastair Dawe (COO), and Liz Suarez (CAO)

**Staff Absence(s):** David Singer (ED) *\*New baby!*

**Call to Order:** Cuneyt Akay (Board Chair) called the meeting to order

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

**Budget Review and Approval for FY24-25:** Chief Operating Officer (COO), Al Dawe, reviewed the network's 2023-24 (FY24) supplemental budget for approval by the board. The examination included a deep dive of where the organization is in alignment with the approved budget for FY24 based on Q4 financials, and a review of the supplemental budget from FY24 (passed in January 2024). Further, The board discussed the context associated with any discrepancies tied to revenue and expenses within this year's budget based on established expectations from the FY24 approved budget (and supplemental budget), and asked questions to better understand the current financial position. The conversation involved a focus on special education costs, IT upgrades in response to the network's experienced cyber-attack, transportation expenses, field trip costs, and expenses associated with celebrations and special events brought back in SY 23-24. The board also discussed solutions to preventing additional, unanticipated expenses from impacting the budget in FY25 and beyond.

Brenna Copeland moved to approve the FY24 supplemental budget. Cuneyt Akay seconded. Board voted unanimously to approve.

**Review of FY25 Budget:** COO, Al Dawe, reviewed the network's proposed budget for 2024-25 (FY25). The board discussed the rationale for running a small, net deficit in FY25 as the organization launches its 3<sup>rd</sup> campus, which includes an expansion of staff. The board discussed the finances behind school 3 funding, including UPK, CCCAP and possible supplementary tuition, along with long-term projections for budgets based on staffing models and projected income. Members asked questions about projected enrollment for next year, along with what the schools are anticipating in terms of current scholar retention based on family completion rates of 'intent to return' documents.

The board discussed the need for no more than one more year of deficit spending, prior to two subsequent years of net zero / surpluses as a network. Members asked questions on a wide range of topics impacting the overall budget including staffing, enrollment, special education expenses, school 3 start-up costs, and fundraising. Cuneyt Akay, Board Chair, suggested proceeding forward with a vote on the FY25 budget with the shared understanding that the organization needs to act conservatively with its fund balance as it moves forward to ensure funds exist to complete facility acquisition for school 3 when the time comes.

A motion was made by Nicholas Martinez, Brenna Copeland provided the second. FY25 budget was approved unanimously.

**Review of SY 23-24 Lead and Lag Measures:** Chief Academic Officer, Liz Suarez, walked the board through the final data for SY23-24 related to the network's annual Lead and Lag Measures. Data shows an overall improvement in almost all areas at both campuses, with the network on track for 10% increases in math and more modest increases in ELA. K-2 data at both campuses remained incredibly strong, with Steele street exceeding the 70% goal, and Arapahoe approaching the 70% goal.

Meeting adjourned by Emily Eikelberner, Vice Chair, at 8:37 AM.