

Uplift Education Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.

Pursuant to Governor Abbott’s March 16, 2020 Order, and subsequent Orders, approving a request by the Office of the Attorney General to temporarily suspend a limited number of open meeting laws in response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) disaster, governmental bodies may conduct meetings by telephone or video conference to advance the public health goal of limiting face-to-face meetings (also called “social distancing”) to slow the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). In compliance with Governor Abbott’s order, and in furtherance of the public health goal of limiting face-to-face meetings, this meeting of the Uplift Board was held by videoconference via Zoom Access at <https://zoom.us/j/4067930981?pwd=QTI5N295eWI3dW1ERnJVRHVlWjN5dz09>; Meeting ID 406 793 0981; Password 662860.

Called to Order: 4:38 p.m.

Adjourned: 6:34 p.m.

Executive Committee Members Present:

1. Ryan Moss
2. Richard Frapart
3. Dawn Mann
4. Ardo Fuentes
5. Cameron Johnson
6. Josh Terry
7. John McPherson
8. Lael Melville
9. Cathy Estrada
10. Andre McEwing
11. Cullum Clark

<i>TOPIC</i>	<i>DISCUSSION/CONCLUSIONS</i>	<i>ACTIONS</i>
I. Call to Order and Announcements	A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 4:38 p.m. by the chair, R. Moss. R. Moss welcomed staff and the Board to the meeting. R. Moss then took attendance and stated a quorum of the Board was present.	
II. Consider and Take Action on Previous Board Minutes	R. Moss asked the Board to consider the 1.28.20 regular meeting minutes, 2.25.20 special meeting minutes, and the 3.31.20 special meeting minutes that were provided previously.	Upon motion by R. Frapart to approve the minutes as presented, and seconded by D. Mann, the Board unanimously voted to approve the 1.28.20 regular meeting minutes, 2.25.20 special meeting minutes, and the 3.31.20 special meeting minutes.
III. Information Items	<u>Update on Uplift Education’s continued response to the novel coronavirus, COVID-19.</u> Yasmin Bhatia provided an update on Uplift’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. ~60,000 meals served (still doing breakfast + lunch daily)2. 1/3 of our network has checked out a chrome book from us3. Family Emergency Assistance Program launched last week4. Social Counselors and School Nurses continue to provide active case management and triage support	

5. Launch of Remote Learning v2.0 underway
6. A parent survey indicated most parents are interested in full-day in-person summer school if it is safe; positive statements regarding teacher and leader availability and flexibility during closure; most parents reported scholars spending 2-3 hours/day on schoolwork; and parents with multiple scholars reported difficulty in juggling needs.
7. Raised ~\$300,000 to date to support COVID-19 relief efforts
8. Actively pursuing State and Federal grant opportunities to support current efforts and those for next year given uncertainty of State Funding levels
9. Actively participating in Federal and State advocacy conversations, particularly at the State level regarding CARE Act funding and next year per pupil funding
10. Sharing positive Uplift stories with the media; hosted virtual editorial Board meeting with Dallas Morning News
11. Planning our virtual Uplift College Signing Day- now Uplift Senior Decision Day

Academic Update. Remy Washington provided an update on academics, which first included a review of research on math and reading “COVID Slide,” unexpected losses, and how we can best learn and plan to guide next steps.

R. Washington next introduced a recommended Q4 Interim Grading Policy that addresses the complexities with grading during the current closure. The big rocks for the Policy include extending grace, being flexible around accepting scholar work submission (extend due dates), focusing more on providing feedback to scholars and staying connected, leaning more toward grading for submission than mastery (note mastery in records), and for HS only, offering a ‘No-Risk’ Final Exam to help improve their grade (Q4 can only help not harm semester or yearly grade). R. Washington provided a more comprehensive review of the Policy and the Board addressed parent response, feedback from colleges, and online instruction.

Kenna McWhirter next introduced a recommended resolution approving pre-kindergarten locations for the 20-21 school year, including Mighty Pre-K relocating back to Mighty from Ascend, and Pinnacle Pre-K relocating at Wisdom.

Upon a motion to approve the Q4 Interim Grading Policy as presented by J. Terry, and seconded by C. Clark, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Q4 Grading Policy.

Upon a motion to approve the resolution approving the pre-kindergarten locations for the 20-21 school year, including (1) Mighty Pre-K relocating back to Mighty, and (2) Pinnacle Pre-K relocating at Wisdom, as presented, by D. Mann, and seconded by C. Estrada, the Board unanimously voted to approve the resolution.

IV. Board Governance	<p>Y. Bhatia introduced the recommendation to approve (1) <u>John Beckert</u> as Uplift’s new Development and External Affairs Committee Chair, and (2) <u>James Stanton</u> as Uplift’s new Advocacy Committee Chair. Y. Bhatia noted that John Beckert was a founding member of Uplift Triumph and James Stanton had served as the CAC Chair for Uplift Infinity.</p>	<p>Upon a motion by C. Clark to approve John Beckert as Uplift’s new Development and External Affairs Committee Chair, and James Stanton as Uplift’s new Advocacy Committee Chair, as presented, and seconded by L. Melville, the Board unanimously approved the motion.</p>
III. Information Items	<p><u>Bain Update on 5-year strategy project</u>. Casey Taylor and Janna Bublely of Bain Consulting provided an update on the 5-year strategy project. The update included the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A discussion of key headlines regarding Bain’s point of departure and strategic implications. 2. A review of diagnostics across the following six key building blocks: (1) Academic Outcomes, (2) College and Career Outcomes, (3) Talent recruitment and retention, (4) Scholar retention and recruitment, (5) Growth and number of seats, and (6) Financial health. 3. A discussion of the emerging vision for 2025 and key goals. 	
V. Real Estate – Closed Session	<p>The Board did not hold a closed session at this meeting.</p>	
VI. Community Forum	<p>No persons signed up to speak during the community forum.</p>	
VII. Adjournment	<p>There being no further business before the Board, R. Moss adjourned the meeting at 6:34 p.m.</p>	

Respectfully submitted, Alexander S. Berk, Secretary.