



DENVER LANGUAGE SCHOOL
MEETING OF THE DENVER LANGUAGE SCHOOL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Date:

Location:

Time: 6:00pm to 8:30pm

Mission Statement – Achieve academic excellence and intercultural competence through language immersion education

Minutes of the Meeting – January 17, 2017

Board In Attendance:

Lisa Peloso
Rebecca Rogers
Kate Blanas
Carter Davidson
Josh Lin
Randy Jeffrey
Matt Wagner
Barbara Medina

Also in Attendance:

Kathy Benzel, Principal
Chelsea Monahan

Absent: Kenneth Ho, Doug Alenowitz, Corelle Spettigue,

Meeting called to order at 6:13

No Public Comments

PTA update: (Christy Wilson)

Jan 27, Chinese New Year, online tickets, and checked at the door, food trucks as well as pizza being sold in cafeteria. PTA loaned money for costumes, no professional entertainment this year which saves money and time

Fiesta Hispanica: February 24th

Teacher Appreciation Week Feb 6-10 with massages and coffee cart

Book Fair in March, big fund-raiser, and Skate City on March 2nd

The China Trip is on! PTA will help fun-raise for this. Several ideas for this.

Art Show on April 21st

Suggestion made about publicizing China Trip, via the website, or other ideas

Financial Update:

Not much different than last month, we are at 50% of our revenues for the year, expenses in line with expectations. All will change once we get an update from DPS regarding Mill Levy. She should know more in the next week or so. Then we will need to go back and revisit budget.

Governance:

Bylaws are still not ripe: they are being looked at by Becky Zachmeier who has sent them on to the DPS legal team. Once they return the bylaws to Becky, she will send them to us, and then we should be good to go, and approve the new bylaws. Once this happens, we can create formal updated policies based on the new bylaws. We want to move into the position of creating policies instead of enforcing them. We will need to sift through and weed out some of the old policies.

Bond and Facilities

Again, we are waiting to hear about how much DLS will get. A formula will be used to help with a more equitable distribution amongst charter schools from what remains from the 2012 bond. Other charter schools have a different and perhaps bigger challenge in hiring than DLS. Ribbon cutting ceremony at DLS West for the new elevator, January 22nd late morning. It is working!

Principal's Update

- Plans going well for Chinese New Year and Fiesta Hispanica
- Transportation Update: (Chelsea Monahan) Many successes including maintaining price, increasing students, all parents have paid, carpooling website being used. However, prices are going up significantly next year for a variety of reasons. There are many possible ways to address this price increase. Admin will work to get information from and give information to parents regarding this change. Finance and Facilities committees will look into the numbers and then report to board. Other factors will impact future numbers.
- Parent mini-survey has provided good information regarding academic progress
- Multiple staff surveys have been administered, measuring climate, professional development, and future needs, positive work environment attitudes
- Communication has received many more positive responses
- Schoology has been used a lot more internally which has reduced email and inbox fatigue, still progress to make
- Charter Renewal Success, renewed for three years
- Instructional Leadership: Kathy has spent time with program leaders to plan and work on their roles
- Deans being mentored and each have a building
- PBS and Playworks working , office visits reduced; bullying a parental concern and is being addressed. School psychologist working on this as well. "How can we teach kids to get along with other kids?" is a universal issue. A parent night on this scheduled for March.
- Data dive on 2 inservice days, it was useful and helpful for teachers
- Kathy is working with DPS to get Chinese data into our SPF data
- School Choice: last year, parents were contacted to find intentions. This year, parents to be contacted again

Development:

Lots of school tours and new technology coming to DLS
SEO for the website being worked on

Strategic Plan:

Smart Goals for the 4 strategic goals, discussed, how to develop and by when.
Strategic Goal #4 hammered out

Minutes from 12/20 approved: Lisa moved, Barbara seconded, motion passed

Meeting adjourned at 8:36

Motion made by Kate Blanas_____

Seconded by Lisa seconded_____

Motion approved