

Uplift Education Board Meeting  
Friday, September 8, 2017, 2017 at 11:30 a.m.  
Location: Uplift Heights Preparatory Secondary Library  
2806 Canada Drive, Dallas, Texas 75212

Called to Order: 12:15 p.m.

Uplift Board Members Present \*:

Adjourned: 4:55 p.m.

- |                           |                      |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. <b>Melissa McNeil</b>  | 7. Tony Dona         |
| 2. <b>Donnell Wiggins</b> | 8. Christine Frary   |
| 3. <b>Richard Frapart</b> | 9. Christina Barbosa |
| 4. <b>Ardo Fuentes</b>    | 10. Alex Jiminez     |
| 5. <b>Jack Wensinger</b>  | 11. Andre McEwig     |
| 6. <b>Ryan Moss</b>       | 12. Carey Carter     |
|                           | 13. Michael Giles    |
|                           | 14. Mickey Powell    |
|                           | 15. Kay Allen        |
|                           | 16. Kimberly Barns   |
|                           | 17. Cathleen Crews   |
|                           | 18. Kevin Bryant     |
|                           | 19. Ossa Fisher      |
|                           | 20. Amy Messersmith  |
|                           | 21. Cullum Clark     |

\*Voting members: **Bold**

Uplift Staff Present:

- |                     |                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Yasmin Bhatia    | 17. Toya Releford     |
| 2. Rich Harrison    | 18. David Jackson     |
| 3. Debra Bigham     | 19. Marc Ybarra       |
| 4. Johnny Deas      | 20. Kristi Erickson   |
| 5. Naomi Harper     | 21. Kaitlin McDermott |
| 6. Layne Fisher     | 22. Ben Van Maanen    |
| 7. Alan Tolleson    | 23. Anson Jackson     |
| 8. Anne Erickson    | 24. Mya Moumen-Baker  |
| 9. Tony Walker      | 25. Daniel Gray       |
| 10. Lindsay Butler  | 26. Chris Davis       |
| 11. Erin Francis    | 27. Eric Dominguez    |
| 12. Rebeccah Lane   |                       |
| 13. Ben Richards    |                       |
| 14. Remy Washington |                       |
| 15. Andrew Baca     |                       |
| 16. Marilyn Wright  |                       |

Guests Present:

1. Brent Beasley
2. Eric Chan
3. Kim Barns
4. Addie Gomez

<i>TOPIC</i>	<i>DISCUSSION/CONCLUSIONS</i>	<i>ACTIONS</i>	<i>ACTION FOLLOW-UP</i>
I. Optional school tour of Uplift Heights Secondary	Prior to meeting, board members and guests had the opportunity to tour the school building with A. Baca, High School Director, B. Richards, Middle School Director, and M. Ybarra, Operations Director.		
II. Call to Order And Announcements	A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 12:15 p.m. by the chair, M. McNeil. All individuals present introduced themselves. A. Baca, B. Richards, and M. Ybarra introduced themselves and answered board member questions about themselves and the campus.		
III. Consent Agenda	The minutes from the August 29, 2017, meeting were reviewed by the Board.	Upon motion made by R. Frapart and seconded by A. Fuentes, the Board unanimously approved the minutes as written.	
IV. Regular Report – 5-year Strategic Investment Plan Update	<p>Y. Bhatia presented an overview of the report that was provided in the board pre-read. Y. Bhatia discussed accomplishments and lessons learned for the three major goals of the 5-year Strategic Investment Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investing internally - Y. Bhatia highlighted accomplishments of expansion of the new teacher pipeline through partnerships and the strong stake in IB in a rapid timeline. Discussion included that building DEI capacity of our staff takes meaningful time and that our primary scores lagged our charter peers.</li> <li>• Serve More Students – Y. Bhatia discussed opening two new sites this school year, closing on our Ft. Worth site for next school year, and expanding pre-K. She noted that finding real estate in Ft. Worth has been a larger struggle than anticipated due to higher real estate prices and questionable land.</li> </ul>		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expand Collaborations – Y. Bhatia discussed the success of our GPISD partnership and the launch of planning efforts for the FW ISD Partnership. She acknowledged that this work is complex, but worth it and noted that TEA is also excited to work with Uplift to shape what Charter school and ISD partnerships should look like.</li> </ul> <p>The Board discussed the reasons for loss of 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and studies that might help determine the reasons that they leave our schools. Y. Bhatia noted that S. Ness, the Director of Enrollment, currently does an exit interview with all families who choose to leave Uplift. Y. Bhatia discussed the Strategic Investment Plan metrics for 2016-17. The board and Y. Bhatia discussed Specific initiatives put in place to address teacher retention. Y. Bhatia also discussed the network priorities for 2017-18 which were included in the report given to board as a pre-read.</p>		
<p>IV. Regular Report – Academic Update</p>	<p>R. Harrison presented an overview of the report that was provided in the board pre-read.</p> <p>*Academic Recap of 2016-2017. R. Harrison discussed performance by grade level grouping in terms of comparison to other ISDs and charter peers, growth by quartile and ethnicity, and longitudinal assessments. R. Harrison shared core strategies by school divisions. M. Moumen-Baker, Director of Curriculum, discussed an example of increasing rigor through new process that gives approved reading tests for each grade level so that we ensure all reading books are at the appropriate grade level or higher. The board discussed the need to look at additional data for performance of the top 20% of students at ISDs and charter peers, SEL impact on scores, teacher retention impact on scores, and the difference in performance of Pre-K scholars based on the provider. The board also discussed the State’s commitment to Pre-K based on funding and what it takes to be part of CSGF. R. Washington, High</p>		

	<p>School Managing Director, discussed the impact of requiring all high school scholars to take IB or DP classes regardless of if the scholar applies for the diploma. The board discussed reasons for higher attrition in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and general attrition of high school students. R. Harrison presented the low completion rate of 2 year schools versus 4 year schools. The board discussed the need to look into the cause and how we are steering scholars towards 2 year schools. R. Harrison presented an update on teacher pipeline programs that was provided in the board pre-read.</p> <p>*Academic Strategic Priorities for 2017-18. R. Harrison presented an overview of the academic strategic priorities that were provided in the board pre-read.</p>		
<p>IV. Regular Report – Special Education Update</p>	<p>M. Wright, Senior Director of Special Populations, presented a report summarizing new Special Education Department (SPED) initiatives and current status. Last year was the first year Uplift had a Special Olympics team. The scholars brought home 36 medals and they look forward to competing again this year. The SPED department also implemented a new electronic data processing software, professional development regarding academic data for SPED staff, collaboration between SPED and ESL, and a pilot dyslexia program. M. Wright discussed the large jump from just under 1000 SPED scholars last year to 1281 this year and the number of scholars in each SPED classification. The number of scholars in speech only and autism categories are slightly disproportional to what is seen in a traditional ISD. The board and M. Wright discussed that Uplift receives additional funding for Special Education scholars, but the additional amount is generally not enough to cover the services the scholar requires. They also discussed that the 190 SPED staff members are fully dedicated to SPED. There was also discussion regarding the percentage target and how it came about. M. Wright noted that we do not currently have service</p>		

	<p>animals for students in any of our campuses and SPED resources for parents.</p>		
<p>V. Information Items: Advocacy Update</p>	<p>D. Wiggins discussed the creation of the Institutional Advancement Committee this past year and encouraged board members to join the committee. D. Wiggins noted the \$220 per student that passed this past legislative session and thanked the board for their commitment to advocacy and gave special thanks to Y. Bhatia and A. Gomez, Executive Director Texans for Quality Public Charter Schools, for their leadership in the advocacy efforts.</p> <p>*Session recap, parent and board engagement. A. Gomez discussed facilities funding and how HB21 was passed giving charter schools an increased \$220 per student annually, beginning in 2018. Although we were able to secure the additional funding, this is only the first step is closing the funding gap for charter schools. The board discussed leveraging ISD partnerships for funding legislation in the future. A. Gomez discussed the new budget and that we need to watch the increase in funding to healthcare. She also reviewed other major bills of interest from this last legislative session. A. Gomez discussed grassroots efforts and Uplift’s robust parent engagement that allowed Uplift to have our voice heard. The board discussed Uplift parents willingness to be involved when we get to advocacy. D. Bigham introduced Uplift’s new Director of Government Affairs and discussed the decision not to hire someone until after the legislative session.</p> <p>*Look ahead, including Charter School Summit on November 1<sup>st</sup>, thank you to legislators, and outreach plan for 2017-2018. A. Gomez discussed the timing of political engagement through the 2020 elections and the importance of connecting with legislators. The board was asked to look at the Statewide Legislative matrix to see if they have any current relationships with legislators that can be leveraged in our</p>		

	<p>advocacy efforts. A. Gomez also urged the board to sign up for the Board Advocacy Summit on November 1<sup>st</sup> in Houston.</p> <p>*DACA. Deborah Bigham, Chief Development Officer, discussed the rescinding of DACA and 14% of our students are or could be DACA eligible. D. Bigham discussed the importance of mobilizing at a federal and state level and the need for the board's help to do so.</p>		
VI. Open Forum Community Comment	There were no community members present.		
VII. Adjournment	There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.		

Respectfully submitted by Naomi Harper for Alexander Berk, Board Secretary.