

Uplift Education Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 23, 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_YjFmMTk1NWItZDUyOS00YjZiLTg4Y2UtMTVknDRiZDZIYTE1%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: 369-950-430#

Called to Order: 4:33 p.m.

Adjourned: 6:40 p.m.

Board Members Present:

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

<i>TOPIC</i>	<i>DISCUSSION/CONCLUSIONS</i>	<i>ACTIONS</i>
I. Call to Order and Announcements	<p>FULL BOARD SESSION</p> <p>R. Frapart welcomed the Board to the meeting and took attendance. A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 4:33 p.m.</p> <p>Y. Bhatia addressed the recent inclement weather and the impact on Uplift.</p>	
II. Previous Board Minutes	<p>The first order of business was to discuss and take action on previous Board minutes from December 1, 2020, December 17, 2020, January 15, 2021.</p> <p><u>ACTION ITEM: Consider and take action on minutes from previous board meetings - Richard Frapart, Board Chair.</u></p> <p>a. December 1, 2020.</p> <p>b. December 17, 2020.</p> <p>c. January 15, 2021.</p>	<p>Upon motion by D. Davidson to approve the minutes from December 1, 2020, December 17, 2020, and January 15, 2021, as presented, and seconded by L. Melville, the Board unanimously voted to approve the motion.</p>

Update on Semester 1 and Plans for Semester 2. Y. Bhatia provided an update to the board on the three learning modalities at Uplift – in-person, remote, and hybrid, national data and trends, learning gaps and bright spots (i.e., HS EOC retest scores), areas of opportunity across all three divisions and for alumni, and areas of focus for the spring semester. The Board discussed areas of interest as Uplift enters the spring semester, including data-dives from the fall spring, a lens into equity work, parent interest in the three learning modalities, deep-dive into IB scores, how Uplift is preparing for future situations requiring immediate and swift action, and SEL programming.

Presentation on Additional Days School Year (ADSY). Dr. R. Washington provided a presentation on ADSY, specifically with a focus on reimagined summer learning. The presentation included a focus on learning loss, Uplift’s response to learning loss, the reason for the reimagining of summer learning, how leaders and teachers shaped summer learning, a look at the summer learning calendar, and a look at next steps. The Board provided suggestions on how to encourage families to send their children to summer school and incentive options. These included teachers calling families, sharing with families learning loss, re-emphasizing the benefit of summer learning, and ways to communicate benefits to the family.

III. Information Items

Update on Uplift’s Equity Work. Y. Bhatia provided an update on Uplift’s equity work, including a comprehensive focus on the work completed with respect to Board commitments, town halls, and affinity groups. The Board discussed aspects of the plan it would like to spend more time on, including a focus on systemic issues, HR and curriculum issues being significant, and the memorialization of goals.

Update on Marketing and Recruitment Efforts – D. Bigham provided an update on marketing and recruiting efforts, including the annual budget being focused on two thrust times, focus on Safely Forward messaging, a strong push for PR across the market, and a focus on Fort Worth and digital marketing channels. D. Bigham next provided a summary of paid media and public relations work, an overview of the new structure of the External Affairs team, innovative work completed in the COVID-19 environment, and an update on scholar recruitment. The Board discussed ideas on how to spread the word about Uplift to prospective families, including direct communication with family advisors.

Update on Advocacy efforts. D. Bigham provided an update on Uplift’s advocacy efforts, including an update on the Texas Legislature currently being in

session, Uplift working with State Capital Staff to have Uplift informational boards up in either March or April, virtual legislative visits, and planning work.

Update on Development efforts. D. Bigham provided an update on development efforts, including \$5,657,437 being raised, 65% of board has contributed to Uplift this school year, the Annual Fund Campaign is launching at the end of the month, and direct support from the Board.

Alex Berk provided presentations and recommendations on the following action items.

1. Revised School Calendar. ADSY is a program from the last Legislative Session that provides to primary schools additional .5 day funding (new dollars) for any instructional day provided over 180 (with a 210 school day max). Uplift is recommending the Board approve a revised school calendar for the 2020-21 SY to reflect “Additional Days School Year” (ADSY) days and a summer learning calendar presented on by Dr. R. Washington earlier in the meeting.

ACTION ITEM: Consider and take action on revised school calendar for 2020-21, including added ADSY days and summer learning – Dr. Remy Washington, CAO.

2. TEA Waivers. Administration is recommending the Board approve four TEA waivers. First, the Periodic Non-Consecutive Asynchronous Days Waiver allows Uplift to schedule periodic (nonconsecutive) asynchronous instructional days during the spring of 2020-2021 for a maximum of 2,100 minutes. During these days, Uplift is still required to allow all students to access on-campus instruction who come from households without internet access or appropriate remote learning devices. The proposed dates include: Monday, March 22nd, Wednesday, April 28th, Wednesday, May 26th, Wednesday, June 2nd. Second, the Hybrid Instruction During District-Scheduled Testing Days for K – 8th Grade Scholars Waiver will permit Uplift to require some scholars in grades K-8 receive remote-only instruction on testing days to ensure social distancing requirements are met. Third, the Grades 9-12 Hybrid Instruction Waiver will permit Uplift to require some scholars in grades 9-12 receive remote-only instruction on testing days to ensure social distancing requirements are met. Fourth, the CPR Instruction Requirements Waiver permits Uplift seniors who have not received their CPR instruction to graduate.

Upon motion by C. Estrada to approve (1) the revised school calendar for the 20-21 school year, included the added ADSY days and summer learning, as presented; (2) the Periodic Non-Consecutive Asynchronous Days Waiver, Hybrid Instruction During District-Scheduled Testing Days for K – 8th Grade Students Waiver, Grades 9-12 Hybrid Instruction Waiver, and CPR Instruction Requirements Waiver, as presented; and (3) the resolution approving the temporary co-location of Uplift Peak Pre-Kindergarten from 4600 Bryan St, Dallas, TX 75204, to 1835 Young St. Dallas, TX 75201, as presented, and seconded by John McPherson, the Board unanimously voted to approve the motion.

IV. Administrative Action Items

ACTION ITEMS: Consider and take action on resolutions approving the following TEA waivers – Alex Berk, CLO.

- 1. Periodic Non-Consecutive Asynchronous Days Waiver;**
- 2. Hybrid Instruction During District-Scheduled Testing Days for K – 8th Grade Students Waiver;**
- 3. Grades 9-12 Hybrid Instruction Waiver; and,**
- 4. CPR Instruction Requirements Waiver.**

3. EMERGENCY MEETING ACTION ITEM (posted in compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act). Emergency and/or public necessity exists due to immediate action of the Uplift school board being required due to a reasonably unforeseeable situation. The Texas Education Agency notified Uplift of the immediate need to submit a non-expansion amendment, requiring board approval of a resolution, to temporarily co-locate Uplift Peak Pre-Kindergarten from 4600 Bryan St, Dallas, TX 75204, to 1835 Young St. Dallas, TX 75201.

In 2019, Uplift closed the Peak Pre-K school number and rolled Peak Pre-K under Peak Primary School’s number. However, Uplift recently learned that TEA incorrectly interpreted that move (submitted as a non-expansion amendment) as Uplift fully closing Peak Pre-K. As a solution, TEA is requiring Uplift submit a non-expansion amendment to temporarily co-locate Peak Pre-K at the 4600 Bryan St. address. This is regardless of the fact Peak Pre-K never closed and is currently at 4600 Bryan St. This non-expansion amendment will be followed by an expansion amendment.

ACTION ITEM: Consider and take action on resolution approving the temporary co-location of Uplift Peak Pre-Kindergarten from 4600 Bryan St, Dallas, TX 75204, to 1835 Young St. Dallas, TX 75201.

Finance Update. J. Jahnke provided a finance update, with a focus on the finance dashboard, TEA’s hold harmless/ADA funding mechanism, enrollment and attendance, and net revenue variance analysis.

V. Community Forum

No community members signed up to speak during community forum.

VII. Adjournment	There being no further business before the Board, R. Frapart adjourned the meeting at 6:40 p.m.	
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Respectfully submitted, Alexander S. Berk, Secretary.