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

**Date of Meeting:** November 14, 2023

**Location:** Virtual Meeting Space, Zoom

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

*Absent:* Tom Elsenbrook

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

Latrice Leonard, Special Education Director  
Terrie Roberts, Business Operations Manager

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

**Call to Order and Introductions**

The meeting began November 14, 2023, at 7:33 a.m. and Kathy Welch welcomed Board members and staff. The meeting began with a quorum.

**Consent Agenda**

Approval of Minutes of the October 17, 2023 BoardMeetings

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

**Superintendent’s Report**

***Finance Report***  
Rick Reyes discussed the current finances of A+UP for the current month and fiscal year to date.

Paul Castro suggested that an investment policy committee be formed to review and amend the current policy as it is too vast. The committee could consist of Stephen Amante, Paul Castro, Rick Reyes, and Terrie Roberts.

Stephen Amante moved to accept the proposal to form an investment committee. Jess Arnold seconded the motion and the vote was passed unanimously.

**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 closed session at 7:48 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 session at 8:22 a.m.

**Action as Needed from Executive Session:**

Stephen Amante made a motion to approve the retention agreement for Paul Castro. Jess Arnold seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously passed.

**Superintendent’s Report Continued**

Principal Kap McWhorter shared that the campus celebrated spirit week November 13-17, ending with “Mobility” at Martinez Boxing Gym, YMCA, and Baker Ripley.

The T-TAP new test assessment pilot was given to our students. T-TAP should eventually replace the STAAR test.

Kap McWhorter gave and update on the $220,000 security grant. He stated that $41,759 remains in the balance. The Guardian Program grant for $25,000 has a balance of $9,158. The new security grant has given an additional $296,000. It is similar with a draw only, valid for one year. Once all of the first security grant is spent, we will spend down some, but not all of the $296,000 grant.

The surprise security audit occurred in late October. There were no issues found, and the school passed the audit.

Paul Castro reported that Verkada secured 81 points to ADT’s 50 and Siemens 61 points for the RFP process for the new security camera system in the RFP process. Verkada will begin installation in December.

Stephen Amante motioned to approve Verkada’s bid for security hardware installation based on the RFP rubric. Jess Arnold seconded the motion and the vote was passed unanimously.

Latrice Leonard announced that the Stronger Grant was awarded in the amount of $575,000. The grant budget is being considered, but the counselor Ellen Ortega will add an additional day, and the additional cost will be allowable through the new grant. With the end of the TCLAS grant, Coach Jen Bunch will move to work for this revenue stream. Coach K, Kayla Hartman will utilize BASE curriculum, the University of Houston tutors, and a special education cool down room will be also taken from this grant.

Paul Castro shared that Enrollment is 154 with an ADA of 90.1%.

Terrie Roberts gave an update on recruitment. 6-7-8 has 11 enrolled, and 9th grade has an expected 40, while 10th grade currently has 17 enrolled.

Paul Castro shared that the TEA A-F rating system is in the court of appeals and thus not released yet. However, the grade we received prior to the lawsuit was 80.3.

A new staff and student survey company, Kelvin, has been enlisted as per NSVF’s two-year requirement.

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

1 Hour training obtained.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the board voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 a.m.