

University Prep Board Meeting – 8/26/24

Minutes

6:34 – 7:55 AM

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

Board Absence(s): NA

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

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

Minutes Approval: Minutes from the June and July board meetings were unanimously approved with Nicholas Hernandez motioning for approval and Recardo Brooks providing the second.

Meeting Launch: The meeting launched with a brief opportunity for personal connections between board members. With the launch of the new school year, board members shared memories from their first days of school.

Academic Data Dashboard Review & Performance Deep Dive: Board members reviewed the 2023-24 Academic Data Dashboard including CMAS Proficiency & Growth data alongside ACCESS data for English Language Learners (multilingual scholars). As part of the review, members discussed efforts that were put in place following the 2022-23 school year and the impact of those efforts on performance in 2023-24. Further, senior leadership shared focus areas for 2024-25 and key efforts in place for the new school year to continue driving performance improvements. The board discussed thresholds for data outcomes along with potential “what if” scenarios dependent on a range of results. And, they discussed interim data sets that could be reviewed within the new school year to continue monitoring the impact of existing efforts. Within this context, board members conversed about the potential value-add and pitfalls of making programmatic changes within a school year and the impact of potential changes on staff and scholars.

In addition, there was discussion of the overall trajectory of schools and the importance of maintaining clear and consistent strategies over time that will produce results but over longer windows (i.e. strong teacher retention, consistent and high quality instructional coaching, etc.). Lastly, the board engaged in conversations related to scholar attrition and retention and the impact of scholar churn on performance, a topic they wished to revisit during the upcoming board retreat in November.

Strategic Plan Review: The strategic plan was reviewed and discussed with full board support. Consensus agreement was evident based on the discussion around the goals of the plan and the strategic priorities to reach those goals, all of which the full board favored. As two points of inquiry, board members encouraged goal setting tied to students attrition to be reframed as goal setting tied to student retention (i.e. analyzing the data from improved retention vs. decreased attrition), and rethinking enrollment goals tied to specific n-sizes vs. % of enrollment against budgeted figures. The board decided to finalize and approve the strategic plan as part of the annual retreat.

Following a set of short updates covering current enrollment, the network’s PreK licensure and previewing a new facilities committee along with the ED’s paternity leave, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 AM.