**Minutes – A+UP Board of Directors Meeting**

**Date of Meeting:** December 12, 2023

**Location:** Virtual Meeting Space, Zoom

**Board of Directors:** *Present:* Kathy Welch**,** Jess Arnold, Michael McDonough, Stephen Amante, Tom Elsenbrook

**Staff Present:** Paul Castro, Superintendent; Kap McWhorter, Principal

Latrice Leonard, Assistant Principal  
Terrie Roberts, Business Operations Manager

**Other:** Dianne Johnson, Board Liaison  
Rick Reyes, Charter School Success

**Call to Order and Introductions**

The meeting began December 12, 2023, at 7:34 a.m., and Kathy Welch welcomed Board members and staff. The meeting began with a quorum.

**Consent Agenda**

Approval of Minutes of the November 14, 2023, BoardMeetings

The Board meeting minutes were reviewed, and a vote to approve was unanimous.

**Superintendent’s Report**

Paul Castro stated that the school is running smoothly with academics, data, and student expectations.

***Finance Report***  
Rick Reyes was not in session, so Stephen Amante and Paul Castro discussed the current finances of A+UP for the current month and fiscal year to date.

Mr. Castro reported that we are slightly behind in revenues due to low enrollment.

Students leave the school for two reasons: families move out of town, or students are released because of behavioral issues.

**Executive Session**

Kathy Welch adjourned the meeting to closed session notice having previously been given and

reiterated in accordance with Sections of the Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Section 551, Subchapters D and A.

*Adjourned to Closed Session*

The Board went into a closed session at 7:51 a.m.

Executive Session – Continued

Pursuant to Govt. Code 551.071 (consultation with legal counsel) and 551.074 (personnel) to

discuss personnel.

Pursuant to 551.071 (consultation with legal counsel) and 551.083 (considering the standards,

guidelines, terms, or conditions the board will follow or will instruct its representatives to follow, in consultation with representatives of employee groups) to discuss board policy.

*Reconvene to Open Session*

Kathy Welch reconvened to open the session at 8:26 a.m.

**Action as Needed from Executive Session:**

Jess Arnold made a motion to extend the lease with Elevate. Tom Elsenbrook seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimously passed.

Jess Arnold moved to amend the Webster/Chenevert lease, and Tom Elsenbrook seconded with the vote passing unanimously.

Tom Elsenbrook moved to approve the Governance Guardian policy. Stephen Amante seconded the motion, and the vote passed unanimously.

**Superintendent’s Report Continued**

A+UP hosted a Fall festival. It was the highest-attended event the school ever had. Current and former students picked up their STAAR award checks.

Tom Elsenbrook agreed to continue the STAAR payments for the 2023/24 school year.

He suggested that students with higher attendance get more money per correct question computed by grade level.

The Free Lunch Program is at 83% eco-dis, an increase from 70% in 2022-23.

Enrollment is 150. The budget is set for 160

Stronger Grant has been extended through September 2026.

**Board Training**  
Paul Castro, TEA approved Board Trainer, covered STAAR 2.0 Governance Training

1-hour training obtained.

**Adjournment**

With no further business, the board voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 a.m.