

Minutes

Board of Trustees-University Preparatory Charter School for Young Men Regular Business Meeting

April 8, 2021, 2021– Held Remotely

<https://uprep-0rg.zoom.us/j/96626044031?pwd=bm16SHVvZ1ITZzczbVB5ODRrUWZMdz09>

Present:

Board of Trustees – Ed Yansen, Larry Ellison, Sharon Delly, Thomas Green, Najmah Abdulmateen, Denise Rainey, David Shakes, Wandah Gibbs, George Bovenzi

Administration – Walter Larkin, Kevin Klein, Suki Cintron, Tracy DelGrego

School Attorney – Bethany Centrone

Called to Order – 6:05 p.m. by President Yansen

Secretary's Report

No correspondence

Corrections to minutes – Trustee Delly not present at March meeting; Trustee Rainey listed twice; correction to Trustee Bovenzi's name

Approval of March 11, 2021 Minutes as corrected

- a. Motion by Trustee Gibbs
- b. Second by Trustee Delly
- c. All in favor; none opposed; motion carried.

Board Discussion of Reading for Their Life by Dr. Alfred Tatum – Chapter 5

Initiation of discussion lead by President Yansen. This chapter focused on choosing and creating texts that ameliorating/mediate in text to enable young black men to read. Identifying biases within the discussion and rejecting society's definition of young black males and caricatured extremes of uneducated/criminal/unintelligent and "broke the mold" to succeed.

Focus on selecting current texts that meet the experiences of young African American males. Four primary points: giving students a voice in writing and speaking of literature; resiliency; engaging others; building capacity. Choosing essential question in all discussions.

Trustee Abdulmateen emphasized the power of Dr. Tatum's four points. Not just selecting a book, but asking "Who's sitting in front of us?" and "Why would they be interested in this text?"; "Why would I put this text in front of these kids?"

Trustee Delly noted that teachers need to get to know their students to be able to select texts for them. Trustee Gibbs pointed to biographies. Ms. Cintron reference graphic novels, with those written by African American authors. Trustee Ellison asked if an interest inventory was completed.

Ms. DelGrego reported that the staff is working on a reading list. They determine student interest at the lower grades through self-selection among a large number of options. Trustee Ellison asked Ms. DelGrego to provide the Board with a copy of the list.

Trustee Abdulmateen noted need for instruction (not interest alone) and emphasis on four points from Dr. Tatum's book. Dr. Tatum recommended book by Virginia Hamilton House of Dies Drear as mystery novel for middle school students.

Ms. DelGrego shared document created by staff that indicates what they have using in their classes. Ms. DelGrego also shared that students have been reading Dr. Tatum's book as well.

Trustee Green recommended that the Board have a study session including reading specialists to inform the Board about the School's program. Ms. DelGrego was asked to schedule session. Trustee Gibbs suggested inviting students to the session.

The Board will discuss Chapter 6 at the May 11, 2021 meeting, with Ms. DelGrego leading the conversation.

Presentation from Tracey Kelley regarding re-chartering consultancy - Ms. Kelley presented her proposal to the Board of Trustees.

Leadership Team Reports

Academic Report – Mr. Klein reviewed highlights within the academic report submitted for the meeting.

Remote attendance is out-performing in-person attendance, as families are still weary about safety. Faculty have begun adjusting to instructing students both remotely and in-person.

118 students participated in credit recovery sessions; allowing 102 quarter grades to be recovered. 12 students who received recovery were seniors. 20 seniors participated.

Ms. DelGrego discussed switching from NWEA to iReady as an assessment tool. She explained the iReady math component aligns more with the State assessments than NWEA and has reports that are easier for teachers to use.

School Calendar

Mr. Klein presented the draft school calendar for 2021-2022, which includes a week of professional development in August 2021. Trustee Green requested that Columbus Day be reflected on the calendar as Indigenous People's Day.

Reopening Plan Update – No update was needed as plan was being implemented. This will be -removed from the agenda.

Enrollment - Ms. Cintron reviewed the enrollment numbers and projections submitted for the meeting. Enrollment remains steady this year and potentially full for next year.

Expenditures – Ms. Cintron reported highlights of expenditures from the report submitted for the meeting.

Board Treasurer/Finance Committee

Trustee Green reported on the financial condition of the School. UPREP continues to be in positive cash status consistent with the January plan forecast. He predicted that there will be surplus funds that can be added to UPREP's reserves at the end of the school year.

A budget study session for the Board is scheduled on May 17, 2021 from 10:00 – 12:00.

Trustee Green and Ms. Centrone reviewed the proposed Gift/Donation Policy, which is on resolution for approval.

Board Standing Committee Reports

Executive Committee - Did not meet, no report.

Policy/Board Development – Trustee Ellison reported out that the Policy Committee reviewed the proposed Gift and Donation policy and three others: Employee Compensation, Tuition Reimbursement, and Emergency Management. Gift and Donation were before the Board for approval at this meeting. The other policies were shared with the Board for consideration and a vote at the May meeting.

Career and Technical Education – Did not meet, no report.

Instructional Development/Data Support – Trustee Abdulmateen stated that she would submit a report in June.

Community Engagement – Did not meet in March, but will be discussing policy on racial equity and suggested inviting students to next meeting

Executive Session –

Motion to enter executive session to discuss matters leading to the appointment of a particular person or corporation, made by Trustee Green; second by Trustee Gibbs; all in favor; motion carried.

Motion to leave executive session made by Trustee Green; seconded by Trustee Rainey; all in favor; motion carried.

Adjournment – Motion to Adjourn by Trustee Gibbs; seconded by Trustee Rainey; all in favor; motion carries – Adjourned at 8:18

Resolutions considered and actions taken

Resolution 04.08.2021-1

Be it hereby resolved that the Board of Trustees approves and adopts the Gift and Donation Policy.

Motion by Trustee Gibbs; seconded by Trustee Rainey; all in favor; motion carried.

Resolution 04.08.2021-2

Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees authorized the Chief Executive Officer to enter into a contract with _____ to serve as a consultant and advisor to the Board of Trustees with regards to the UPREP charter renewal application, subject to negotiation and review of the School Attorney.

Resolution not moved to the table. To be considered at next meeting.

Resolution 04.08.2021-3

Be it resolved that Dante Ezekiel-Francis is employed in the position of Acting PE Teacher at a prorated salary of \$10,999.50 for the remainder of the 20-21 school year and is subject to the terms and provision of the Board's Employee Compensation and Benefits Policy.

Motion by Trustee Green; seconded by Trustee Delly; all in favor; motion carried.

Resolution 04.08.2021-4

Be it resolved that Ian Ward is employed in the position of IT Manager at a salary of \$55,000 per year and is subject to the terms and provisions of the Board's Employee Compensation and Benefits Policy.

Motion by Trustee Delly; second by Trustee Abdulmateen; all in favor; motion carried.

Resolution 04.08.2021-5

Be it resolved that the employment of Kemani Howard as a physical education teacher for UPREP is terminated as of March 26, 2021.

Motion by Trustee Gibbs; second by Trustee Rainey; all in favor; motion carried.

Resolution 04.08.2021-6

Approve the 2021-2022 school calendar, as amended to recognize the second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples Day.

Motion by Trustee Green; seconded by Trustee Abdulmateen; all in favor; motion carried.