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

**Date of Meeting:** January 20, 2024

**Location:** Alvarez and Marsal Conference Room, 33rd Floor

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

**Staff Present:** Paul Castro, Superintendent, Kap McWhorter, Principal   
Terrie Roberts, Business Operations Manager

**Other:** Dianne Johnson, Board Liaison

**Attending Virtually:** Jackie Hernandez, Charter School Success

Natalie Kuhnz; Auditor for Randy Walker and Company

**Call to Order and Introductions**

The meeting began January 20, 2023, at 9:14 a.m. and Kathy Welch welcomed Board members and staff. The meeting began with a quorum.

**Consent Agenda**

Approval of Minutes of the December 12, 2023 BoardMeetings

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

**Superintendent’s Report**

Jackie Hernandez is announced as the new lead finance person for A+UP from CSS. Rick Reyes moved to another job at a different company. Jackie is co-owner of CSS.

**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 9:18 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 10:11 a.m.

**Action as Needed from Executive Session:**

Stephen Amante moves to increase Kap McWhorter’s pay to $105,000 beginning January 1, 2024, and a one-time bonus of $1,500. Michael McDonough seconds and the vote passed unanimously.

Stephen Amante moved allow Terrie Roberts to return to full time at $65,000 annually. Tom Elsenbrook seconded the motion, and the vote passed unanimously.

Stephen Amante moved for a one-time Guardian Program bonus of $3,000 for Paul Castro, and $4,500 for Kap McWhorter. Michael McDonough seconded the motion, and the vote passed unanimously.

Stephen Amante moved to allow A+UP to open a FDIC interest baring account to invest in money market funds. Michael McDonough seconded, and the vote passed unanimously.

**Annual Audit Report**

Natalie Kuhn with Randy Walker and Company and Jackie Hernandez with CSS discuss the auditor’s report for the 2022-2023 school and financial year. Randy Walker and Company have no findings, no material uncorrected, and no improvement needed leading to a clean opinion. The financial audit will be revised with current numbers and resent to A+UP and their board members upon completion.

Tom Elsenbrook moved to accept the audit subject to requested changes by Stephen Amante with Natalie Kuhn and Jackie Hernandez. Jess Arnold seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimously passed.

**Superintendent’s Report Continued**

TEA’s commissioner Mike Mcgrath approved the high school request 1-1/2 years after submission.

The administration is currently working on recruitment, budgeting for 120-150 students in all. Paul Castro is working with Houston Community College on pathways for the students to be successful in so most will graduate with either an associate degree (dual credit) or career and technical pathway (business certificate) allowing them to work any office type job post high school.

**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 12:19 p.m.