

MINUTES OF THE
JUNE 20, 2024, MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
UNIVERSITY PREP CHARTER SCHOOL
VIDEO CONFERENCE: ZOOM MEETING ID: 815 5002 2302 Passcode: BRONX

A meeting of the Board of Trustees (the “Board”) of the University Prep Charter Schools (the “Schools”) was held on Thursday, June 20, 2024, remotely via video conferencing. Trustees Steve Barr, Judy Bergtraum, Justin Pasternak, Burt Sacks and Miguel Suarez were in attendance. Also in attendance were executive director Andrea d’Amato; principals Andrew Ayers and David Patterson; assistant principals Nathaniel Bouie, Donial Rodriguez, and Denise Rodriguez, Svetlana Gnesia of CBSM, and Diane Peete of Future Is Now Schools.

Steve Barr presided and called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm (Eastern Daylight Time).

The board meeting agenda was adopted with flexibility.

Motion to approve the meeting minutes of the May 2024 meeting. Motion adopted.

Executive Director Report

Key Dates & Updates

UPPS will host a summer intervention program for students needing student recovery. The range of high school students attending summer school is from 110 to 145 students, mostly freshmen students.

Teacher and staff absences have been higher than prior years. As per the contract, teachers can take their leave at their discretion. The Department of Education has a COVID absence policy that school personnel can have up to two weeks of leave if due to a positive COVID test.

On Tuesday, June 18, 2024, UPPS hosted its inaugural alumni event. Alumni from the first graduating class of 2012 through class of 2023 were in attendance. Current students from the high school and middle school were able to perform. Board member Miguel Suarez was in attendance.

The alumni class of 2012 is hosting an alumni event for their class on Saturday, June 22, 2024.

High School Graduation is on Thursday, June 27, 2024.

Middle School Stepping Up is on Wednesday, June 26, 2024.

Student Recruitment

Student recruitment was a challenge this year. The current school year enrollment was lower than previous years. The upperclassmen, seniors and juniors, began high school during the pandemic. Staff has enrolled students for the 2024-2025 school year.

Student Data Update

- High School
 - High School Enrollment Update
 - 423 enrolled students

High School Data

- 69% of all students are passing all of their classes
- 31% of students are failing two of more classes
 - 158 General Education
 - 44 SPED
 - 3 ENL
- 38.9% of SPED students are passing all of their classes
- 61.1% of SPED students are failing two of more classes
- 88% of ENL students are passing all of their classes
- 12% of ENL students are failing two of more classes

High School Attendance

- Students Average Daily Attendance is 90%
- School Staff had 40 absences

- Middle School

Middle School Enrollment Update

- 367 enrolled students
- 77.4% of all students are passing all of their classes
- 22.6% of all students are failing two of more classes
 - 49 General Education
 - 32 SPED
 - 2 ENL
- 53.6% of SPED students are passing all of their classes
- 46.4% of SPED students are failing two of more classes
- 88.2% of ENL students are passing all of their classes
- 11.8% of ENL students are failing two of more classes

Middle School Attendance

- Students Average Daily Attendance is 93%
- School Staff had 65 absences

UP High School Update

Principal Andrew Ayers provided the Board with an update on activities at the high school. The seniors have celebrated with their senior prom, senior brunch, and their acceptances for post-secondary education, exams have been completed.

83 out of 84 students have committed to their colleges and universities of choice for enrollment in fall 2024. One student may need to make up a variable credit. Post-secondary choices include CUNY, SUNY, private schools, HBCUs, community colleges, and trade schools.

The school focuses on learning specialists being data-driven to support student achievement and development. A former student of University Prep is joining the staff as a learning specialist.

The juniors went on the annual Samaritan trip. This was a great year for sports, the Girls' flag football team won the championship, the soccer team lost in the finals. The annual sports banquet will be held on Friday, June 21, 2024.

Students are preparing for the third annual Costa Rican trip.

The school has celebrated Pride month with a symposium, movie and literature.

Saturday school has been highly attended this year. An emphasis on juniors attending for preparation of the Regents exam.

UP Middle School Update

Principal David Patterson, Assistant Principals Denise Rodriguez and Donial Rodriguez, and Operations Manager Jahmal Carter provided the Board with an update.

University Prep Middle School has reached the end of its fifth school year. Today, our eighth graders took their final regents exam out of three. They took Algebra 1, Earth Science, and U.S. History. At this time we expect at least 95 of our 105 eighth graders to continue at the high school in the fall. Our 8th graders will have their commencement on Wednesday, June 26 at the high school. Last Friday, we hosted a beautiful prom for our 8th graders at Maestros catering hall. We had the guest appearance of a dancing 9 foot robot. The students enjoyed themselves and took many memorable pictures.

We look forward to welcoming 53 new fifth graders, 85 sixth graders, and 19 seventh graders. Our new students come from every part of the Bronx and upper Manhattan, and include a very highly rated chess player, some international students from Japan and Turkey, and some wonderful artists. About 70% of our new incoming students are coming from DOE elementary and middle schools, and the other 30% are coming from charter schools, with a few from parochial schools. We really appreciate all the hard work and efforts Mr. Hausthor has been put into the recruitment officer role.

We'll launch our sixth SummerBridge on Monday, July 8, and we are expecting over 100 new students to attend. We will be heading to an indoor climbing facility, go up to the top of One Vanderbilt, the new supertall next to Grand Central, and close the year out with a manatee of the Lion King on Broadway.

This past spring break 25 of our students traveled to Peru and the kids enjoyed being exposed to the culture. There they climbed Machu Picchu, did two service learning projects, ate a ton of Peruvian food. Our students fund-raised almost half the funds to go on the trip. Next year, we are preparing ourselves to take 25 students to Japan.

Once we completed our ELA State Exam, we began a whole school read of "The Giver" by Lois Lowry during our Reading Analysis class. The book is about a twelve year old boy, Jonas, who lives in an idyllic community. When Jonas meets the old man, the Receiver, he discovers the dark secrets of his community. This novel was awarded a Newberry medal and is one of the most influential books of our time. The students read the book in 22 lessons. On Monday they will be presenting their final projects based on the book.

To celebrate our Quarter 3 Honors students we attended a Yankee game on May 23. The Yankees created for us a custom made Yankees cap in U Prep green with our school logo. The Yankees played against the Seattle Mariners and of course the Yankees won.

Our Later Gator Program ended strong and our clubs presented their final products at the Spring Later Gator ShowCase. At the Showcase students demonstrated their creativity along with what they learned this spring in the variety of clubs offered. The show was over two hours long of performances, artwork, and videos.

Budget and Finance

Svetlana Gnesina of Charter Business School Management provided the trustees with an update on the system's financial health. As of May 31, 2024, projected net operating revenues are \$24,165,731 million, projected expenses are \$24,405,608. The annual deficit is projected at \$239,877. Revenues are lower than originally forecasted due to the reduction in student enrollment. The current balance sheet shows \$9.1 million cash in the bank. The fiscal reports include cash flow projections through year-end.

The Board approved the FY 2025 Budget, projected net operating revenues are \$24,265,602 million, projected expenses are \$24,174,494. The projected surplus is \$91,108.

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon duly made, seconded, and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 5:51 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve Barr, Chairman of the Meeting