

Uplift Education Board Meeting  
 September 5, 2014 – 12:00 p.m.  
 Location: Peak Preparatory – Primary School Library  
 4600 Bryan St., Dallas, TX 75204

Called to Order: 12:15 p.m.

Uplift Board Members Present \*:

Adjourned: 5:22 p.m.

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Tony Dona</b></li> <li><b>2. Melissa McNeil</b></li> <li><b>3. Josh Terry</b></li> <li><b>4. W. Carey Carter</b></li> <li><b>5. Donell Wiggins</b></li> <li><b>6. Randy Ray</b></li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. Marnie Wildenthal</li> <li>8. Carrie Kirby</li> <li>9. Ryan Moss</li> <li>10. Ossa Fisher</li> <li>11. Angie Dickson (West Dallas)</li> <li><b>12. Angela Farley (Irving)</b></li> <li>13. Michael Giles (Arlington)</li> <li>14. Ardo Fuentes (East Dallas)</li> <li>15. Cathy Estrada (Fort Worth)</li> </ol> |
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\*Voting members: **Bold**

Others

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Yasmin Bhatia</li> <li>2. Bill Mays</li> <li>3. Ann Stevenson</li> <li>4. Rich Harrison</li> <li>5. Deborah Bigham</li> <li>6. Diana Meyer</li> <li>7. Stacey Lawrence</li> <li>8. Mike Terry</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9. Dr. Tillman</li> <li>10. Jeff Helfrich</li> <li>11. Rich Rosalez</li> <li>12. Andre McEwing</li> <li>13. Rosemary Perlmeter</li> <li>14. Addie Smith Gomez</li> </ol> |
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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 12:15 p.m. by the chair, T. Dona. The minutes from the board meeting held on July 14, 2014, were presented and reviewed.	Upon motion by M. McNeil and seconded by O. Fisher, the minutes were approved as written.	
Governance Action	T. Dona presented recommendations from the Governance Committee to make the following changes to the Uplift board: (1) Approve Cathy Estrada to be the chair of the Uplift Fort Worth board (replacing George P. Bush); (2) Elect Randy Ray as member of the Board of Governors and appoint him as Chair of the Uplift Facilities Committee	Upon motion by C. Carter, seconded by D. Wiggins, Cathy Estrada was unanimously approved as chair of the Fort Worth board; Upon motion by C. Carter, seconded by M. McNeil, Randy Ray was unanimously elected as member of Board of Governors and appointed as chair of the Facilities Committee.	

<p>Academic Performance Report</p>	<p>R. Harrison presented report on Uplift student academic achievement. Written reports provided to the board members in pre-read. R. Harrison discussed projected growth for students based on their beginning level when enrolling at Uplift. Those students who are behind academically at kindergarten level are showing strong growth over time toward college readiness. Students who are at a higher level do not show as much growth over time and this is an area Uplift needs to focus. Overall, Uplift students are performing better than local ISDs and our charter peers. Will continue to focus on areas of need to reach college readiness goal.</p>		
<p>Peak School Tour &amp; Dialogue with Directors</p>	<p>School leaders from Peak presented brief overview of school year and led board members on tour of primary school. Following tour – directors responded to questions from the board and emphasized desire for the board to help school by locating community partnerships, internships, mentors, and donations.</p>		
<p>Local Board Structure Discussion</p>	<p>C. Carter introduced discussion on structure of local boards and work done to date with focus groups of board members and school leaders around proposed change to structure of the local boards. Observations have been that schools and boards didn't like the feeder – big school focus and that too much time in meetings was spent listening to data reports. School leaders want more personal interaction with and support from the board. Schools have indicated they want more flexibility on when board meets and how often. Discussion among board members included need to have some accountability piece for the local board, allow for communication with Uplift board, and ensure parent involvement and communication. C. Carter reported that committee will continue to collect information and feedback from others and expect to bring recommendation to the board later this fall.</p>		<p>Continue discussion with current local board members and school leaders.</p>
<p>Update on Advocacy Strategy</p>	<p>Addie Smith, who represents coalition of larger CMO charters, including Uplift, gave an update on political scene for the upcoming Texas legislative session, and the charter priorities for this session. Funding is the number one priority, with other lower priorities on the agenda also. (Handouts provided to the members present listing the legislative priorities as published by the Texas Charter Schools Association which we support.) Addie also emphasized importance of board member participation in advocacy – leading tours of schools, making contacts with legislators and local leaders, and helping to dispel charter myths. Addie said she could also use board expertise on communicating the funding disparity and need for charters. A list of north Texas legislators with contact information was given to board members. Texas for Education Reform also presented update on their legislative priorities which generally align with the TCSA objectives. TER wants to promote ISD and</p>		

	charter collaboration as way to improve education for more students and tying funding to outcomes.		
Development Discussion	<p>D. Bigham presented model for talking points when board members are engaged with others about charter schools. Message box outlines basic information and points that can quickly be given to someone in a conversation.</p> <p>D. Bigham also reported on efforts to raise funds for the Hamon gift match. A list of potential donors was distributed to all members present with a request to contact Deborah if board members had a personal connection with any of these prospects.</p>		
Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 5:00. The retreat will resume on Saturday, September 6 <sup>th</sup> , at CMO office.		

Respectfully submitted by: Ann Stevenson