

Uplift Education Special Board Meeting Minutes

Friday, March 5th, 2021 at 4 p.m.

A virtual meeting of the Board of Uplift Education was held on the date and time listed above. Pursuant to Governor Abbott's March 16, 2020 Order approving a request by the Office of the Attorney General to temporarily suspend a limited number of open meeting laws in response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) disaster, governmental bodies may conduct meetings by telephone or video conference to advance the public health goal of limiting face-to-face meetings (also called "social distancing") to slow the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). In compliance with Governor Abbott's order, and in furtherance of the public health goal of limiting face-to-face meetings, this meeting was held by videoconference.

Access online was through TEAMS and the agenda provided the following access information:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_NDA1ZWQwYTItODhkMy00ZTMwLTljODItYzlkNDc0YzExYWl4%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22c1136be9-3a18-45ff-8099-b182bfd6890c%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2226d7a1b6-9be1-4fdc-9c72-d7278ededda4%22%7d

For access by phone: +1 469-340-0751; conference ID: 886 671 213#

Called to Order: 4:03 p.m.

Adjourned: 4:59 p.m.

Board Members Present:

1. Richard Frapart
2. Cullum Clark
3. Dawn Davidson
4. Michael Stack
5. Ardo Fuentes
6. John McPherson
7. Lael Melville
8. James Stanton
9. Ed Tauriac
10. Cathy Estrada

<i>TOPIC</i>	<i>DISCUSSION/CONCLUSIONS</i>	<i>ACTIONS</i>
I. Call to Order and Announcements	R. Frapart welcomed the Board to the special meeting and took attendance. A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m.	
II. Administrative Items	Alex Berk, Chief Legal Officer, provided a presentation and administration recommendation on the following items, and noted that the recommended resolutions were all provided in a pre-read to the Board: 1. Remote-Only Instruction Waiver. Due to severe inclement weather, Uplift administration determined it was in Uplift's best-interest to provide remote-only instruction at all Uplift schools on the 11 th and 12 th of February 2021. Post-storm, and due to significant damage to facilities, Uplift was forced to provide remote-only instruction at the following campuses: Uplift Elevate Primary and	

Middle, from February 22 to March 5, 2021; Uplift Hampton Primary, from February 22 to March 5; and Uplift North Hills Primary, from February 22 to February 26.

Administration made the recommendation to the Board to approve the resolution approving the submission of the TEA waiver for remote-only instruction, as presented.

ACTION ITEM: Consider and take action on resolution approving remote-only instruction waiver due to winter storm.

2. Missed School Days Waiver. Due to severe inclement weather, Uplift administration determined it was in the best-interest of Uplift to close all schools and not provide instruction from February 16th to 19th, 2021 due to a variety of significant weather-related obstacles, such as widespread power-outages and the like. Administration made the recommendation to the Board to approve the resolution approving the submission of the TEA waiver for missed school days, as presented.

ACTION ITEM: Consider and take action on resolution approving missed school days waiver due to winter storm.

3. Staff Pay During Winter Storm. Due to the severe inclement weather, many Uplift employees were instructed not to report to work or were unable to report to work. Administration made the recommendation to the Board to approve staff pay to all exempt and non-exempt staff from February 11 to February 22. As presented by Administration, and as stated in the resolution, the staff pay would serve a public purpose and provide a benefit to Uplift. A. Berk also noted that Uplift controls its funds and how funds are expended and provided the Board a primer on improper gift of public funds. Administration made the recommendation to the Board to approve the resolution approving staff pay during the winter storm, as presented.

ACTION ITEM: Consider and take action on resolution to pay staff wages during emergency closure due to winter storm.

Upon motion by D. Davidson, and seconded by E. Tauriac, the Board unanimously approved the resolution approving the remote-only instruction waiver, as presented.

Upon motion by J. McPherson, and seconded by C. Clark, the Board unanimously approved the resolution approving the missed school days waiver, as presented.

Upon motion by D. Davidson, and seconded by J. McPherson, the Board unanimously approved the resolution approving the pay of staff wages during the winter storm, as presented.

4. Emergency, Non-Bid Repairs. Due to the severe inclement weather, Uplift property and facilities sustained severe damage that required emergency repairs in order to return the following schools to normal operations: Uplift Elevate Primary and Middle schools, Uplift Hampton primary, and Uplift North Hills. Administration made the recommendation to the Board to approve the resolution approving the procurement of vendors without using one of the procurement methods as authorized under Section 44.031(a).

ACTION ITEM: Consider and take action on resolution authorizing emergency non-bid repairs due to winter storm, as permitted by Chapter 44 of the Texas Education Code.

5. Pre-Kindergarten Programming. Alex Berk first explained to the Board that, after multiple discussions with the TEA, Administration had several recommendations to the Board regarding Pre-Kindergarten programming. The first recommendation was to change the name of Uplift Infinity Primary School's Pre-K program from Mi Escuelita Pre-K to "Uplift Infinity Preparatory - Pre-Kindergarten Program." Next, A. Berk explained to the Board that an expansion amendment would be required to create second sites at multiple campuses for Pre-Kindergarten programming. A. Berk explained that, and as stated in the resolution, Administration was recommending the Board approve the following second sites be created:
 - a. Creating a second site under Uplift Peak Primary School, to be located at 1835 Young Street, Dallas, Texas, 75201;
 - b. Creating a second site under Uplift Summit Primary School, to be located at the Uplift Crescendo campus;
 - c. Creating a second site under Uplift Williams Primary School, to be located at the Uplift Triumph campus;
 - d. Creating a second site under Uplift Hampton Primary School, to be located at Uplift Gradus; and,
 - e. Creating a second site under Uplift Mighty Primary School (CDN 057803-008) to provide Pre-K programming, to be located at the Uplift Meridian campus, 1801 S. Beach Street, Fort Worth, Texas, 76105.

A. Berk also noted that the creation of the second sites was aligned with Uplift's business plan.

Upon motion by D. Davidson, and seconded by C. Estrada, the Board unanimously approved the resolution approving emergency non-bid repairs due to the winter storm, as presented.

	<p>Yasmin Bhatia, CEO, provided additional context for the need to create the second sites.</p> <p><u>ACTION ITEM:</u> Consider and take action on resolution approving the following actions related to Pre-Kindergarten programming:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Name change of Uplift Infinity Pre-Kindergarten to “Uplift Infinity Preparatory – Pre-Kindergarten.” 2. Creation of a second site for Uplift Peak Primary School to provide Pre-Kindergarten programming. 3. Creation of a second site for Uplift Summit Primary School to provide Pre-Kindergarten programming. 4. Creation of a second site for Uplift Williams Primary School to provide Pre-Kindergarten programming. 5. Creation of a second site for Uplift Hampton Primary School to provide Pre-Kindergarten programming. 6. Creation of a second site for Uplift Mighty Primary School to provide Pre-Kindergarten programming. 	<p>Upon motion by J. McPherson, and seconded by L. Melville, the Board unanimously approved the resolution approving the actions related to Pre-Kindergarten programming, as presented.</p>
<p>III. CLOSED Session</p>	<p>At 4:26 p.m., R. Frapart announced the Board was retiring to CLOSED session pursuant to 551.074 of the Texas Government Code to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee.</p> <p>At 4:51 p.m., R. Frapart announced the Board had returned to OPEN session and that the same quorum of the Board was present. No action or decision was made by the Board in CLOSED session.</p>	
<p>IV. Administrative Items</p>	<p>Bylaws Revision. R. Frapart asked to take a motion regarding the revision to the Bylaws, which had been previously provided to the Board, and which created a new “President” role and made minor clarifications.</p> <p><u>ACTION ITEM:</u> Consider and take action on resolution approving revision to corporate bylaws.</p> <p>Uplift Charter Renewal Application. Alex Berk provided a presentation on Uplift’s charter renewal application being submitted to the TEA. A. Berk provided the following details regarding the charter renewal application:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) the application totaled approximately 309 pages, (2) it included general information about Uplift, such as the name, information about specific schools, the mission statement, and the geographic boundary, 	<p>Upon motion by J. McPherson, and seconded by M .Stack, the Board unanimously approved the resolution approving the revision to the corporate bylaws, as presented.</p>

	<p>(3) the charter contract start date is August 1, 2021, and the end date is July 31, 2031, (4) the application included attachments addressing the bylaws, code of ethics, conflicts of Interest, organizational chart, job summaries, admission and enrollment information, the Scholar Code of Conduct, certificates of occupancy, (5) Richard Frapart, Board Chair, will need to review and, if he agrees, sign assurances related to special education, special populations, Section 504, dyslexia, fingerprinting and criminal record checks, and (6) the Board, if they agree, will need to sign the certification and acknowledgment page.</p> <p><u>ACTION ITEM:</u> Consider and take action on approving Uplift Education’s charter renewal application.</p>	<p>Upon motion by R. Frapart, and seconded by D. Davidson, the Board unanimously approved the charter renewal application, as presented.</p>
<p>V. Community Forum</p>	<p>No persons signed up to speak during the community forum.</p>	
<p>VI. Adjournment</p>	<p>There being no further business before the Board, R. Frapart adjourned the meeting at 4:59 p.m.</p>	

Respectfully submitted, Alexander S. Berk, Secretary.