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, February 13, 2025, at 7:30 a.m.** 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 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: Andrea Link, Brian Colona, Mickey Barrett, Chris Barbic, Michol Ecklund, Luly Castillo, Amy Wright

YES Prep Staff Members Present: Mark DiBella, Dana Foughty, Luis Mena, Tony Munoz, Isy Castillo, Cesar Cedillos, Carmen Darville, Amanda Rawlings, Phil Wright, Beth Carlson-Young, Akeia King, Leigh Levine, Caitlin Monteith, Morgan Acevedo, Julie Nguyen, Danika Palacios

1. **Call to Order, quorum determined, meeting declared open at 8:46 a.m.**

2. **Business agenda:**
    1. **Vote** to approve the PSF Application and Reimbursement Resolutions.

       Motion: Chris Barbic
       Second: Amy Wright
       Unanimously approved at 8:47 a.m.

    2. **Vote** to approve the renewal of $50mm Line of Credit.

       Motion: Michol Ecklund
       Second: Chris Barbic
       Unanimously approved at 8:48 a.m.

    3. **Vote** to approve YES Prep's pursuit to sell 7 vacant land sites in the Fifth Ward portfolio.

Confirmation that this is land we accumulated for a school, and we have since decided to pursue selling.

Motion: Michol Ecklund
Second: Amy Wright
Unanimously approved at 8:49 a.m.

4. **Vote** to approve submission of a Remote Homebound Instruction waiver request under 19 TAC §129.1025 for a student in special education

   Motion: Chris Barbic
   Second: Michol Ecklund
   Unanimously approved at 8:50 a.m.

5. **Vote** to approve the corresponding resolution to submit a request to waive 19 TAC§100.1035(c)(5)(C)(vi) for the upcoming expansion amendment submissions for White Oak Secondary, West Elementary, and Northside Secondary.

   Motion: Michol Ecklund
   Second: Chris Barbic
   Unanimously approved at 8:50 a.m.

6. **Vote** to approve updated Special Education Policies.

   Motion: Michol Ecklund
   Second: Amy Wright
   Unanimously approved at 8:51 a.m.

3. **Consent agenda:**
   1. **Vote** to approve meeting minutes from January 16, 2025, Board meeting.
   2. **Vote** to approve the School Year 2025-2026 Academic Calendar.
   3. **Vote** to approve awarding E-Rate contract to Comcast Business for Managed Direct Internet Access Services (FCC Form 470 #250002874) utilizing RFP#YESP2025-01 for an estimated $3.4MM.
   4. **Vote** to approve awarding E-Rate contract to Crown Castle Fiber, LLC for Direct Internet Access Connectivity Services (FCC Form 470 #250002876) utilizing RFP#YESP2025-02 for an estimated $2.43MM.
   5. **Vote** to approve awarding E-Rate contract to InSource Technology Direct LLC, DataVox, ConvergeOne, and Brighten Technology solution for RFP#YESP2025-03 Infrastructure Equipment (FCC Form 470 # 250002877) for an estimated $4OOK.
   6. **Vote** to approve awarding a contract to Mission Restaurant Supply for RFP#YESP2025-04 NFS Walk-in Cooler for an estimated $88.5K.
   7. **Vote** to approve the purchase of staff and student electronic devices using TX-DIR Contract #TX DIR-TSO-3763 from Dell Marketing LP for an estimated $3MM.
   8. **Vote** to approve authorizing the CEO to award the contract for RFP#YESP2025-07 Elementary Audiovisual Improvements, with the final contract approval to be presented at the next board meeting for an estimated $85K.

9. **Vote** to approve the contract with Preferred Technologies for Building IT Equipment repair and maintenance services, as needed, under DIR Contract #DIR-CPO-4742.
10. **Vote** to approve the change order for Durotech, Inc. for City of Houston-required roadway improvements on Deihl Road, based on the approved Traffic Impact Analysis, in the amount of $638K.
11. **Vote** to approve MoU with CareerSpring.
12. **Vote** to ratify executed contract agreements.

Vendor	Description
Amanda Hernandez	Independent contract work to assist the SIS and Student Recruitment & Enrollment teams in the Spring 2025 lottery, registration, and placement of students
Nicole Miller	Independent contract work to create and maintain the data visualization reports for the College Initiatives Portfolio in Spring 2025
Robert Half, Inc.	Letter amendment to the General Terms and Conditions for Robert Half, Inc. to perform additional background investigations of professionals assigned to YES Prep (signed 1/10/2025)
Jesus Castillo	Independent contractor who will serve as an unpaid intern from the University of Houston – Clearlake during Spring 2025
Bayou City Event Center	Venue license agreement for Commencement 2025
Girls Inc. of Greater Houston	Provide host the Strong, Smart, and Bold Workshop series at Northwest Secondary in Spring 2025
Kristen Fahey	Independent contract work as a field supervisor for Teaching Excellence in Spring 2025
Providence Treatment Center	Provide educational and treatment services for children and young adults with learning problems related to behavioral difficulties in Spring 2025
Stage Directions, Inc.	Event management agreement for Commencement 2025

Motion: Chris Barbic
Second: Michol Ecklund
Unanimously approved at 8:52 a.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Pursuant to TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE 551.074, and 551.076, the Board will deliberate, in accordance with the above statutes, intruder detection audit findings and personnel matters.

4. **Executive Session**
5. **Adjournment**

WORKSHOP 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, February 13, 2025, at 7:30 a.m.** 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 by emailing 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.

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1. **Call to Order, quorum determined at 7:30 a.m.**

2. **Public Comment at 7:31 a.m.**
    - Three constituents scheduled to speak on teacher compensation. Each speaker given three minutes to speak.
        - **Karlie Carman – 11 years at YES Prep – AP Biology**
            - Request for non-monetary compensation for top-performing teachers, including flexible scheduling, differentiated professional development, and exemption from certain duties.
        - **Tommy Arnott – 11 years at YES Prep – AP Psychology**
            - Expressed concerns about financial instability due to salary stagnation for red-circled teachers and emphasized the importance of retaining top educators.
        - **Ray Green – 21 years at YES Prep - Algebra**

        - Addressed the board regarding the continued salary freeze for red-circled teachers

3. **Public comment closed, workshop declared open at 7:42 a.m.**

4. **Intruder Detection Audit Notice**
    - Will go in more detail during executive session

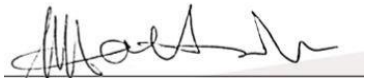
5. **CEO Report**
    - Quarterly update in goals
        - Tough week last week on attendance
            - Flu and fear driven absences; National Day w/o Immigrants
            - Schools working hard on incentives for attendance, but fighting external factors

6. **Strategic Focus: Accountability 101 & YES Prep's Approach**
    - Texas Education Agency (TEA) accountability is a complex three-domain system of academic evaluation, and the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) is more rigorous than ever.
    - TEA Accountability includes 3 domains and multiple student groups that influence YES Prep strategy depending on type of school and phase of growth.
    - In addition to an overall letter grade, campuses and districts receive a letter grade for each domain. To calculate the overall grade, TEA takes the better of the Student Achievement Domain or the School Progress Domain for 70% of the overall grade and Closing the Gaps Domain for 30%.
    - Our Secondary campuses have the added complexity of CCMR and Graduation rates as additional components in their Domain I: Student Achievement score, and those components are not factored in until the year after the graduating class.
    - Most of our campuses earn their ratings from Domain IIB - School Progress points. Domain IIB evaluates the overall student performance on the Student Achievement STAAR component compared to campuses with similar percentages of economically disadvantaged students.
    - Domain 3 measures growth and achievement rates of 4 student groups against targets set by TEA for those groups.
    - TEA accountability is more rigorous than it was previously, and it creates specific challenges for growing elementary campuses as they are not able to earn growth targets (Domain II).
    - Heavy Reliance on STAAR Performance -Domain I ratings depend entirely on STAAR scores for grades 3+, with no CCMR or graduation rates included.
    - YES Prep must continue to strengthen our focus on college readiness for all students while understanding how to work the accountability system.
    - A district can get CCMR points through SAT/ACT or TSIA (Texas Success Initiative Assessment), through a qualifying score on an AP exam, or through earning an industry certification.
    - Texas College Bridge will provide access to our students who are most vulnerable and who are least ready as it has partnerships with local colleges. If we assume the success we predict for this fall and apply them to last year's scores many of our secondary campuses would have earned higher accountability grades.
        - YES Prep has requested TPCSA monitor TEA accountability options schools can do such as Texas Bridge – some schools were aware of this and some were not
    - Accountability ratings are calculated from a combination of STAAR, TELPAS, College, Career, and Military readiness (CCMR), and graduation rates. STAAR and TELPAS are the only remaining levers for 2025 accountability as CCMR and graduation rates are calculated from prior year data.

- After Common Assessment 1 in January, 5 out of 6 elementary campuses eligible for TEA ratings are on target to meet their D1 goal (EEE is off track)
- Within a week of CA 1 administration, campuses and home office are adjusting resources, instruction, tutorials, and celebration strategies to increase student achievement, with a particular focus on 3rd grade. The next CA will be administered in the first week in March.
- Using summative assessment data (CA1) from November in Secondary and from January in Elementary, we project 16 campuses receiving a B or C rating and 6 receiving a D or F. We will provide more timely projections at the April Retreat using data from the Feb. and Mar. summative assessments.

7. **Program Report**
    - Elementary Common Assessment 1: Within one week of administration, staff have already started to adjust
    - Once all our schools are established fully, we believe we will have all A and B schools
8. **Finance and Real Estate Report**
    - 3rd Bond issuance – June 2025
        - Our bond issuance went from 40 to 50 mil – may go back to 40 mil due to early charter renewal from TEA
        - Will RFP and choose a firm who gives us the best interest rate
        - Votes today are for applying for the bond, in the April Board meeting we will bring the vote to issue the bond.
        - What can bond money NOT be used for?
            - It cannot be used for anything associated w/operating schools – these items cannot be funded by debt
        - Real Estate: Northside land
            - Submitted recommendation plan to TCEQ
            - Soil contamination requires remediation work, so it brought price down
            - Removed all contaminated soil
            - Annual groundwater monitoring for the length of time TCEQ requires

9. **Workshop adjournment 8:46 a.m.**



Reviewed and approved by Board Secretary, Andrea Link