

Uplift Education Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 7, 2023, at 4:30 p.m.

A meeting of the Board of Uplift Education was held on the date and time listed above.

Called to Order: 4:31 p.m.

Adjourned: 6:07 p.m.

Executive Committee Members Present:

1. Cullum Clark
2. Lael Melville
3. Cameron Johnson
4. John Beckert
5. John McPherson
6. Michael Stack
7. James Stanton
8. Ed Tauriac
9. Christine VanDeVelde

<i>TOPIC</i>	<i>DISCUSSION/CONCLUSIONS</i>	<i>ACTIONS</i>
I. Call to Order and Announcements	C. Clark 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. Community Forum	No community members were present to speak during the Community Forum.	
III. Board Minutes	<p>C. Clark introduced the December 6th, 2022, minutes for approval. The Board was provided the minutes for review in their pre-read.</p> <p><u>ACTION ITEM: Consider and take action on approving minutes from previous Board meetings.</u></p> <p>1. December 6th, 2022</p>	Upon a motion to approve the December 6 th , 2022, Board meeting minutes, as presented, by J. Beckert, and seconded by L. Melville, the Board unanimously approved the motion.
IV. State Intruder Detection Audit Finding	<p>The State Intruder Detection Audit finding and notice was presented by A. Berk and included the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Uplift Mighty Middle School was flagged for not having correct documentation on their weekly exterior door Sweeps.• Responsible staff were trained on January 13, 2023, and the Local Safety and Security Committee will meet in late February.• Uplift's Corrective Action Plan is due to the Texas Safety and Security Committee 45 business days from the date of initial notification, February 27, 2023	

<p>V. Administrative Action Items</p>	<p>The Administrative Action Items were presented on by A. Berk and included the following:</p> <p><u>ACTION ITEM:</u> Consider and take action on resolution of the Board of Directors of Uplift Education authorizing financing and related actions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This bond resolution authorizes the issuance of Series A bonds for the following primary purposes: financing the construction of new Uplift facilities and improvements to existing Uplift facilities. • The resolution delegates signatory authority to bond related documents to the CEO, Director of Finance, and Chief Legal Officer. • Once the resolution is approved by the Board, Yasmin and the Finance Team will work with our Underwriter, Bond Counsel, Uplift’s Counsel, Uplift’s Financial Advisor, and management consultants, as needed, for the sale of the Series 2023A Bonds. <p><u>ACTION ITEM:</u> Consider and take action on approving the 2023-2024 Academic Calendar.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every year, the Uplift Board is required to approve the Academic Calendar for the upcoming school year. • Administration then certifies to TEA that Uplift has designed a calendar that meets State requirements. • In crafting the 2023-2024 Academic Calendar, the network's leadership distributed surveys to scholars, families, and campus and CMO office staff members, to help inform on preferences. • Once approved by the Board, Administration will move forward with communicating the Calendar to all internal and external stakeholders and submitting it for certification to TEA. 	<p>Upon a motion to approve the resolution authorizing financing and related actions, as presented, by J. Beckert, and seconded by M. Stack, the Board unanimously approved the motion.</p> <p>Upon a motion to approve the 23-24 Academic Calendar, as presented, by L .Melville, and seconded by C. Johnson, the Board unanimously approved the motion.</p>
<p>VI. Hear and Consider the Level Three Employee Grievance Appeal of Ryan Ward</p>	<p>C. Clark asked A. Berk to manage the hearing process.</p> <p>The date, time, and purpose of the hearing was announced by A. Berk. A. Berk introduced Sections 551.074 and 551.082 of the Texas Government Code and asked Mr. Ward whether he elected for the hearing to be heard in open or closed session, for which A. Berk provided explanations of. Mr. Ward elected for the hearing to be heard in closed session.</p> <p>At 4:41 p.m., the Board retired to closed session pursuant to the Texas Government Code to hear Mr. Ward’s grievance. Certified and confidential minutes were maintained of the closed session.</p> <p>At 5:05 p.m., the Board retired to closed session to consult with legal counsel pursuant to 551.071 of the Texas Government Code. No decision or action was made by the Board in this closed session.</p> <p>At 5:52 p.m., the Board returned to open session.</p>	<p>Upon a motion to uphold the Level Two Hearing Officer’s decision and deny the Level Three grievance of Ryan Ward, by J. Stanton, and seconded by E. Tauriac, the</p>

	<u>ACTION ITEM:</u> Consider and take action on the level three grievance appeal of Ryan Ward.	Board unanimously approved the motion.
VII. Hear and Consider the Expulsion Appeal of Scholar C.R.	<p>The family of Scholar C.R. was not present for the hearing though they received all proper notice. As authorized by Sections 551.074 and 551.082 of the Texas Government Code, the expulsion appeal hearing of Scholar C.R. was heard in open session.</p> <p>Mr. Derrick Ward, legal counsel, presented on behalf of the Administration. Mr. Ward explained the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scholar C.R. was expelled from Uplift Atlas Middle School for multiple incidents of possession and distribution of an illegal substance, specifically marijuana/THC. • Scholar C.R. was identified in written statements as the person possessing and distributing marijuana/THC in four separate incidents on campus. • Once scholar who received marijuana/THC from Scholar C.R. on campus had to be hospitalized. • At the outset of the misconduct, the campus focused on restorative practices for Scholar C.R.'s misconduct. • Chris Straffon, Expulsion Hearing Officer, determined that Scholar C.R. should be expelled based on the evidence presented. <p><u>ACTION ITEM:</u> Consider and take action on the expulsion appeal of Scholar C.R.</p>	Upon a motion to uphold the decision to expel Scholar C.R. and deny the expulsion appeal, by J. Beckert, and seconded by L. Melville, the Board unanimously approved the motion
VIII. Hear and Consider the Expulsion Appeal of Scholar J.E.	The family of Scholar J.E. was not present due to the inclement weather rescheduling of the hearing and requested the hearing be moved to a later date.	
IX. Closed Session	The Board did not elect to go into closed session.	
X. Adjournment	There being no further business before the before, C. Clark adjourned the meeting at 6:07 p.m.	

Respectfully submitted by Alexander S. Berk, Secretary.