



Meeting Minutes of the Denver Language School Board of Directors

Conference Call

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Board Members in Attendance:

Dan Baack

Kristy Fantz

Camilla Modesitt

Beverly Haddon

Kenneth Ho

Ryan Hunter

Janine Erickson

Administrator in Attendance:

Kathy Benzel, Principal

Call to Order:

Board Chair Dan Baack called the meeting to order at 2:08pm.

There was concern about the weather for tonight's Town Hall meeting with the community and the possibility of rescheduling but group decided to move forward and meet tonight.

Dan is working on a FAQ for everyone and a power point to share with the community at the Town Hall mtg. tonight.

Bev feels we need to impress to the community how hard we are working on this.

The main reason for today's board conference call is for board cohesion on long term plans. Dan would like to see everyone get on the same page. He stated that he hopes all the board agrees to out long term goal.

Bev stated that that goal is staying at Whiteman. She believes it is doable. She is feeling we are getting more support than she thought we had from strategic partnerships. She feels it's going to take a long while to work with them.

Bev and Dan spoke with Troy, head of the Mayfair RHO. He was very insistent that we answer all the questions the neighbors might have. We cannot answer "I don't know".

Bev thinks it would take too long to get where we need to be to get things moving on staying at Whiteman now...perhaps March is a more likely possibility.

Bev also noted Kristy and Camilla's meetings with DPS. She met with Brian (last name???) He said, "We(DPS)all wish you had been able to have that offer on that "other" school. We were rooting for you to go to that "other" school. (Sorry, I don't know which "other" school he is referring to" DPS really likes DLS. They do not move quickly and are under a lot of pressure. They do not want to make anything public without going to the neighborhood. We need Calvary for at least one year to put the package together for Whiteman.

Bev says we haven't really done anything to "rev up the development machine". We need to give tours to donors and timing of this is essential. Potential donors do not like giving money to a public entity where the beneficiary, DLS, will not be the owner. It's a tougher sell. Bev has had experience with this and understands how they might or might not support DLS because the ownership would not be DLS.

Dan added that after talking to many of us, he believes most agree that our long-term goal to pursue is to have K-8 in one location at Whiteman. Kristy asked about who will be putting together this plan/timeline. Bev is willing to pursue this. She thinks we need to spend some money to an individual who is paid by DLS who will work with DLS and be paid to be in this Development position. We all want Kathy to be able to concentrate on the kids and their education in the classroom. Leaders need to give input into the transition details.

Kathy feels it would make sense to divide up the work and have that be there for additional support.

Bev reported on the move to McCaulliff. She noted that Cindy Eastman had the role of development and operations transfer person. Bev thinks she could meet with the board and share how they did it (pretty much did it on their own). Ryan thinks Nancy MacDonnell would be great at this.

Kenneth thinks that the objective has always been how we can solve our facilities solution...both long term and short term. If Calvary Temple can satisfy our immediate needs ...we have done a good job of outlining how we are doing this, though "we are not willing to put all our eggs in one basket without a backup plan".

Dan asked for input on the long -term plan.

Kristy thinks there is some urgency bringing this process forward yet she is concerned that we don't have long term plan as we cannot talk about it yet. Once we can talk to our parents about it we can be more transparent and would have less attrition.

Dan expressed that the main limiting factor is the Mayfair community. We cannot tell the entire community until we have the plan.

Bev agrees to push for a plan as soon as possible. Bev wants to look at what the components of that study might entail. She feels we need to push DPS as strongly yet gently as possible to build 2 floors at Whiteman.

Kristy doesn't think there is an existing design. We could potentially, if it makes sense to satisfy Mayfair, we could go to **????** .to get some kind of design to satisfy the community... a schematic plan. Becky Williams, facilities contract person and Liz from DPS would be the people to work with.

Bev noted that we need to make sure DPS agrees we could do it.

Kenneth said we haven't done enough analysis to see what can and can't be done. We don't want to take the foot off the gas of exploring Whiteman. We cannot get certainty of K-8 at Whiteman and he feels that when it comes down to it, it doesn't seem like the people who don't see the long term plan are opposed to CT plan. We need to pursue CT for a range of reasons. We need this backup plan. We need to move ahead soon and know how many classrooms we need and are going to have next year. We are exploring a number of long-term options but are going to CT in the time being to have a stable environment.

Dan has framed this in the power point that will be presented at the Town Hall meeting. We need to make the transition as effective as possible.

Dan suggests that we not be specific about a Whiteman add on during the Town Hall meeting. We will tell them we are pursuing some long-term options.

We do have a contract to sign from Pastor Hood. We can have an executive session to talk about the build out next week.

Meeting adjourned at 2:41 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Janine Erickson, DLS Board of Directors Secretary