

Notice of Meeting

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, April 11, 2024 at 12:00 PM**. The Board will convene in Open Session at 609 Main Street, Houston TX 77002 – Conference Room: Apollo B (second floor). 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 by emailing julie.nguyen@yesprep.org. Members of the public may submit a request to comment 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: Mickey Barrett, Eric Calderon, Luly Castillo, Brian Colona, Michol Ecklund, Andrea Link, Ben Marshall, Jordan Marye, Melanie Trent, Amy Wright

YES Prep Staff Members Present: Mark DiBella, Dana Foughty, Isy Gabriela Conde, Phil Wright, Carmen Darville, Tony Munoz, Luis Mena, Jaclyn Gonzales, Danika Palacios, Lucero Guerrero, Cesar Cedillos, Darryl Cobb, Amanda Rawlings, Leigh Levine

1. **Call to Order, quorum determined, meeting declared open at 3:07pm**
2. **Consent agenda:**
 1. **Vote** to approve awarding a contract to Tellepsen Services, LLC for the RFP#YESP2024-15 EES Y-Step Renovation project for amount of \$123,892.07.
 2. **Vote** to approve the purchasing of instructional materials, educational software, and related services for the 2024-2025 school year, and delegate authority to the CEO and his designees to negotiate, finalize, and execute the agreement(s), and amendment(s).
 3. **Vote** to approve meeting minutes from March 21, 2024, Board of Directors Meeting

Motion: Jordan Mayne

Second: Michol Ecklund

Unanimously approved at 3:09pm

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.

3. Executive Session

4. Adjournment

Motion: Jordan Mayne

Second: Amy Wright

Unanimously approved at 4:08pm

Workshop Minutes

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1. Call to Order, quorum determined, workshop declared open at 12:01pm

2. Public Comment

3. Mission Moment: YES Prep Growth in Context

- Presented by Mark DiBella
- Darryl Cobb, Charter School Growth Fund
 - Leads all CSGF portfolio investments; partners with YES Prep
 - Impactful work at CSGF, with previous experience at KIPP
 - Helps the board and investors understand the goal is not a rebound from COVID but a time for new and innovative work
 - Goal: Have one million students in charter school seats and make the statement that the students that are in CSGF schools are outperforming peers across the nation
 - **Advise:**
 - Question: How do you suggest we approach politics in this current environment?
 - Be intentional about building friends on both sides of the aisle

- **Question:** Who are your funders? Big funders - Gates, Lumberg, John Arnold, Founders of TurboTax
 - Biggest 75 million-100 million gifts
 - Funders are asking -How are young people doing once they leave charter and go to college?
- **YES Prep Context:**
 - Reputation on portfolio is good. Top of the 9 box.
 - CSGF is asking - What needs to happen for YES to be able to serve more students in Houston and maintain the same level of achievement or higher?
 - YES Prep has prepared incredible Talent to go lead on charters and do important work: Nella, Recy, Ann
- YES Prep should identify how we are building charter champions independent from the political sector

4. Intruder Detection Audit

- TEA Unannounced Intruder Assessment - details shared during executive session

5. CEO Report

- Presented by Mark DiBella
- Lessons Learned from Leading Houston Forward
 - Program
 - Focus in our elementary schools
 - Finances & Facilities
 - Student population grew by 6%, HO by 8%; we're not right-sizing that
 - Other
 - Tighten up back-office systems and processes
 - Strong front and back office means better long-term focus on schools and student achievement
 - Investment in Talent as our schools are growing at a rapid rate
 - Fundraising - Generate new donors, some of the donors from previous campaign naturally fall out
 - We have hit a lot of milestones but final years felt like they got dragged out and harder

6. Next Strategic Phase

- What we know
 - Two anchors for LHF 2 – becoming an A district and completing our feeder patterns
 - LHF will be a 4-year, \$50 million fundraising plan
- What we don't know yet
 - Exact order of the schools opening
- If we will be able to afford 1 or 2 rebuilding during LHF
- "Leading Houston Forward 2" Goals
 - Becoming an A district
 - Grow YES Prep's total enrollment to x students
 - Last 5-year enrollment has not been "given"
 - Complete YES Prep's feeder patterns by opening 6 schools.

7. Committee Reports

- **Finance Report presented by Luis Mena**
 - The Financial Model: Key Takeaways
 - Enrollment: From FY20 to FY25, LHF 1 took YES from 13k to 20k Students

- We dissolved our partnership causing us to lose 2k students
 - Secondary is decreasing because of the partnership loss
 - Elementary enrollment is not as strong as we thought it would be
 - Enrollment: LHF II will take us from 20k to 26k Students in FY30
 - The more we build, more debt we borrow
 - Some current facilities at Secondary require rebuilds or major renovations
 - Options to Address Low Days-Cash-On-Hand levels
 - If doing 12 million in fundraising these would be the 3 options; drop equity %, slow down capital expenditure, increase annual DSCR
 - Fundraising Projections
 - Does not include any potential CSP funds
 - \$50 million over 4 years
- **Real Estate Report presented by Carmen Darville**
 - Key Points of Alignment: Board of Directors & Executive Team
 - Northside Land Utilization: How should we approach land utilization in this context?
 - We purchased land for Northside; we need to make a decision if it should be elementary or secondary.
 - Within our next strategic phase, should we prioritize growth or 1 to 2 rebuilds?
 - In the context of growth, should we continue to put 20% down when acquiring new land?
 - What mitigation strategies should we consider given possible external factors that could disrupt or accelerate progress? Something always happens.
 - Vertical Construction: Taller School (Secondary Site)
 - We have been looking at building 3-story schools versus the 2-story traditional approach; no decisions made at this time
- **Student Achievement Data Review presented by Amanda Rawlings**
 - **Elementary Interim Assessment & Common Assessment Data Review -**
 - **G3-5 Common Assessment 1 Data Summary:** All schools increased Domain I from 2023 to 2024.
 - **Headlines:**
 - 4 of 6 elementary campuses are on track to meet Domain I goals
 - Grade 5 Science student achievement is lower than expected
 - **Secondary Common Assessment 2 Spring 2024 -**
 - **Secondary CA2 STAAR Domain I by Campus:** District CA2 to CA2 STAAR DI performance remained flat at 30%. 8 out of 17 campuses demonstrated growth.
 - Biggest issue 8th grade SS and 11th grade world history
 - Math continues to be an area of focus
 - **Secondary CA2 STAAR Domain IIA by Campus:** District CA2 to CA2 STAAR DIIA performance increased by 3%. 12 out of 17 campuses demonstrated growth.
 - To be successful we need to approach English and Math
 - Southside 16% growth in Domain IIA
 - **Southside Success Initiative:**
 - SSE grew by 3% from Domain I
 - SSS has its first QuestBridge Scholar in Class of 2024
 - Met 90% in satisfaction at Southside Secondary highest it's been
- **Class of 2024 Updates presented by Bobby Trevino**
 - **Senior Survey:** 85.6% of the Class of 2024 intend to matriculate to a 2-year or 4-year college as of January 2024.

- This is a 10% increase from last year and 8% from earlier this year.
- Next year Home Office will implement a career exposure role that should help the unsure presented
- **Talent updates presented by Tony Munoz**
 - **24-25 Hiring Update:** As of 4/5/2024, we project to hire 244 instructional staff (teachers) and 120 non-instructional staff. We are +2% ahead against 23-24 '% Staffed.'
 - Of the vacancies, 40 are SPED roles
 - Increased the signing bonus in this category
 - **Question:** Are they leaving education?
 - It depends on some are leaving education and some are staying but want a shorter commute
 - Working remote is an option that teachers/people are looking for
 - The market is tough right now for all education Talent



Workshop and meeting minutes approved by Board secretary Luly Castillo