

# MINUTES

## Board of Trustees

### University Preparatory Charter School for Young Men

#### Regular Monthly Meeting

February 11, 2021

Online Meeting (Zoom)

#### Present:

**Board of Trustees** – Ed Yansen, Larry Ellison, Sharon Delly, Thomas Green, Najmah Abdulmateen, Wandah Gibbs, Lynette Froula, Denise Rainey, George Bovensi (7:36 p.m.)

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

**School Attorney** – Bethany Centrone

#### Absent:

**Board of Trustees** – David Shakes

#### Called to Order – 6:03 p.m. by President Yansen

#### Secretary's Report

Approval of January 14, 2021 Minutes –

Correction to minutes – Trustee Santiago was not absent from January meeting. She resigned from the Board.

**Motion to approve January 14, 2021 minutes as corrected** – Trustee Ellison

**Seconded-** Trustee Rainey

**Vote – Unanimous**

Report of Correspondence – None received

#### Discussion of Why Are All of the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria? by Dr. Beverly Tatum

Trustee Abdulmateen opened discussion of Chapter 3, “The Early Years” by highlighting points of note to her: struggles of African American male students; four vital signs of reading and writing; reluctance of educators to change their methods to address learning needs of African American students – a “we teach everyone” approach; teachers wanting to teach students, but a lack of language to discuss how instruction is different for African American male students.

Ms. DelGrego was asked about reading instruction for students. All 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students receive ½ hour of reading instruction daily in addition to their English Language Arts curriculum.

Students are allowed to select their own reading materials. The School is working on broadening culturally relevant reading options. A committee is developing a reading list and teachers are coordinating reading lab, advisement, and summer reading opportunities. Ms. DelGrego will share the reading list with the Board in March.

Resources regarding enhancing the reading program were suggested: contacting RCSD's Director of African American Studies, cross referencing reading lists of local colleges and universities, observation of reading instruction by former building principal Trustees.

The Board discussed promoting collaborative reading events. Mr. Larkin advised that UPrep is working with East High School and Monroe County to create culturally relevant pedagogy for all subjects.

### **Leadership Team Reports**

#### **Academic Report –**

Mr. Klein reported that only four students of 45 came to sit for the PSAT. The test is being offered again in March, so there is an additional opportunity for students to take it.

UPrep will be allowed to hold the SAT exams on campus. There are already more UPrep students who have taken the SATs this year than any prior year.

Seniors who are failing required courses for graduation, Participation in Government and ELA, will given makeup opportunities in February and throughout the spring. Currently 19 students are at risk. Fridays continue to be utilized for students who are falling behind and community agencies continue to offer tutoring to students.

New York State assessments are still scheduled.

Student attendance is improving slightly. The School is looking into an improved robocall system to try to track and address attendances more efficiently. It was discussed that attendance seems to be a significant factor in students who are failing.

#### **Reopening -**

Mr. Klein reported that the Special Education Coordinator is creating academic plans for classified students to ensure appropriate interventions when they return to in-person instruction.

The revised reopening plan calls for students to be present in school in "week-on/week-off" schedules with the middle school and high school students alternating weeks. This model will allow for students to be on campus for twice the amount of time. 40% of families continue to want fully remote instruction. Possible that choices will change over time.

**Enrollment –**

Ms. Cintron reviewed enrollment numbers. There was a net loss of four students cause by family relocations. Ms. Cintron explained how enrollment affects tuition payments. The School already has 45 applications for the 2021-2022 school year. Ms. Cintron explained the lottery and application process to the Board.

**Expenditures –**

Ms. Cintron reported minimal COVID-19 related expenditures for January. More significant expenses are anticipated for February and after due to the need to purchase PPE for return to in-person instruction.

There were no expenditures for athletics since last meeting. Football will be allowed to start again in March.

**Financial Report –**

The Small Business Association revised rules regarding forgiveness criteria and this is resulting in a lower than expected PPP Loan forgiveness. The School borrowed \$1.38 million and is expecting, now, to receive \$1.1 million in forgiveness. It was recommended that the School pay the entire balance when due rather than making installment payments on the loan.

Trustee Green reviewed the P&L report. There are no issues or concerns.

Finance Committee forwarded a draft donation policy to the Policy Committee and is requesting a joint meeting with the Policy Committee to review.

**Standing Committees -****Executive Committee –**

There was no Executive Committee meeting since the January business meeting.

**Board Development/Policy Committee –**

There was no Policy Committee meeting since the January business meeting.

**Instructional Development and Data Support –**

There was no IDDS meeting since the January business meeting. Trustee Abdulmateen is requesting assistance for this committee, especially with regards to New York State reporting and establishing committee goals. Trustee Abdulmateen requested a copy of the State's renewal report from the last Charter renewal so that it could be used to help prepare for the upcoming renewal application next year.

**Community Engagement Committee –**

The Community Engagement Committee did not meet since the January Business meeting. Trustee Froula forwarded racial equity questions from the 21-day Challenge to members of the Board that will be discussed at the next committee meeting. The Board discussed the questions.

**Old Business**

There was no old business to discuss.

**New Business**

**A motion was made to enter Executive Session to discuss the appointment of a particular individual by Trustee Delly, seconded by Trustee Green: vote – unanimous.**

The Board exited Executive Session at approximately 7:40 p.m.

**Motion to approve resolution 02.11.2021-1 was made by Trustee Gibbs, seconded by Trustee Abdulmateen: vote – unanimous**

Resolutions 02.11.2021-1

The Board of Trustees hereby appoints, Bethany A. Centrone Esq. to serve as the school attorney for the University Preparatory Charter School for Young Men and approves the agreement for legal services.

**Motion to approve resolution 02.11.2021-2 was made by Trustee Gibbs, seconded by Trustee Green: vote – unanimous**

Resolutions 02.11.2021-2

The Board of Trustees hereby approved the revised Reopening Plan for submission to the State University of New York for approval.

**Motion to adjourn meeting made by Trustee Rainey, seconded by Trustee Green: vote unanimous.**

**Meeting adjourned 7:50 p.m.**