

Uplift Education Board Meeting
 December 10, 2013 – 4:30 p.m.
 Location: CMO – First Floor Meeting Room
 1825 Market Center Blvd., Dallas, TX 75207

Called to Order: 4:40 p.m.

Uplift Board Members Present *:

Adjourned: 6:55 p.m.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kevin Bryant 2. Tony Dona 3. Melissa McNeil 4. Michael Giles | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Angela Farley 6. Randy Ray 7. Ossa Fisher 8. Dustin Marshall |
|--|--|

*Voting members: **Bold**

Others

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yasmin Bhatia 2. Bill Mays 3. Deborah Bigham 4. Ann Stevenson 5. Rich Harrison 6. Anisha Srinivasan 7. Stacey Lawrence 8. Tom Pingleton, CPA 9. Kurt Evans, CPA | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Ryan Moss 11. Peggy Yard 12. Cheryl Bass |
|--|--|

<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 4:40 p.m. by K. Bryant. The minutes from the Board meetings held on October 29 th and November 12, 2013, were presented and reviewed..	After review and upon motion by M. McNeil and seconded by M. Giles, the minutes were approved as written.	
Student Achievement Update	R. Harrison reviewed the report provided to the board on Fort Worth schools’ performance. The middle school has particular challenges because the students came in far behind their grade level. R. Harrison presented strategies implementing to improve performance which include more focused attention from the managing director, and programmatic changes to increase math performance.		
CEO Update	Y. Bhatia presented an update on the efforts to address teacher sustainability. Group meetings and focus groups have helped to identify some changes that could address teacher concerns. Will no longer require Saturday school for teachers, lesson plans will be leaner with less scripting, will add a work Wednesday with no professional development, and work on differentiated professional development on the		Board would like to see compensation analysis and what it would cost to increase for all teachers.

	other Wednesdays. In the long term, schools leaders are looking for more standardized curriculum and resources across the network to reduce demands on leaders and teachers.		
Finance Update	B. Mays presented the cash balance report. Noted that big cash drag in July and August (due largely to TEA funding timeline), but expect to catch up by November or December.		
Financial Audit Presentation	Tom Pingleton and Kurt Evans presented the audit report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013. The report has been reviewed with the Audit Committee. Auditors were able to give Uplift a clean opinion this year. Comments: satisfied with internal controls and procedures. Recommend adding another experienced accounting staff to oversee daily functions.	C. Carter presented recommendation from Audit Committee that the report be approved pending edits to supplemental reports. Upon motion by R. Ray and seconded by T. Dona, the audit was approved.	
Finance Update	B. Mays presented the finance update and the new report formats – cash balance and cash flow shortage reports. Noted that cash flow is negative in beginning of school year, but expect to change in next few months as increased funding received. Cash flow deficit exacerbated by payment schedule for charters. Discussion of advocacy effort to “front load” funding for charters more like traditional ISDs.		Discuss with advocacy group adding funding issue to legislative priorities for 2015.
PSF Resolution	B. Mays reported on the status of regulations allowing charters access to the permanent school fund. Expect that we can make application for PSF financing in February. B. Mays presented resolution authorizing Uplift to pursue the PSF guarantee.	Upon motion made by M. McNeil and seconded by R. Ray, the board approved the resolution.	
Facilities Committee Report	M. McNeil and Y. Bhatia gave a report from the facilities committee which included the schedule for buildings over the next several years, the need to add gymnasiums to our school facilities, the master plan for Heights primary school and for the Grand Prairie school. Committee also recommended continuation of the agreement with PMSI as our construction project managers.	Upon motion by M. Giles and seconded by R. Ray, the master agreement with PMSI was approved and CEO authorized to sign agreement.	
Resolutions – name for new school and primary boundary	A. Stevenson presented a resolution to approve the name “Uplift Grand Preparatory” for the new school to be opened in 2014 in Grand Prairie. Name was chosen from names presented by members of the community. R. Ray reported on his search on name availability and opinion that should be no objection to this name. Discussion of a resolution approving zip code preferences to define a primary boundary for the Grand Prairie school was had among the board. Recommendation was to include all zip codes within City of Grand Prairie boundaries.	Upon motion by M. McNeil and T. Dona, the name was approved. After discussion and upon motion by R. Ray and seconded by M. McNeil, the resolution was approved as written.	
Social Media Policy	A proposed social media policy for communications between faculty and students (and parents) was discussed by the board.	After discussion, and upon motion by R. Ray and seconded by M.	

		Giles, the policy was approved.	
New Board Members	M. Giles reported that he was not ready to present nominations for board members.		Discussion tabled to future meeting.
Closed Session – Real Estate Matter	K. Bryant closed the open meeting at 6:38 and opened the executive closed session at 6:40. The executive session was closed at 6:55 and the open meeting resumed.		
Adjournment	There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.		

Respectfully submitted by: Ann Stevenson