

WORKSHOP AND MEETING MINUTES

Notice was hereby given that the Board of Directors of YES Prep Public Schools held a regular meeting, open to the public, on **Thursday, September 24th at 7:30 AM**. The Board convened in Open Session at 5455 South Loop East Freeway, Houston, TX 77033.

All final votes, actions, or decisions were taken in an open meeting.

YES Prep Board of Directors Present: Michol Ecklund, Joe Gatto, Andrea Link, Adrienne Amin, Jordan Marye, Chris Barbic, Brian Colona, Mickey Barrett

YES Prep Staff Members Present: Mark DiBella, Carmen Darville, Phil Wright, Dana Foughty, Isy Castillo, Tony Munoz, Julie Nguyen, Cesar Cedillos, Amanda Rawlings, Beth Carlson-Young, Adrian Acosta, Danika Palacios, Claudia Zavala, Morgan Acevedo, Ileri Rebollar, Leigh Levine

1. Call to Order, quorum determined, meeting declared open 7:33 AM.

2. Introductions:

- David Lauck
- Richard Billings
- Adrienne Amin

3. Public Comment

- No public comment

4. A-Rated Principals Recognition

- In attendance: Adrienne Brown,
- Appreciation message from Board Chair, Michol Ecklund

5. Meeting closed, workshop open at 7:45 AM.

6. State of the Schools

- **YES Prep A-F Ratings**

- All 15 secondary campuses earned an A rating
- 88% of campuses (21 of 24) earned an A or B, up from 52% in 2025.
- All 3 first-time testing campuses earned a B.
- 3 of 9 elementary campuses (Airline, East End, Southside) rated C or below.
- All 15 secondary campuses gained 5+ points and reached an A; Southside Secondary led at +23 (D to A).
- 19 of 21 returning campuses improved averaging an 8-point gain.
- East End (-15), Southside (-10), and Airline (-7) Elementary each dropped a letter grade.

- **Good Reason Houston: Percent of Students in A&B Schools**

- In the GRH portfolio only Galena Park ISD and Klein ISD have more students in A&B schools than YES Prep.
- **College-Ready SAT/TSIA2 Growth**
 - All three grade levels increased college readiness year over year, with seniors demonstrating the strongest growth (+13%). This represents the highest percentage of college-ready seniors since 2018.
- **AP Performance**
 - As AP enrollment has more than doubled over the past 5 years, our AP 3+ rate has increased, showing that more students are ready for college-level rigor.
- **CCMR**
 - 99% of the Class of 2026 earned a CCMR point. The Class of 2027 is starting the year at 61% CCMR with the goal of reaching at least 93% under more rigorous accountability standards.
 - Changes Coming
 - STAAR changing to a BOY, MOY, EOY model, but we do not have information yet
 - What we know so far is the length is changing – less time and more content
 - This could start next academic year
 - CCMR will change to a stacking model
 - Anticipating the what-if scores any day now
- **Emergent Bilinguals (EB)**
 - Elementary EB STAAR Domain 1 improved across 5 of 6 established campuses
 - Secondary EB STAAR Domain I grew at 13/15 secondary campuses and
 - By 5% overall across the system.
- **Beginning of Year Talent**
 - **Teacher Hiring Updates:**
 - We have 19 instructional vacancies, 10 Elementary and 9 Secondary as of 9/11/2026.
 - 5 of the 16 vacancies are due to trade backs/enrollment.
 - 10% of our staff are YES Prep Alums
 - **CTE Hiring**
 - 19 CTE teachers
 - Hiring timeline is competitive to our other positions

7. Beginning of Year Enrollment

- Enrollment projected at 176 students above budgeted average
- Goal: 101.5% - we are at 102.59% as of Tuesday-After-Labor-Day
- Achieved by:
 - Neighborhood Profiles for every community to assess demand and inform recruitment strategies
 - Increased community engagement; Resource Fairs
 - Improved alignment with Schools and Operations to increase conversion rates across campuses
 - Weekly data analysis to pivot strategies

8. Finance and Real Estate Report

- **FY27 BOY Finance Update + Q1 Budget Amendment**
 - Still in FY27 Audit
 - Charter FIRST Rating – A: Superior achievement

- Revenue: Other Revenue decrease of \$3mm: interest moved to State Revenue and other items moved to Student Activity Fee
 - Revised federal (ESSA) increase 7%
 - Other State Allotments are currently projected higher than expected
- Increase around benefits as we shared in June
- Expenses: Labor up \$4.2mm due to increase in benefits and additional salary increases (mainly teachers) along with indirect costs for federal grants
- **Enrollment & ADA Forecast = Budget**
 - Enrollment Budget = 20,840, ADA Budget = 94%%
 - Headline: Our Tuesday-after-Labor-Day-actuals (TALDA) project an average daily enrollment of 21,016; +176 students above budgeted enrollment. Between projected above-average enrollment and on-track ADA, we anticipate additional revenue and will begin plans to allocate appropriately.
- **School Opening Schedule + Allocation Table**
 - Site openings are mapped out to FY30.
 - Remaining two sites' acquisitions will occur in FY28.
 - This spring, we will plan what acquire for next year

9. CFO Search Update

10. CEO Report

- SY26-27 Annual Goals
 1. A-District
 2. FY27 Budget
 3. Enrollment
 4. Fundraising
 5. Average Daily Attendance
 6. Staff Retention
 7. FY27 Construction Projects
 8. Math Meets+ rates
 9. College-Ready Seniors as indicated by SAT and TSIA (local Texas version of SAT)
 - Threshold for SAT – Passing both math and reading to earn college-ready
- **Decision:** Move YES Prep will achieve 50% college-ready seniors as indicated by SAT and TSIA to Goal 7
- **CEO Focus**
 1. Goal 1 – A-District
 2. Goal 2 – Onboard new CFO
 3. Goal 3 – Succession Planning
 4. Goal 4 – AI philosophy, principles, and pilot
 5. Goal 5 – Fundraising
 6. Goal 6 – Financial Model and Real Estate Strategy
 7. External Focus Area: TPCSA Board
- **AI at YES Prep**
 1. Outstanding Rule: No student data enters any AI system YES Prep has not vetted and approved
 2. AI Philosophy:
 - Give people time back for what only people can do
 - Build thinkers who direct AI, never people who defer to it
 - Say plainly what AI is not, starting with relationships

- Measure value; no innovation for innovation's sake
 - Build foundations first: student generative AI begins in grade 6
 - Adapt with intention as technology and law shift
3. Next Phase: Professional development
 4. Board Questions:
 - Are we measuring financial impacts of this?
 - Currently working on defining return on investment and standardizing this
 - What is available to staff now?
 - Currently evaluating components of tools that have AI embedded
 - CoPilot
 - Testing Claude to see where it will live
 - Note: Not all AI tools are meant for everyone – some are meant for a financial prospective, Talent prospective, etc
 5. AI Steering Committee
 - Balanced perspective group with honest conversations
 - **26-27 Risk Management and Mitigation**
 1. What we are monitoring and mitigating
 - **Board Priorities & Calendar**
 1. A District
 2. Demand for our Product
 3. Long-Term Financial Plan
 4. Board Succession
 5. C-Suite Succession
 6. Program Committee will focus on college + career readiness (outcomes) and will propose future Board engagement on this theme
 7. AI strategic will be a management report but not a Board priority for 26-27

11. Workshop adjournment, meeting declared open 9:21 AM.

12. Business Agenda:

1	Vote to approve the FY27 Budget Amendment. <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Motioned</td><td>Jordan Marye</td></tr> <tr> <td>Seconded</td><td>Joe Gatto</td></tr> <tr> <td>Motion carried at</td><td>9:22 AM</td></tr> </table> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Board Member</th><th>Vote</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Adrienne Amin</td><td>☒ Assent ☐ Dissent ☐ Absent ☐ Recuse</td></tr> <tr> <td>Chris Barbic</td><td>☒ Assent ☐ Dissent ☐ Absent ☐ Recuse</td></tr> <tr> <td>Mickey Barrett</td><td>☒ Assent ☐ Dissent ☐ Absent ☐ Recuse</td></tr> <tr> <td>Brian Colona</td><td>☒ Assent ☐ Dissent ☐ Absent ☐ Recuse</td></tr> <tr> <td>Michol Ecklund</td><td>☒ Assent ☐ Dissent ☐ Absent ☐ Recuse</td></tr> <tr> <td>Joe Gatto</td><td>☒ Assent ☐ Dissent ☐ Absent ☐ Recuse</td></tr> <tr> <td>Andrea Link</td><td>☒ Assent ☐ Dissent ☐ Absent ☐ Recuse</td></tr> <tr> <td>Jordan Marye</td><td>☒ Assent ☐ Dissent ☐ Absent ☐ Recuse</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Motioned	Jordan Marye	Seconded	Joe Gatto	Motion carried at	9:22 AM	Board Member	Vote	Adrienne Amin	☒ Assent ☐ Dissent ☐ Absent ☐ Recuse	Chris Barbic	☒ Assent ☐ Dissent ☐ Absent ☐ Recuse	Mickey Barrett	☒ Assent ☐ Dissent ☐ Absent ☐ Recuse	Brian Colona	☒ Assent ☐ Dissent ☐ Absent ☐ Recuse	Michol Ecklund	☒ Assent ☐ Dissent ☐ Absent ☐ Recuse	Joe Gatto	☒ Assent ☐ Dissent ☐ Absent ☐ Recuse	Andrea Link	☒ Assent ☐ Dissent ☐ Absent ☐ Recuse	Jordan Marye	☒ Assent ☐ Dissent ☐ Absent ☐ Recuse
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2 **Vote** to approve the SY2026-2027 Campus Improvement Plans (CIPs).

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Seconded	Joe Gatto
Motion carried at	9:22 AM

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Jordan Marye	☒ Assent ☐ Dissent ☐ Absent ☐ Recuse

3 **Vote** to approve adoption of the board policy titled *PG-1.205 Public Complaints*.

Motioned	Jordan Marye
Seconded	Andrea Link
Motion carried at	9:23 AM

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4 **Vote** to approve adoption of the board policy titled *PG-2.113 Contracts with Outside Agencies*.

Motioned	Jordan Marye
Seconded	Andrea Link
Motion carried at	9:23 AM

Board Member	Vote
Adrienne Amin	☒ Assent ☐ Dissent ☐ Absent ☐ Recuse
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1. Consent agenda:

1	Vote to approve meeting minutes from the August 20, 2026, Board of Directors meeting.
2	Vote to approve the engagement agreement with Blazek & Vetterling for the 2026 annual compliance form (Form 990).
3	Vote to approve the agreement with Blazek & Vetterling for the 2026 financial audit.
4	Vote to approve extending the agreement with Moncrief Consulting, LLC to assist with the YES Prep CFO transition during Fall 2026.
5	Vote to approve the annual certification of No Financial Benefit from Real Estate Transactions for SY2026-2027.
6	Vote to approve the submission of a Low Attendance Day waiver request for Tuesday, 9/1/2026 for multiple campuses.
7	Vote to approve the submission of a Low Attendance Day waiver request for Wednesday, 9/2/2026 for multiple campuses.
8	Vote to approve awarding a contract to HopskipDrive, Inc using Choice Partners Contract #23/014MR-03 and Alternative Logistics Technologies Holding, Inc (EverDriven) using OMNIA Partners Contract #R230901.
9	Vote to approve awarding a contract for RFP#YESP2026-20 Thrive Roof Replacement.
10	Vote to approve awarding a contract to Sullivan Contracting Services (Pounds Group LLC) for RFP#YESP2026-21 SWS - Outdoor Pavillion project.
11	Vote to ratify the agreement with Arete Advisors, LLC & KLA Legal LLP for cybersecurity and forensic response services in 2026-2027.
12	Vote to approve the transportation contract amendment with EverDriven Technologies, LLC.
13	Vote to ratify the independent contractor agreement with Jamey Roberts for Fall 2026.
14	Vote to ratify the independent contractor agreement with Toni Donaldson for SY2025-2026.
15	Vote to approve the service agreement with Corinthian Houston for the 2027 YES Prep annual poker tournament.
16	Vote to approve the partnership agreement with The Hobby Center for the Performing Arts for SY2026-2027.
17	Vote to approve the contract with Sloomoo Institute, LLC for a family engagement event on November 7, 2026.
18	Vote to ratify the independent contract agreement with Alexis Arauza for an internship at East End Secondary during SY2026-2027.
19	Vote to ratify the program agreement with Bee Busy Learning Academy, Inc. for SY2026-2027.
20	Vote to ratify the partnership agreement with Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) Greater Houston for SY2026-2027.
21	Vote to ratify the partnership agreement with Bo's Place for SY2026-2027.
22	Vote to ratify the partnership agreement with Civic Heart Community Services for SY2026-2027.
23	Vote to ratify the partnership agreement with Crime Stoppers of Houston for SY2026-2027.
24	Vote to ratify the partnership agreement with Deblin Health Concepts & Associates for SY2026-2027.

25	Vote to approve the MoU with DePelchin Children's Center for SY2026-2027.
26	Vote to ratify the graduate student affiliation and placement agreement with Eastern Washington University (EWU) for SY2026-2027.
27	Vote to ratify the partnership agreement with Evolve Outreach of Texas, LLC for SY2026-2027.
28	Vote to ratify the contractor agreement with GENaustin, DBA Girls Empowerment Network SY2026-2027.
29	Vote to ratify the contract amendment with HCDE ABSE for SY2026-2027.
30	Vote to ratify the HCDE CASE Debates interlocal agreement for SY2026-2027.
31	Vote to ratify the partnership agreement with Junior Achievement of Southeast Texas for SY2026-2027.
32	Vote to approve the independent contractor agreement with Morgan Lambertson for SY2026-2027.
33	Vote to ratify the partnership agreement with National University Harmony Academy for SY2026-2027.
34	Vote to ratify the partnership agreement with Nick Finnegan Counseling Center for SY2026-2027.
35	Vote to approve the consent to assignment form for Project Wayfinder, Inc.
36	Vote to ratify the 2-year partnership agreement with UT Health Houston to implement the Youth Aware of Mental Health (YAM) program at YES Prep campuses from 2026-2028.
37	Vote to approve the MoU with UT Health Houston to provide TCHAT telemedicine services to YES Prep students during SY2026-2027.
38	Vote to ratify the partnership agreement with Young Audiences, Inc. of Houston during SY2026-2027.
39	Vote to ratify the MoU partnership with EdFuel.
40	Vote to ratify the two-year insurance policy benefit agreement with MetLife Insurance Company for 2026-2028.
41	Vote to approve the cooperative membership agreement with National CooperativeRX for 2026-2027.
42	Vote to approve the international recruitment event participation agreement with Teacher Lounge for October 2026.
43	Vote to approve the general release and indemnification agreement with Unum Group.

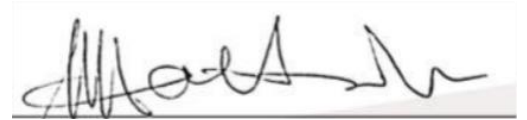
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Seconded	Joe Gatto
Motion carried at	9:24 AM

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EXECUTIVE SESSION: Pursuant to TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE §§551.074; the Board will deliberate, in accordance with the above statute specific personnel matters.

2. Executive Session

3. Adjournment

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrea Link", written over a horizontal line.

*Reviewed and approved by Board Secretary, Andrea Link
Minutes will be posted within 7 days of the meeting, and it will be reposted after vote approval*