

Uplift Education Board Meeting
 December 6th, 2016 – 3:45 p.m.
 Location: CMO – 1st Floor Meeting Room
 1825 Market Center Blvd., Dallas, TX 75207

Called to Order: 4:34 p.m.

Uplift Board Members Present *:

Adjourned: 6:33 p.m.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <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. Michelle Wheeler 11. Cathleen Crews 12. Christine Frary 13. Catherine Estrada 14. Tony Dona 15. Kenneth Govan 16. Stuart Ravnik 17. Mary Ellen Weber 18. Ossa Fisher 19. Cristina Barbosa 20. Brice Tarzwell 21. Cullum Clark |
|--|--|

*Voting members: **Bold**

Others

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yasmin Bhatia 2. Stacey Lawrence 3. Rich Harrison 4. Ann Stevenson 5. Sara Ortega 6. Anson Jackson 7. Remy Washington | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Erin Hearn 9. Ben VanMannen 10. Sarah Hobson 11. Brittany Cooper 12. Layne Fisher 13. Marilyn Wright 14. Bessye Adams 15. Whitney Hurwitz 16. Cassie Hubbert 17. Greta Graham 18. Shirley Higgs – Community |
|--|--|

<i>TOPIC</i>	<i>DISCUSSION/CONCLUSIONS</i>	<i>ACTIONS</i>	<i>ACTION FOLLOW-UP</i>
Call to Order	The closed meeting posted on the agenda for a personnel matter was not held. The regular meeting was called to order at 4:34 p.m. by the chair, M. McNeil, when a quorum was present.		
Consent Agenda	The minutes from the October 25th board meeting, 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.	
Regular Report – Strategic Investment Plan Update – Invest Internally in Our People, Schools and Systems	<u>Academic Report:</u> Rich Harrison gave a summary of the academic report which was included in the pre-read to the board. The Pre-ACT results for 9 th and 10 th grade student show growth, but will need faster growth to exceed the college readiness benchmark by their senior year. African American and Hispanic students are lower at some schools. Overall, about		

50% of our students score at a college ready level on the ACT. With respect the Road to College, 87% of our seniors have started the college application process. We typically encourage seniors to apply to 6 colleges – 2 reach, 2 target and 2 safe choices. About 25% of our graduates attend out of state schools and a number of private colleges outside the state offer significant financial aid to our graduates. RTC intends to advocate for more needs-based scholarships for our students. Board also discussed demand on RTC counselors and concern about the “depth of the bench.” Mr. Harrison noted that current team works very hard, especially at this time of year. We recognize need to increase staff to be ready to serve the increasing number of graduates over the next 3-5 years.

Discipline Report: R. Harrison also presented data regarding discipline in Uplift schools, with primary focus on the number of suspensions. He noted concern about the number of students suspended in primary school and the disparity in suspensions by ethnicity with African Americans more likely to be suspended. Uplift is reviewing this data more closely to determine what is working in some schools to keep the suspension numbers low. We are also focusing on positive discipline systems as compared to negative behavior management systems. Erin Hearn reported on some of the initiatives that she is leading at our schools. More effective training for teachers is planned.

Regular Report – Strategic Investment Plan Update – Invest Internally in Our People, Schools and Systems

Finance Report. Stacey Lawrence presented the finance dashboard and report. He noted that we have seen an increase of 40 new students in enrollment. He also discussed the revenue and expense forecast which is based on “truing up” actual numbers as we have them, which allows for more accurate projection of the budget numbers.

Audit: The audit is being finalized and will be presented for review and approval at the December 21st meeting.

Information Item: Campus Advisory Council Updates

Ardo Fuentes, chair of the Governance Committee, reported on the campus advisory councils generally and introduced Cathy Estrada, chair of the Fort Worth CAC.

Mighty/Meridian CAC: Cathy Estrada reported that they have added two new parents to the CAC which brings their total board members to 6. She also reported that a friend has agreed to set up family crisis funds at both schools. Cathy presented a letter from Ms. Cole-Leffel, primary director at Meridian, reporting the actions they are taking to address the academic needs of the students, noting especially Reading Partners and the Child Care Associates pre-K programs. M&M have had several tours at the school including Alice Walton, Governor Abbott, and Mayor

	<p>Betsy Price. The Renaissance Heights housing project is making progress and there is visible real change in this neighborhood.</p> <p><u>CAC Survey</u>: David Jackson reported briefly on the CAC social and reported on the CAC survey. CAC members want to be involved in teacher appreciation, mentor relationships with school leaders, and work toward connections between IB and the community. CACs are also working to find meeting schedules that works best for all parties.</p>		
Information Item: Advocacy Update	<p>D. Wiggins reported on the charter board advocacy summit held on November 14 in Austin. D. Wiggins and M. McNeil visited with legislators at the capitol the following day. Grassroots advocacy is also growing. Over 200 parents have completed letters and/or emails to their legislators. A link has been established to the lottery application which allows applicants to send an email to their elected officials after they have submitted their application. D. Wiggins reminded board to continue their efforts to engage elected officials.</p>		
Public Hearing FIRST Rating	<p>S. Lawrence conducted the public hearing on Uplift Education's FIRST (financial) rating for 2015-2016. Uplift's rating was Superior and this means Uplift will qualify for the PSF guaranty fund. There were no questions from the public.</p>		
Open Forum Community Comment	<p>Shirley Higgs, grandparent of a primary student at Uplift Hampton Primary spoke to the board about her concerns regarding classroom instruction. The board expressed appreciation for her comments.</p>		
Adjournment	<p>There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:33 p.m.</p>		

Respectfully submitted, Ann Stevenson, Secretary