

Uplift Education Board Meeting  
 June 24th, 2014 – 4:30 p.m.  
 Location: CMO – First Floor Meeting Room  
 1825 Market Center Blvd., Dallas, TX 75207

Called to Order: 4:34 p.m.

Uplift Board Members Present \*:

Adjourned: 6:34 p.m.

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Kevin Bryant</b></li> <li><b>2. Tony Dona</b></li> <li><b>3. Carey Carter</b></li> <li><b>4. Josh Terry</b></li> <li><b>5. Dustin Marshall</b></li> <li><b>6. Melissa McNeil</b></li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>7. Dawn Mann</b></li> <li><b>8. Randy Ray</b></li> <li><b>9. Ossa Fisher</b></li> <li><b>10. Ardo Fuentes</b></li> <li><b>11. Michael Giles</b></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. Stacey Lawrence</li> <li>6. Diana Meyer</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. Ben VanMannen</li> <li>8. Aimee Rincon</li> <li>9. Aleta Estrada</li> <li>10. Anne Erickson</li> <li>11. Johnny Deas</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 4:34 p.m. by the chair, K. Bryant. Deborah Bigham introduced Tony Taylor who was attending the meeting on behalf of an Uplift donor. The minutes from the board meeting held on May 27, 2014, were presented and reviewed.	Upon motion by D. Marshall and seconded by M. McNeil, the minutes were approved as written.	
Charter Consolidation	Y. Bhatia introduced the discussion on the possibility of consolidating the Uplift charters. Benefit would primarily be in the financial reporting and rating from TEA as some of the charters are showing “substandard” on the FIRST rating as a consequence of how TEA calculates the indicators. There is not a way currently to have a consolidated financial rating for the Uplift network. This result prevents Uplift from accessing the PSF guarantee for bond financing. Board members discussed issues around consolidation and financing. Brian Colon and John Buck also participated by phone and gave report on current bond market and rates without the PSF. After discussion, board requested additional information before making a recommendation on bond financing at this time.	Facilities committee to put together report of construction project timeline and financing deadlines.	Special board meeting to be scheduled in July to further consider bond financing.

Cash Balance Report	B. Mays presented the cash balance report. He also reported that Uplift is working to obtain an operating line of credit. Several banks have indicated an interest.		
Budget – 13-14	S. Lawrence presented overview of budget for 2013-2014 and the variation of actual expenses to budget. After discussion, the board recommended that the budget be amended to match actual expenditures.	Upon motion by J. Terry and seconded by T. Dona, the 13-14 budget as amended was approved by the board.	
Budget 14-15	S. Lawrence gave an overview of the budgeting process and presented the proposed budget for the 2014-2015 fiscal year.	Upon motion by J. Terry and seconded by T. Dona, the budget for 2014-2015 was approved by the board.	
Update on Uplift Grand	Y. Bhatia reported on status of the school opening in Grand Prairie. Enrollment and staff hiring is going well. Still looking for support from the City for the Education Finance Corporation (EFC). GPISD has indicated they do not oppose the City supporting the EFC for Uplift.		
Innovation Course Approval	Y. Bhatia presented the proposal to approve an innovation course (PALS) for Uplift high schools which is a leadership and character education course.	Upon motion by M. McNeil and seconded by J. Terry, the resolution approving the course was approved by the board.	
Class Size Charter Amendment	Y. Bhatia introduced a proposed amendment to increase the teacher – student ratios as defined in Uplift charters to allow for larger class sizes. As a charter school, Uplift is not bound by the TEC rules on class size, but must comply with its charters. Noting that larger class size has not adversely impacted student achievement, the recommendation is to increase the ratio in all Uplift charters.	After discussion and upon motion by D. Marshall, seconded by T. Dona, the board unanimously approved the resolution.	File amendment request with TEA.
Development Update	D. Bigham gave an update on the convocation event for the next school year. Geoffrey Canada (Harlem Children’s Zone) will be the featured speaker.		
Expansion Amendment	Y. Bhatia presented a resolution to approve an expansion amendment under the North Hills charter for a feeder school on Hampton Road.	Upon motion by T. Dona, seconded by D. Marshall, the amendment was approved by the board.	File amendment request with TEA.
Governance Committee	D. Marshall presented the committee’s recommendation to approve the following board members: Ardo Fuentes as East Dallas Board Chair; Tad Deupree as member of Irving Board, and Ryan Moss as member of Board of Trustees – Uplift. Biographies of all nominees had been provided to the board members in board packets.	Upon motion by J. Terry and seconded by M. McNeil, the recommended board members were approved by the board.	

	D. Marshall also presented the recommendation of committee to elect Tony Dona as board chair and Melissa McNeil as vice-chair of the Uplift board of governors. Tony and Melissa left the meeting while their nominations were discussed.	Upon motion by J. Terry and seconded by K. Bryant, Tony Dona was elected chair and Melissa McNeil elected vice-chair.	
Real Estate Proposals	Y. Bhatia presented letters of intent to purchase property for a Pinnacle destination site (K-12 campus) and a Luna feeder site (K-5). M. McNeil also noted that facilities committee had looked a long time to find suitable properties for these sites and the committee recommended the purchase of these sites.	After discussion and upon the motion of M. McNeil and seconded by C. Carter, the board approved the terms as set out in the LOI's and authorized moving forward with drafting purchase agreements in line with the LOI's.	
Student Achievement Update	A report of student achievement and Road to College was provided to board prior to the meeting. An updated report will be provided at the board retreat.		
Adjournment	There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:34 p.m.		

Respectfully submitted by: Ann Stevenson