

True North Rochester Prep Charter School  
Board of Trustees Meeting - Minutes  
January 10, 2018

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Rosenberger at 12:00 pm.

**Roll Call**

The roll call was taken and a quorum was found present.

Trustees Present: Geoffrey Rosenberger  
James Ryan  
Rebecca Sumner  
Jean Howard  
Ron Zarella  
Josh Phillips  
James Barger

Trustees Absent: James Gleason

Also Present:

Brett Peiser	Chief Executive Officer, Uncommon Schools
Paul Powell	Associate Superintendent, Uncommon Schools Rochester
John Claypool	Associate Chief Operating Officer, Uncommon Schools Rochester
Anna Hall	Chief Operating Officer, Uncommon Schools Rochester, Troy, and Boston
Christy Hendler	Director of Strategic Initiatives, Uncommon Schools Rochester
Eric O'Connor	Regional Director of Special Projects, Uncommon Schools Rochester
Shane Dunn	Director of Advancement Strategy and Regional Development, Uncommon Schools (via videoconference)

**Public Comment**

No public comments were made.

## **Approval of Minutes**

The following motion was made to approve the minutes from the November 15, 2017 and December 12, 2017 board meetings.

Motion: Ron Zarella

Second: Rebecca Sumner

Vote: Approved unanimously

## **High School Update**

Anna Hall updated the Board on the status of Rochester Prep High School. Jonathan Myler, Director of Operations of Rochester Prep Middle School – West Campus, has been assisting the High School. Megan Maples, an Operations Fellow, has been running RPWCMS in his stead.

Paul Powell provided insight regarding the staff meeting on 1/9/18. The meeting was very positive, with one highlight being announcements of the early college acceptances of some Rochester Prep seniors.

There was a small discussion regarding the High School.

## **College Access & Success Update**

Paul Powell provided an update on the College Access & Success (CAS) work at Rochester Prep. The CAS team, Afua Boahene and Taylor Cook, are supporting the growing number of upper classmen. College readiness courses are built in students' schedules and are supported by RIT tutors through our partnership. He noted additional CAS programming items and family engagement efforts for the Board's awareness. Mr. Powell was happy to update the Board that more than 30% of students in the senior class have already been accepted to a 4 year college or university. One student highlighted, Keaton Hall, received the QuestBridge scholarship, valued at over \$290,000.

Brett Peiser and Paul Powell discussed the hiring of an SAT tutor to advise Uncommon Schools on its SAT practice content and approach.

Paul concluded the update with the calendar of upcoming events including Senior Decision Day on May 18<sup>th</sup>, graduation on June 9<sup>th</sup>, and End of Year Awards Presentation on June 15<sup>th</sup>.

## **Operations Update**

Anna Hall updated the Board on all operations matters. First, a financial update included the noting all of the costs associated with the High School move and a Q2 preview, as a full update will become available in the next few weeks and will be shared with the Finance Committee on February 7<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Hall also mentioned future building options and desired features for the high school.

## **GoodSchoolsRoc Update**

Christy Hendler provided an update to the Board on GoodSchoolsRoc, Rochester's online charter school application. The website went live on December 15<sup>th</sup> and all charter organizations except Genesee Community Charter School are participating. One exciting piece that Ms. Hendler noted is that this application will provide data including unique applicants across the city to responsibly manage the charter school sector in the City. The Board was shown images of the website and there was a brief discussion around the content.

Christy Hendler also detailed several of Rochester Prep's student recruitment efforts that will work in conjunction with the GoodSchoolsRoc marketing efforts.

## **Uncommon Schools Update**

Brett Peiser presented the Board with a broad update of Uncommon Schools. He highlighted the Achieve, Expand, Impact goals and the organization's status on reaching those goals. Within Achieve, Brett shared short and long term goals of test performance and college graduation and how Uncommon stands with achieving those goals. He then zoomed in to Rochester Prep's performance, with all of his updates centered on the goal of closing the economic achievement gap. Mr. Peiser also provided a quick update on expansion and impact plans, noting planned growth and sharing of resources.

## **Board Development**

Geoff Rosenberger launched a discussion with the Board regarding the consideration of bringing on Ebony Miller as a new Rochester Prep Board Member. Geoff Rosenberger and Jean Howard met with Ms. Miller to discuss the opportunity and both are very excited to recommend that she join the Board. Rebecca Sumner and Jim Barger both mentioned having met Ebony and confirmed that she would be a great addition to the Board.

There was a motion to elect Ebony Miller to the Board of Trustees of Rochester Prep.

Motion: Geoffrey Rosenberger

Second: Rebecca Sumner

Vote: Approved unanimously

Christy Hendler and Anna Hall will reach out to Ebony to get her up to speed on Board items.

Geoff went on to note that the Board should continue searching for additional Board Members. The Board discussed other candidates that they may consider in the future. Jim Costanza was discussed as a possible candidate.

There was a motion to elect Jim Costanza to the Board of Trustees of Rochester Prep.

Motion: Jim Ryan  
Second: Rebecca Sumner  
Vote: Approved unanimously

Jim Barger had to leave the meeting at 1:45pm.

Geoff shared that there is a written statement submitted by a parent of a Rochester Prep student to the Board. The Board discussed the statement.

Rebecca Sumner and Jim Ryan had to leave the meeting at 1:55pm.

### **Meeting adjourned**

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Geoffrey Rosenberger  
Second: Jean Howard  
Vote: Approved unanimously (the remaining members of the Board)

Time: 2:00 pm