

Uplift Education Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 4:30 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_ZDRiNjdlMGUtMmI4Zi00ZWYwLTg4ZDIhMGYyOTYyYTJmMjU2%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: 303757691#

Called to Order: 4:31 p.m.

Adjourned: 5:27 p.m.

Board Members Present:

1. Richard Frapart
2. Cullum Clark
3. John Beckert
4. Dawn Davidson
5. Ardo Fuentes
6. Cameron Johnson
7. Andre McEwing
8. John McPherson
9. Lael Melville
10. Ryan Moss
11. Michael Stack
12. James Stanton

<i>TOPIC</i>	<i>DISCUSSION/CONCLUSIONS</i>	<i>ACTIONS</i>
I. Call to Order and Announcements	R. Frapart welcomed the Board to the meeting and took attendance. A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 4:31 p.m.	
II. Previous Board Minutes	<p><u>ACTION ITEM: Consider and take action on minutes from previous board meetings - Richard Frapart, Board Chair.</u></p> <p>a. February 23, 2021.</p> <p>b. March 5, 2021.</p> <p>The first order of business was to discuss and take action on previous Board minutes from February 23, 2021, and March 5, 2021.</p>	Upon motion by John McPherson to approve the minutes from February 23, 2021, and March 5, 2021, as presented, and seconded by L. Melville, the Board unanimously voted to approve the motion.
	<u>Dallas and Tarrant County School Engagement Committee efforts</u> – Dr. Lael Melville, Dallas School Engagement Committee Chair, informed the Board	

<p>III. Information Items</p>	<p>that the Dallas County School Engagement Committee has raised over \$11,000 dollars and purchased approximately 1600 books through their Literacy Project. Moreover, the Committee celebrated teachers with Frito Lay snacks.</p> <p>Yasmin Bhatia, CEO, provided the update for the Tarrant County School Engagement Committee, which included the Committee raising approximately \$6,000 dollars for the purchase of books through their book drive, provided volunteers at Uplift Elevate after the winter storm, and provided special pins for staff lanyards.</p> <p>L. Melville, Y. Bhatia, and R. Frapart thanked the members of the Committees for all their work.</p> <p><u>Update on Advocacy efforts</u> – Eric Dominguez, Director of Government Affairs, and James Stanton, Advocacy Committee Chair, provided an update on advocacy efforts, including an update/overview of the current Legislative session and the push on the Legislature to create fair play between charters and ISDs.</p> <p><u>Update on Development efforts</u> – Deborah Bigham, CEAO, and John Beckert, Development Committee Chair.</p> <p>An update on development efforts was pushed to the May board meeting.</p>	
<p>IV. Administrative Action Items</p>	<p><u>ACTION ITEM:</u> Consider and take action on resolution to change the names of all Uplift Peak Preparatory schools to Uplift Atlas Preparatory - Primary School, Uplift Atlas Preparatory - Middle School, and Uplift Atlas Preparatory - High School, respectively.</p> <p>Alex Berk provided background for the name change. The campus was named after, and to honor, the Peak community in which the campus sits. We learned ~a year ago that the Peak community was named after Captain Jefferson Peak, whose family had ties to the Confederacy, and whose son was a founding member of the Dallas KKK. We want our schools to reflect and honor our scholars and families and reflect social justice, diversity, equity, and inclusion. New names that were vetted included Uplift Atlas, Uplift Paramount, and Uplift Sol (Spanish for Sun). Uplift surveyed over 1,700 scholars, parents, and staff. Uplift Atlas was significantly favored with 46.7% of the vote. Uplift Sol was second with 29.4% and Uplift Paramount was third with 24%. A. Berk</p>	<p>Upon motion by C. Clark to approve the resolution changing the names of all Uplift Peak Preparatory schools to Uplift Atlas Preparatory - Primary School, Uplift Atlas Preparatory - Middle School, and Uplift Atlas Preparatory - High School, respectively, as presented, and seconded by A. McEwing, the Board unanimously voted to approve the motion.</p>

	<p>recommended to the Board that it approve the resolution approving the name change to all three Peak schools, as stated in the resolution.</p> <p><u>ACTION ITEM:</u> Consider and take action on waiver from the Local Designation System Annual Survey and Response Plan Requirement due to COVID-19.</p> <p>Alex Berk explained to the Board that this waiver pertains to the Teacher Incentive Allotment (TIA). For background purposes, he explained that the TIA was created as part of House Bill 3 in the summer of 2019 and is a program meant to recognize and reward excellent teachers across the state of Texas. Uplift applied in the first group of applicants and its local designation system was approved for core teachers in the summer of 2020. Uplift is now working on its system to apply for additional teacher groups to be eligible.</p> <p>Alex Berk explained that TEA has authorized the waiver based on feedback they’ve received from districts that simply don’t have the bandwidth right now to implement the survey, both bandwidth on the district side and bandwidth on the teacher side. TEA also noted that the data may not be as strong this year given how “in and out” some teachers have been. Uplift agrees with the TEA. Uplift does not have the current capacity to ensure a high enough response rate to the survey and believes the data could be skewed/not actionable given the circumstances of this year. A. Berk recommended to the Board that it approve the waiver.</p>	<p>Upon motion by J. McPherson to approve the waiver from the Local Designation System Annual Survey and Response Plan Requirement due to COVID-19, as presented, and seconded by A. Fuentes, the Board unanimously voted to approve the motion.</p>
<p>V. CLOSED Session</p>	<p>At 4:58 p.m., R. Frapart retired the Board 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 5:18 p.m., the Board returned to OPEN session. R. Frapart noted the same quorum of the Board was present and that no action or decision was made during CLOSED session.</p>	
<p>VI. Administrative Item</p>	<p><u>ACTION ITEM:</u> Consider and take action on approving the hiring of CEO’s recommendation for President, and the election of such recommendation as an officer of Uplift.</p> <p>Y. Bhatia recommended to the Board that Dr. Remy Washington be approved as President of Uplift Education. C. Clark, D. Davidson, and R. Frapart, each agreed that Dr. Washington should be approved</p>	<p>Upon motion to approve the hiring of the CEO’s recommendation for President, Dr. Remy Washington, and the election of Dr. Washington as an officer of Uplift, as presented, and seconded by C. Clark, the Board unanimously voted to approve the motion.</p>

	as President and provided rational and praise for Dr. Washington.	
VII. Community Forum	No community members signed up to speak during community forum.	
VIII. Adjournment	There being no further business before the Board, R. Frapart adjourned the meeting at 5:27 p.m.	

Respectfully submitted by Alexander S. Berk, Secretary.