

Uplift Education Board Meeting
 September 6, 2014 – 8:00 a.m.
 Location: Uplift CMO, first floor conference room
 1825 Market Center Blvd., Dallas, TX 75207

Called to Order: 8:04 a.m.

Uplift Board Members Present *:

Adjourned: 12:00 p.m.

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tony Dona 2. Melissa McNeil 3. Josh Terry 4. W. Carey Carter 5. Donell Wiggins 6. Randy Ray | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Marnie Wildenthal 8. Richard Frapart 9. Ryan Moss 10. Srikanth Srinivas 11. Cathy Estrada (Fort Worth) 12. Angela Farley (Irving) 13. Ardo Fuentes (East Dallas) 14. Dawn Mann (Southwest Dallas) |
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*Voting members: **Bold**

Others

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yasmin Bhatia 2. Bill Mays 3. Ann Stevenson 4. Rich Harrison 5. Deborah Bigham 6. Stacey Lawrence | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Dr. Tillman 8. Jeff Helfrich 9. Rich Rosalez 10. Tad Dupree |
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<i>TOPIC</i>	<i>DISCUSSION/CONCLUSIONS</i>	<i>ACTIONS</i>	<i>ACTION FOLLOW-UP</i>
Call to Order & Approval of Minutes	A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 8:04 a.m. by the chair, T. Dona.		
Review of Dashboards for 2014-15 and Strategic Plan	Y. Bhatia presented review of the Uplift strategic plan and its current status. Focus for next year is on financial sustainability and leadership pipeline. Reviewed the strategic priorities for 2014 & 2015 as set out in handout to board. Big goal is to have 70% of our students complete 4 year degree in 6 years. Gates study showed that of first generation college attendees, only 8% complete degree within 6 years. Uplift students are at 80% persistence at 4 years. Another strategic priority is adult learning and use of Blackboard to improve professional development. Communication with campuses and parents and between operations and instruction is third area of focus. Will start discussions of next strategic plan for Uplift at next year's board retreat, with goal of new plan by 2016.		

Financial Report	B. Mays reported on closing on bond sale. Uplift did very well without the PSF guarantee. Also closed on the NexBank loan which will provide capital for operations and purchase of new school sites. Discussed the implication of the timing lag on state FSP payments which negatively affects Uplift's cash flow in a fast growing environment. (Also discussed as one of legislative priorities.)		
Purchase Agreement – Pinnacle Destination Site	R. Ray, chair of facilities committee, presented summary of the contract to purchase a tract of land in southwest Dallas for a K-12 school to be the destination school for Pinnacle primary. The contract has been fully negotiated, and subject to some additional comments from K. Bryant and R. Ray, is recommended for approval.	Upon motion made by R. Ray and seconded by J. Terry, the board approved the contract as written, with direction to also attempt to add changes recommended prior to execution.	
Charter Consolidation	Ann Stevenson presented overview of the charter consolidation recommendations from the Uplift executive team. Detailed memo had been presented to the board in the pre-read to this meeting. One of the major benefits is to simplify record keeping and allow Uplift to present a consolidated financial report. However, if we consolidate, will be no opportunity to obtain another charter under current law. Board discussed whether we should consolidate to one charter or to 2 charters. New regulations and law have strong language on charter revocation if miss performance targets in 3 years. Request to the board is to authorize the executive team to move forward with discussions with the TEA on charter consolidation.	Upon motion by R. Ray and seconded by J. Terry, the board unanimously approved moving forward on discussion with TEA regarding consolidation.	
Leadership Consultancy	R. Harrison presented challenge faced by Uplift which is development and retention of school leaders. At the high school level particularly there is very little depth in leadership. Board members shared their experiences and knowledge around retention and incentives to keep good leaders, as well as expanding our sources for recruitment of new leaders. Key to keeping employees in general is the work environment and opportunity or ability to develop professional skills.		
Close Open Meeting	T. Dona declared the open meeting closed at 11:25 a.m. and opened the executive closed session for the purpose of discussing a personnel issue.		
Adjournment	The executive session was adjourned at 11:55 and the open meeting re-opened. There was no action taken in the open meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00.		

Respectfully submitted by: Ann Stevenson