

## **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 March 12, 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/school staff.
- II. Principal Quigley provided the Board with an overview of the past three weeks of data and realities surrounding finances and enrollment, including intensified recruitment efforts, grant application submissions, conversations with DPS about Choice round 1 and low match numbers, finance committee conversation about PERA contributions/updated budget projections, staffing realities in an impossibly tightened budget model, and two new charter high schools potentially opening in 18-19.
- III. Board President Bixby asked if everyone had a chance to review the “March Snapshot” document he sent in advance highlighting all of the things working for and against VP’s future.
  - a. FOR: MAP data, attendance, PSAT/SAT prep, graduation rates, staff commitment and attitude, overall school culture, excitement around School Pathways design, board expansion/investment.
  - b. AGAINST: Two new potential high schools, Choice/match numbers, budgetary shortfalls in light of projected enrollment, necessary staff cuts under budget projection, lack of tangible grant funding.
- IV. Principal Quigley stressed the following points:
  - a. She feels incredible about the work the school is doing and invigorated by preliminary academic data
  - b. She feels school culture is better than it’s ever been, and that staff investment and ability is high
  - c. Meeting reasonable enrollment targets is a serious unknown
  - d. Financially, it does not seem like the school can maintain
  - e. Circumstances in Denver do not seem conducive to survival
  - f. A decision about the school’s future is essential ASAP in order to do what’s best for staff and students
- V. Board Reactions:
  - a. Dismay over the disparity between phenomenal academic growth and financial realities; emphasis that we have to take care of the kids and staff
  - b. Feel great about the hard work to secure grants and financial stability but understand an environment that has shifted dramatically in Denver around an excess of school options; praise for Erin for the tremendous work around academic achievement; concern over where our students would be enrolled if not VP and making sure they can find great school options, working collaboratively with DPS to make sure it’s done well.

