

Uplift Education Board Meeting
 January 31, 2017 – 3:30 p.m.
 Location: CMO – 1st Floor Meeting Room
 1825 Market Center Blvd., Dallas, TX 75207

Called to Order: 4:31 p.m.

Uplift Board Members Present *:

Adjourned: 6:37 p.m.

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Melissa McNeil 2. Ryan Moss 3. Ardo Fuentes 4. Randy Ray 5. Richard Frapart 6. Dawn Mann 7. Jack Wensinger 8. Donell Wiggins 9. Josh Terry | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Angela Farley 11. Dexter Freeman II 12. Christine Frary 13. Kay Allen 14. Tony Dona 15. Stuart Ravnik 16. Carol Proffer 17. Carey Carter 18. Brice Tarzwell 19. Ed Tauriac 20. Amy Messersmith 21. Cullum Clark 22. Michael Giles |
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*Voting members: **Bold**

Others

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yasmin Bhatia 2. Stacey Lawrence 3. Rich Harrison 4. Ann Stevenson 5. Cassie Hubbert 6. Mya Baker 7. Remy Washington | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Karen Evans 9. Anne Erickson 10. Jeff Kirby 11. Jeremy _____ 12. Maria Yocum 13. JW Bentley 14. Nicole Wallin 15. Alex Berk |
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<i>TOPIC</i>	<i>DISCUSSION/CONCLUSIONS</i>	<i>ACTIONS</i>	<i>ACTION FOLLOW-UP</i>
Call to Order And Announcements	A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 4:31 p.m. by the chair, M. McNeil. Alex Berk, Sr. Director of Legal Affairs, a new addition to the Uplift CMO team, was introduced. Cindy Leja, a senior at Uplift Williams, was introduced and recognized as a Boys & Girls Club honoree for 2016-2017. She gave her winning speech to the Board and she was congratulated and given best wishes for the next level in the competition.		
Consent Agenda	The minutes from the December 21 and 22 meetings, included in the pre-read, were reviewed.	Upon motion made by R. Ray and seconded by A. Fuentes, the board unanimously approved the minutes as written.	
III. Regular Report – Strategic Investment Plan Update – Invest Internally in Our	<u>Academic Report:</u> Rich Harrison gave a brief summary of the academic report included in the pre-read to the board. One of the identified concerns in the number of failing grades among our high school students. A committee has been working to review our		

<p>People, Schools and Systems</p>	<p>grading practices. Another area of focus is the new A-F rating system. It appears that Uplift needs to increase the number of students reaching the commended or advanced levels on the STAAR tests to achieve higher ratings.</p>		
<p>IV. Information Items:</p>	<p><u>Overview of A-F Accountability System:</u> M. Yocum gave a presentation regarding the A – F system and how the various domains are scored to get to the ratings. She reminded the board that this system is a “work in progress” and we expect there will be changes to the system before it is formally implemented for all schools. M. Yocum noted that the goal of the A-F ratings was to provide “simple and transparent” information for parents. However, the calculations are very complicated and may not accurately convey information to parents. Upon discussion, the board recommended that as a group they should respond with comments to the Commissioner. Uplift is committed to transparent data and accountability, but this system will need some tweaking. The board expressed thanks to M. Yocum for her comprehensive presentation.</p> <p><u>Update on Grading Policy Committee Work:</u> Remy Washington, managing director, introduced members of the committee who presented a report on the work of the committee to date. Jeff Kirby gave an overview of the parent survey and goals of the committee, some of which are to ensure grading consistency across the network and to move away from “punitive” grades and instead have grades reflect what the students actually know. Concern is to have fairness and balance in the grading system. The board discussed importance of grading as a life lesson and not giving students “second chances” when they might not have that opportunity after high school. Y. Bhatia expressed appreciation to the committee for their work and acknowledged the work is continuing and the board will hear more from the committee as they continue their work.</p> <p><u>Update on Career Field Trips.:</u> C. Hubbert gave a brief report on the capital campaign to date. (Pre-read to board included summary.) She also reported on the junior class career trips which have been very successful. By the time the trips are completed, nearly all Uplift juniors will have had an opportunity to participate in one of these trips which have included trips to Pizza Hut, HKS Architects, BDO, and Deloitte. The board chair thanked Cassie for her work and also thanked the board members who have supported these trips.</p>		<p>Proposed comments to the rating system with “bullet points” will be sent out to the board members for input. Formal response from board will be submitted thereafter.</p>

V. Action Items: Reimbursing Resolution	S. Lawrence presented the resolution which Uplift typically issues in bond transactions to allow for reimbursement of expenses incurred prior to the bond sale. A draft of the resolution was included in the board pre-read.	Upon motion by R. Ray, seconded by R. Frapart, the board approved the resolution as written.	
V. Action Items: CSGF Resolution	S. Lawrence also presented a resolution to approve a loan from the Charter School Growth Fund which is aligned with the grant from CSGF.	Upon motion by J. Terry and seconded by R. Frapart, the board approved the resolution as written.	
V. Action Items: Campus Number Request	Ann Stevenson presented a resolution to request an additional campus number for Uplift Grand to create a separate number for the high school, grades 9-12, for the 17-18 school year. The additional number is for accountability and reporting purposes.	Upon motion by J. Terry and seconded by A. Fuentes, the board approved the resolution as written.	Request for additional campus number will be submitted to TEA.
Information Item:	M. McNeil, chair, announced changes to the agenda to keep the board meeting within projected time allotted. The advocacy report is deferred to the next meeting. S. Lawrence gave a brief financial report as the full report was included in the board pre-read. All areas of the dashboard are in the green with exception of enrollment which is slightly below budget.		
Information Item: Update on Senior Executive Compensation Committee work	Y. Bhatia and J. Wensinger presented a report on the executive compensation project. Purpose of the work was to focus on senior staff compensation and included staff who are chiefs, managing directors and regional operations directors. Goal is to bring senior staff more in line with CMO peers in Texas and encourage retention. Pre-read of the proposal was in the board packet. The plan will be refined over the next few weeks.		
Open Forum Community Comment	There were no community members present.		
Adjournment	There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m.		

Respectfully submitted, Ann Stevenson, Secretary