

## MINUTES OF MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF VENTURE PREP

A teleconference meeting of the Board of Directors of Venture Prep was duly called on January 18, 2018.  
Present at the meeting were:

Drew Bixby – Board President  
Kayla Tibbals – Board Secretary  
Chuck Born – Board Member  
Jake Gilmore – Board Member  
Tim Sznewajs – Board Treasurer  
Erin Quigley – School Principal

- I. Board President Bixby called the meeting to order and welcomed board members and school staff.
- II. Board President Bixby presented the previous meeting minutes – Jake Gilmore motioned to approve the minutes, Tim Sznewajs seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously.
- III. Brenna Copeland/EdPlex Opportunity
  - a. Chuck Born gave the board some context on Brenna Copeland, a contact of his: She is founder/CEO of EdPlex, an organization that works to improve charter schools, and the former director of portfolio management at DPS. He recommends her as a great potential collaborator.
  - b. She works with a charter middle school and is interested in discussing possible collaboration, including feeder relationship and even possible site sharing.
  - c. Tim Sznewajs, Jake Gilmore, and Kayla Tibbals all supported opening up lines of communication if it seems like a good fit but cautioned Erin against letting it become too consuming, instead suggesting that it get kicked to the board level to handle if a relationship seems viable
- IV. Charter Contract Update
  - a. Principal Quigley explained to the Board that she verified with District contacts that, contractually speaking, VP will only be held to the expectation of 80% of projected enrollment (~100) for the 18-19 school year, a realization that is important to school and staff morale, who have worried that VP would be closed by the District for lack of viability.
  - b. Kayla Tibbals expressed excitement about this but stressed that we can't let up on recruitment or potential grant funding – that we don't put the brakes on any initiative we're currently pursuing under the false pretense of comfort, as VP still needs to meet a an enrollment threshold of 180 students (or financial viability for that #) for the 19-20 schoolyear
  - c. Principal Quigley emphasized that she has communicated this news to the Recruitment Coordinator (to inspire increased efforts) and school staff and that teachers are more involved in recruitment than ever.
  - d. Principal Quigley and Drew Bixby explained to the board that upcoming meetings will focus on Quigley's ongoing school (re-)design based on all available data related to enrollment, grant funding, and current/reserve funding, and that the board will need to help her co-assess what 2018-2019 Venture Prep can and should look like in terms of viability and success.

V. Grant Update

- a. Principal Quigley told the Board that she is working with Reilly Pharo Carter, grant writer, on submitting grants to the Denver Foundation as well as a number of others (e.g., the Honda Foundation) and that she received a new list from the District this week with more opportunities. Principal Quigley stressed that she needs board members with contacts/relationships at various granting foundations to make immediate connections to determine viability and hopefully give VP a better shot at funding.
- b. Principal Quigley also told the board that the new Career Pathways plan for the 18-19 schoolyear represents a great opportunity to inspire potential funders to put their dollars and name behind something innovative and exciting.

VI. Recruitment Update

- a. Principal Quigley provided the following update regarding recruitment and enrollment:
  - i. VP lost one student in December (anticipated) but gained 4 students via mid-year transfer.
  - ii. Mailings continue to go out to students who may be interested in mid-year transfer.
  - iii. School reps will be attending all 3 of the School Choice expos during the week of 1/22-26 and have 2 new videos (principal- and student-driven, on school safety and culture) to debut.
  - iv. VP has hosted 6 school tours so far. Interest is difficult to gauge because families are still shopping around. Tours later in January/early February are better indicators.
  - v. A current parent shared at the second School Accountability Committee (SAC) meeting that she has contacts at Wyatt Academy and AXL Academy and will help the school pursue relationships there.
  - vi. Middle schools are overwhelmed by high-school representatives wanting to get into their buildings for recruitment reasons and are generally resistant, which has been difficult.
  - vii. Students are reporting a high level of morale – good for general recruitment. One example is excitement in 11<sup>th</sup> grade about winning a lottery for Hamilton tickets.

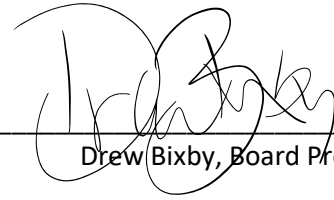
VII. Board Involvement

- a. Drew Bixby spoke with Cindy Price, Assistant Principal, about the best times for board members to visit for walkthroughs/classroom observations and will follow-up with all board members within the week to schedule those for completion before mid-February. Bixby stressed that it's important that board members not only understand what goes on in the building and feel invested and excited about what's happening but also that students and staff see and understand that the board is invested.
- b. Jake Gilmore provided the board context for a connection he's made between Darrell Anderson and VP. Anderson is an internationally known artist who grew up and remains actively involved in the neighborhood. Anderson has offered to use his contacts in the art/performance/larger-Denver community to provide enrichment opportunities for VP student. Drew Bixby emphasized for the board that no contact is too small to consider for connection with the school – anyone who has the time/energy/willingness to support VP/students should be considered and suggested.

VIII. Public Comment

- a. Public comment was requested; no public comment was heard.

Meeting was formally adjourned.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Drew Bixby', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Drew Bixby, Board President