

**Urban Prep Board of Directors Minutes
from the Meeting Held at Urban Prep Englewood Campus (6201 S. Stewart) on
July 22, 2025 at 4:30 pm.**

I. Call to Order	The meeting was called to order at 4:38 pm.
II. Roll Call ¹	A quorum was present with the following attendees: Ben Blakeley (B), James Montgomery (B), Victor Henderson (B); Pamela Johnson (B), Tre Childress (B), Dennis Lacewell (S), Troy Boyd (S)
III. Public Comment	No public comment
IV. Old Business	<p>Approval of Board Minutes</p> <p>I. Approval of April 22, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes.</p> <p>II. Motion: A motion to approve the April 22, 2025 minutes was made by James Montgomery. Seconded: The motion was seconded by Pamela Johnson. Vote: Motion passed unanimously, 5-0-0.</p>
V. New Business	<p>I. Chief Academic Officer Report</p> <p>1. ISBE Summative Designations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Both campuses received “Commendable” ratings on their 2023 Illinois Report Cards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Urban Prep Englewood – <i>Commendable</i> ○ Urban Prep Bronzeville – <i>Commendable</i> <p>2. Academic Performance and Credit Attainment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Comparative data (June 2022–June 2025) showed sustained gains in attendance, graduation, and credit attainment, particularly among freshmen and seniors. <p>3. The Activity and Enrichment Arc</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Designed to enhance student leadership, social development, and experiential learning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Activity Arc: Requires participation in at least two school-sponsored activities yearly. ○ Enrichment Arc: Offers college visits, workplace experiences, and field-based learning.

- Participation Highlights:

- Englewood – 79 enrolled, 41.7% participation
- Bronzeville – 141 enrolled, 51.8% participation
- Activities include Student Government, Sports, Drumming, Chess, Track, Boxing, Mentoring, and Coding Clubs.

4. Community Partnerships

- Active collaborations with over 17 partner organizations, including:
 - *Mikva Challenge, Thrive Chicago, Urban Alliance, Chicago Urban League, After School Matters, University of Chicago, LSU, BAM Mentoring, and Little Black Pearl (Jordan Wings Program).*
- Focus on expanding partnerships in mental health, athletics, mentoring, and dual enrollment.

5. College Connections and Post-Secondary Pathways

- 82 students participated in college trips to Chicago State, Notre Dame, LSU, NIU, and Dillard University.
- 16th Consecutive Year of 100% College Acceptance – 53 seniors accepted to over 200 colleges with nearly \$12 million in scholarships.
- Scholarships awarded include:
 - *Marquette Bank Scholarship – \$2,500 (Englewood)*
 - *Jordan Wings Full Scholarship (Bronzeville)*
 - *Groove Phi Groove & Cochran Firm Scholarships – \$1,000 each*
 - *Gates Millennium Scholarship – Full Ph.D. funding (Bronzeville)*
 - *Chicago State RISE Academy Tuition Scholarships*

6. Charter Renewal and Strategic Outlook

- Both Urban Prep campuses secured multi-year renewals through June 30, 2027.

- Planning initiated for the 20th Anniversary Campaign and exploring expansion opportunities in Baton Rouge (LA), Clark County (NV), and New Hanover County (NC).

II. Chief Operating Officer Report

1. Fundraising

- Total Raised to Date (FY25): \$164,155.80
- Board member engagement remains a key focus through “Give, Get, Advocate” strategy:
 - *Give* – personal contributions (special acknowledgment to Board Member Montgomery)
 - *Get* – identifying potential donors and supporters
 - *Advocate* – amplifying Urban Prep’s mission and success stories in the community

2. Events

- Urban Prep’s 16th Commencement Exercises were held Friday, June 6th, at the Harold Washington Cultural Center, with Mayor Brandon Johnson delivering the keynote address.

3. Student Recruitment

- GoCPS Results:
 - 523 8th graders ranked an Urban Prep campus
 - 95 ranked UP as their 1st or 2nd choice
 - 38 matched with Englewood; 33 with Bronzeville
 - 48 students have accepted seats across the network
- Alumni Gathering: Class of 2025 diploma pick-up and college send-off scheduled for early August.

4. Legal Affairs

- WBEZ Settlement:
The matter was settled for \$5,750, payable in five monthly installments of \$1,150 (June–October 2025).

	<p>5. Finance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Financial Challenges: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CPS underfunded Urban Prep by approximately \$300,000 in special education costs. ○ An outstanding \$250,000 donation and \$600,000+ federal tax credit remain pending. ● Financial Successes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ensured full staff payroll since May 30. ○ Successfully appealed CPS special education funding to recover full allocation. ○ Submitted Remediation Questionnaire, Budget Template, and Corrective Action Plan in response to CPS “Does Not Meet Standards” designation on two or more KPIs.
VI. Adjournment	A motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:14 p.m. was made by Pamela Johnson, seconded by Ben Blakeley. Unanimously approved.

¹ B=Board Member; S=Staff Member; O=Other