

MEETING MINUTES

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of YES Prep Public Schools will hold a regular meeting, open to the public, on **Thursday, October 5th at 2:00 PM**. The Board will convene in Open Session at 5455 South Loop East Freeway, Houston, TX 77033. It is the intent of the Board to have a quorum physically present at the above address. If a quorum of the Board is not physically present at the above address, it is the intent to have the presiding officer physically present at the above address. Other members of the Board may be participating via videoconference in compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act (Tex. Gov't Code § 551.127(e)). Videoconferencing link provided upon request at julie.nguyen@yesprep.org. Members of the public may submit comments on any agenda items(s) to dana.foughty@yesprep.org before or during consideration of the item.

The subjects to be discussed or considered or upon which any formal action may be taken are listed below. Items do not have to be taken in the order shown on this meeting notice. Consent agenda items, if applicable, will be acted on at one time. If during the course of the meeting, discussion of any item on the agenda should be held in a closed meeting, the Board will conduct a closed meeting in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Section 551, Subchapters D and E. Before any closed meeting is convened, the presiding officer will publicly identify the section or sections of the Act authorizing the closed meeting. All final votes, actions, or decisions will be taken in an open meeting.

YES Prep Board of Directors Present: Eric Calderon, Jordan Marye, Andrea Link, Ben Marshall, Mickey Barrett, Michol Ecklund (Left: 3:40PM), Amy Wright, Luly Castillo (Arrival: 3:50 PM)

YES Prep Staff Members Present: Cesar Cedillos, Mark DiBella, Beth Carlson-Young, Philip Wright, Ashleigh Fritz, Nella Garcia Urban, Luis Mena, Lucero Guerrero, Julie Nguyen, Keith Weaver

1. Call to Order, quorum determined, meeting declared open at 3:42 PM

- 2. Vote** to approve the Non-Expansion Amendment submission and corresponding resolution to revise the language in the YES Prep by-laws

Motion: Jordan Marye

Second: Ben Marshall

Unanimously approved at 3:43 P.M.

3. Consent agenda:

- 1. Vote** to approve the minutes from the September 15, 2023 Board of Directors meeting.
- 2. Vote** on the approval of contract award to Durotech, Inc and Arch-Con Corporation for FY24_Construction Manager at Risk RFQ for Brays Oaks Elementary and White Oak Elementary Schools and delegate authority to the CEO and his designees to negotiate, finalize, and execute the agreement(s) and amendment(s).

3. **Vote** to approve pending contracts.
4. **Vote** to ratify historical contracts.

Motion: Jordan Marye

Second: Amy Wright

Unanimously approved at 3:43 P.M.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Pursuant to TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE §§551.071, 551.072, 551.074, and 551.076, the Board will deliberate, in accordance with the above statutes, real estate matters, security matters, and personnel matters.

4. Executive Session

5. Adjournment

Motion: Jordan Marye

Second: Amy Wright

Unanimously approved at 4:34 P.M.



WORKSHOP MINUTES

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YES Prep Board of Directors Present: Eric Calderon, Jordan Marye, Andrea Link, Ben Marshall, Mickey Barrett, Michol Ecklund, Amy Wright

YES Prep Staff Members Present: Cesar Cedillos, Mark DiBella, Beth Carlson-Young, Philip Wright, Ashleigh Fritz, Nella Garcia Urban, Luis Mena, Lucero Guerrero, Julie Nguyen

1. **Call to Order, quorum determined, workshop declared open at 2:02 PM.**
2. **Public Comment**
3. **Appreciation for Leslie Smith's time on the YES Prep Board of Directors**
4. **C-Suite and Deputy Presentation on Strategy to Maintain Competitive Advantage**
 - **Group Rotations:**
 - **Enrollment Strategy: Our Approach**
 - Presented by Nella Garcia Urban and Luis Mena
 - Challenges in elementary enrollment – must solve this before the next phase of a strategic plan

- **New School Launch**
 - Presented by Dana Foughty and Cesar Cedillos
 - Adjustments we've made in timelines, metrics, hiring of Founders, and scope of development to give us the competitive advantage as we open our next 5 schools
- **Talent: Teacher Recruitment, Reward and Retention**
 - Presented by Mark DiBella
 - What can we do with our staff to give us a competitive advantage?
 - Find what is unique in what we are doing and provide more resources for this
 - Front line staff considerations - Ripple effect can happen with strong front line staff
- **School Programming**
 - Presented by Philip Wright, Ashleigh Fritz, and Beth Carlson-Young
 - Focus on college readiness pre-k through Gr 12, student support and opportunities, and people development

Additional Notes:

- Financial model – what are the levers we can pull?
- Budget cuts will be difficult – an overview of our approach will be shared at November Board meeting
- Many of the topics discussed today are in tension with each other and we are charged with navigating this complexity
- Our overall strategy for our continued growth must consider this complexity and will make us decide when and where we add more or take away resources
- More efficiency across the org can be achieved using technology

5. Generative Discussion: Artificial Intelligence

- **Is there a concern with students using this?**
- **Some companies mandate using AI daily:**
 - Powerful tool if used as a starting point
 - Engage with AI rather than taking a fearful stance; we can take the stigma away
 - This will not go away – we need to be trained how to use it
- **Pros:**
 - New search engines powered by the AI/ChatGPT are more powerful
 - Can increase efficiency and effectiveness when used with purpose
 - Fast capabilities of getting answer
 - Ultimate intellectual curiosity tool
- **Concerns:**
 - Students are already having difficulty writing and speaking prior to common AI use
 - We should still focus on students' abilities to put a thought together and to write on their own
 - Does it cause an inequality gap? It could if we take a stance that it will never be a part of our students' learning; business and industry are using it which means we need to consider how we're exposing our students to it
 - Societal trust issues may arise from this – capabilities to create misinformation
- **Software development**
 - Strong area for AI
 - AI bots can write codes quickly
 - Engineering Programs are changing due to AI
- **Technology changes throughout the years**

- AI is just the new calculator – at one time calculators were not allowed to be used, and now it is a normal part of classes; AI may be another iteration with this in the future

6. Adjournment from workshop to meeting at 3:40 P.M.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Luly Castillo', written over a horizontal line.

Workshop and meeting minutes approved by Board secretary Luly Castillo