

Uplift Education Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 25, 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: 4:30 p.m.

Adjourned: 7:12 p.m.

Executive Committee Members Present:

1. Cullum Clark
2. Dr. Lael Melville
3. Dawn Davidson
4. John McPherson
5. James Stanton
6. John Beckert
7. Ricky Garcia
8. 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 4:30 p.m.	
II. Community Forum	No community members were present to speak during the Community Forum.	
III. Board Minutes	C. Clark introduced the February 28, 2023, Board minutes for approval. The Board was provided the minutes for review in their pre-read. <u>ACTION ITEM</u> – Consider and take action on approving minutes from the February 28, 2023, Board meeting.	Upon a motion to approve the February 28, 2023 Board meeting minutes, as presented, by J. Beckert, and seconded by L. Melville, the Board unanimously approved the motion.
IV. Enrollment Update	Y. Bhatia presented on the current enrollment status for FY24, including current application numbers and identified gaps to target numbers for next school year.	
V. Dinner & Dialogue Update	Y. Bhatia gave a brief update on Uplift's annual Dinner & Dialogue event. The event will be held on September 26, 2023 at Union Station. Dr. Remy Washington will moderate a conversation with featured speaker Shankar Vedantam. Co-Chairs of the event are Dr. Michielle Benson and Dr. Lael Melville, Uplift Education Board members.	
VI. Hear and Consider the Expulsion Appeal of Scholar J.E.	This expulsion appeal hearing was heard second by the Board. Y. Bhatia managed the hearing process. The date, time, and purpose of the hearing was announced. Y. Bhatia introduced Sections 551.074 and 551.082 of the Texas Government Code and the family elected for the hearing to be heard in closed session. A translator was present for the family. At 5:17 p.m., the Board retired to closed session pursuant to the Texas Government Code to hear the expulsion appeal. Certified and confidential minutes were maintained of the closed session.	

	<p>At 5:49 p.m., the Board retired to executive 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 6:16 p.m., the Board returned to open session.</p> <p><u>ACTION ITEM:</u> Consider and take action on the expulsion appeal of Scholar J.E.</p>	<p>Upon a motion to deny the expulsion appeal of Scholar J.E. and uphold the decision to expel, by J. McPherson, and seconded by R. Garcia, the Board unanimously voted to approve the motion.</p>
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VII. Hear and Consider the Expulsion Appeal of Scholar L.V-S.	<p>This expulsion appeal hearing was heard first by the Board. Y. Bhatia managed the hearing process.</p> <p>The date, time, and purpose of the hearing was announced. Y. Bhatia introduced Sections 551.074 and 551.082 of the Texas Government Code and the Board elected for the hearing to be heard in closed session. The family of Scholar LVS was not present though they received proper notice of the hearing.</p> <p>At 4:40 p.m., the Board retired to closed session pursuant to the Texas Government Code to hear the expulsion appeal. Certified and confidential minutes were maintained of the closed session.</p> <p>At 4:50 p.m., the Board retired to executive 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 5:15 p.m., the Board returned to open session.</p> <p><u>ACTION ITEM:</u> Consider and take action on the expulsion appeal of Scholar L.V-S.</p>	<p>Upon a motion to deny the expulsion appeal of Scholar L.V-S. and uphold the decision to expel, by L. Melville, and seconded by J. Beckert, the Board unanimously voted to approve the motion.</p>
VIII. Closed Session	<p>At 6:19 p.m., C. Clark attempted to adjourn the meeting, but Academic Director Niya Wardlaw voiced concerns she has. Ms. Wardlaw was notified that her comments were not on the agenda and could not be addressed at that time.</p> <p>At 6:20 p.m. the Uplift Board meeting was re-opened and at 6:21 p.m. the Board moved into closed session to consult with legal counsel pursuant to Texas Government Code 551.071.</p> <p>At 7:12 p.m., the Board returned to open session. No decision or action was made during closed session.</p>	
IX. Adjournment	<p>There being no further business before the before, C. Clark adjourned the meeting at 7:12 p.m.</p>	

Respectfully submitted by Alexander S. Berk, Secretary.