

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 February 15, 2018. Present at the meeting were:


Drew Bixby – Board President
Chuck Born – Board Member
Tim Sznawajs – Board Treasurer
Erin Quigley – School Principal
Absent: Kayla Tibbals – Board Secretary, Jake Gilmore – Board Member

- I. Board President Bixby called the meeting to order and welcomed board members and school staff.
- II. Board President Bixby presented the January meeting minutes – Kayla Tibbals previously motioned via email to approve the minutes, Tim Sznawajs seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously.
- III. Strategic Partnership Explanation and Discussion
 - a. Board President Bixby and Principal Quigley jointly caught up other board members on the possibility of co-locating at Barret for the 18-19 year with another charter middle school who approached the VP board about the possibility.
 - b. Principal Quigley recommended against any immediate action given enrollment current uncertainties, negative effects to staff morale, the time/energy required to do it successfully, and a general lack of benefit for VP.
 - c. Tim Sznawajs asked questions about whether such a collaboration helps VP from a sustainability/viability standpoint. He wondered about economic benefit regarding building lease and administrative resources. Ultimately, he agreed with Erin’s recommendation that we are independently sustainable as a school and such a collaboration would potentially distract from our mission and focus on our own students.
 - d. Chuck Born agreed that without a clear-cut benefit, it seemed best to wait for more information about enrollment from the District and focus on our own future.
- IV. Recruitment Update
 - a. Principal Quigley updated the Board on recent visits to 3 school expos and multiple middle schools. Overall, her staff has hosted 25 student tours compared to 15 this time last year. She shared frustration over not having access to real-time Choice numbers as in previous years due to the process being moved fully online.
 - b. Chuck Born asked why there was no access to real-time information, and Principal Quigley said she would inquire with the District.
 - c. Principal Quigley also shared that she worries that Venture Prep doesn’t have name and location recognition with Denver students. She shared a plan for more marketing/advertising following the first round of Choice.
 - d. Tim Sznawajs worried about the timeframe for roll-out but was ultimately supportive if Principal Quigley felt strongly about it.
- V. Fundraising/Grants Update
 - a. Principal Quigley updated the Board on grants submitted to the Denver Foundation, ongoing talks with the Rose Foundation, and three more grants in the immediate future related to STEM. She further updated the board about development regarding the

Career Pathways plan for 18-19 as well as Alumni Days and increased access to technology.

- b. Tim Szniewajs updated the Board on talks with immediate past President Stephen Dalla Betta regarding opportunities to make direct connections with funders.
 - c. Chuck Born committed to speaking with some larger companies he has as contacts that may be interested in philanthropy surrounding high schools serving low-income schools.
- VI. Looking Forward/March Meeting
- a. Principal Quigley and President Bixby prepared the Board for what strategic conversations would look like next month surrounding school design and execution once numbers from Choice round one were in and Lori could provide an updated draft budget. Principal Quigley will prepare multiple design options around different staffing models so the Board could understand financial realities and discuss options.
 - b. Tim Szniewajs requested an updated dashboard that is close to real time surrounding academic achievement and growth.
 - c. Chuck Born requested time to discuss recent Board Member school observations and walkthroughs. He shared that he was very impressed with multiple aspects of his visit/observation.
- VII. Public Comment
- a. Public comment was requested; no public comment was heard.

Meeting was formally adjourned.



Drew Bixby, Board President