

# MINUTES

## Board of Trustees

### University Preparatory Charter School for Young Men

#### Regular Monthly Meeting

March 11, 2021

Online Meeting (Zoom)

#### Present:

**Board of Trustees** – Ed Yansen, Larry Ellison, Sharon Delly, Thomas Green, Najmah Abdulmateen, Denise Rainey, David Shakes, Wandah Gibbs (6:05), George Bovenzi (later during CTE Committee report)

**Administration** – Walter Larkin, Kevin Klein, Suki Cintron, Tracy DelGrego (6:12 p.m.)

**School Attorney** – Bethany Centrone

#### Absent:

**Board of Trustees** – Lynette Froula, Sharon Delly

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

#### Secretary's Report

Approval of February 11, 2021 Minutes –

Correction to minutes – Trustee Santiago was not absent from January meeting. She was no longer a member of the Board.

**Motion to approve February 11, 2021 minutes– Trustee Abdulmateen**

**Seconded- Trustee Shakes**

**Vote – Unanimous** (Trustee Gibbs not yet present)

Report of Correspondence – None received

#### Discussion of Reading for their Life by Dr. Alfred Tatum

Trustee Shakes opened discussion of Chapter 4, in relation to the engagement of young African American males and UPREPs commitment to implement strategies of engagement in its ELA programs. Discussion was held regarding the need to bridge generational gaps with enabling texts to ensure increased learning. Trustee Abdulmateen noted the characteristics of the African American male set forth in the chapter: health physique, modern awareness, collective struggles, and the road map. These characteristics should be used to help make reading relevant to students and challenged the Board to create a list of books recommended for students to read before they graduate. Various authors and source texts were discussed by the

Board and Leadership Team. The group also discussed the incorporation of these sources and texts into the social studies curriculum.

### **Leadership Team Reports**

#### **Academic Report –**

Mr. Klein summarized the academic report which was uploaded for the Board's review. Twenty-three students were identified as being "in jeopardy" for graduation. It was determined that 18 of these students could reach graduation requirements in time. He stated that Fridays are kept open for "struggling seniors" to come to campus and have more concentrated help.

Attendance has increased 4.5%. Ms. DelGrego has been working to track down students with very poor attendance. Attendance is being tracked to determine if it improves with students returning to school

#### **Reopening -**

Mr. Klein reported that 140 Middle School students have selected a hybrid schedule. He believes that students and staff are happy to be back on campus. Schedules have been developed to minimize the number of students in the halls at one time.

#### **Enrollment –**

Ms. Cintron advised that there are 64 applications for the 2021-2022 school year. There is sufficient space to accept all applications except for grade 10, as the spaces will be filled by the 9<sup>th</sup> grade students going into 10<sup>th</sup> grade.

#### **Expenditures –**

Ms. Cintron summarized some expenditures from February. UPREP purchased air purifiers and spent funds on tutoring for seniors. Football season started March 15, 2021.

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

### **Financial Report –**

Trustee Green reviewed the finance report and recommended that the full Board participate in a budget study session.

### **Standing Committees -**

#### **Executive Committee –**

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

#### **Board Development/Policy Committee –**

The Policy Committee met on March 2, 2021. The Committee focused on the Donation/Gift policy, which was to be forwarded to the Finance Committee for further review and comment. IT is anticipated that the policy will be submitted to the Board for approval at the April meeting.

**CTE Committee –**

Trustee Rainey presented the CTE Committee report. The Committee is working to establish priorities; ensure program certifications; identify funding sources and community partners. Many programs were discussed. It was indicated that more space may be required for new programs.

**Community Engagement Committee –**

Trustee Green reported on Community Engagement. A racial equity mindset and action plan was discussed as well as the Young Entrepreneurship Marketplace. The Committee intends to submit to the Board for the April meeting a Board approved commitment to the Racial Equity Mindset & Action Plan and the Young Entrepreneur Marketplace.

**Old Business**

There was no old business to discuss.

**New Business****Charter Renewal:**

President Yansen noted that UPREP's charter is up for renewal in 18 months. Prior renewals were rushed and last minute, and the hope is that the Board will start the process now, to ensure a quality and thoughtful application.

Dan Pasek was invited to join the meeting by CFO Larkin. Mr. Pasek presented to the Board about his consulting company, which specialize in assisting with charter renewals. Mr. Pasek has been consulting in this capacity for 16 years and has worked on SUNY charter renewal applications, in particular. Mr. Pasek provided insights and guidance for the Board and Leadership Team to consider. He stated that, if his company were selected to assist with UPREP's renewal application, four people would be assigned to assist with the work, at a cost of \$56,000.

The Board Thanked Mr. Pasek for his time. It was agreed that the two other consultants who were identified should be invited to the April meeting.

**Resolution 03.11.2021-1**

Be it hereby resolved that the Chief Executive Officer is authorized to make full and complete payment of the unforgiven amount, \$261,730.00, outstanding on the Paycheck Protection Program loan held with ESL Federal Credit Union, irrespective of any available payment terms offered therefore.

**Moved by Trustee Green**

**Second by Trustee Gibbs.**

**Unanimous in favor**

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

**Meeting adjourned 7:44 p.m.**