

**DENVER LANGUAGE SCHOOL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 20, 2016**

In Attendance:

Board Members Carter Davidson, Kate Blanas, Rebecca Rogers, Lisa Peloso, Matt Wagner, Josh Lin, Randy Jeffrey, Barbara Medina, Corelle Spettigue

Non Board Members Kathy Benzel (Principal), Eva Dobles (Spanish Program), Gwen Qin (Chinese Program), Kendra Lofland (English Program), Camilla Modesitt (Development Director)

Absent Board Members Kenneth Ho, Doug Elenowitz

Meeting Called to Order: 6:00 p.m.

Public Comments: None.

Minutes: The December 6, 2016 Board Meeting Minutes were not approved at this time. Awaiting finalizing of minutes and distribution.

PTA UPDATES

Staff Gifts

Staff/teacher gifts were distributed on Friday, December 16, 2016. A total of 97 Fitbits were given to the 97 full time staff, including two outgoing faculty (Sara Heim-Smit and Lexy McDowell).

To date, the staff gift fund has collected \$16,473.00. Of that total, approximately \$8,500.00 was used toward the purchase of the Fitbits.

Gift Drive

DLS PTA gift drive fund provided 30 DLS families with gifts this holiday season. That is an increase over 2015 when 22 families were included.

Colorado Gives Day

Colorado Gives Day received \$31,970 from 107 donors on that single day. We are expecting \$945.00 from the One Million Incentive Fund. For all direct giving donations, DLS is currently at \$50,350.00 which puts the budget on track for the year.

BOARD UPDATES

Financial Update – Rebecca

Mill-Levy – no final numbers, but we estimate DLS will receive somewhere between \$200-400K more for this year alone. So, we will be adjusting our budget substantially to account for the ongoing increase every year. More information to come on this. Currently, the surplus is sitting at about \$1400.

Facilities Update – Kathy Benzel

West Campus – still working on security issues related to elevator. The elevator is functioning, but not in use yet. Over the break, DLS will be doing some new carpeting and improved lighting in the hallways.

Board Recruitment Update

None.

Governance Committee Update

Board Bylaws are not currently ripe for approval. The Bylaws were sent to Becky Zachmeier—with the portfolio management team at DPS. DPS will be reviewing our draft Bylaws and sending them back to DLS upon a completed review with any suggested and/or required changes. Once we receive them back, we will do a final reading.

School Accountability Committee (SAC) Update - Kate

No update. The SAC will meet again in January.

Principal's Update - Kathy

Program Directors Summaries:

English - Kendra

- DLS has brought on two new hires. One great new teacher from UNC-- Nicole St Clair--with great energy. The other hire is for Ricardo's position for ELD--Renee Sullis. She is also an incredible hire with a wealth of experience.
- iStation—DLS has implemented this new assessment tool and it has been phenomenal. The program assesses the students every time they log in. The school is able to review new data every month and use that information to determine what part of the program the student needs to be in and what skills to work on. This gives the students the opportunity during independent time to work on iStation. Important note: students cannot take tests at home, but can do practice work at home.
- Coaching Team Plan—Each team member has strengths in areas, and so to maximize those skills, DLS will be having team members observe each other and provide feedback in order to learn new skills.

Chinese – Gwen

- iChinese – similar to iStation. The Chinese Program is very excited about this new tool. Teachers are trained and have started to test their students. Students are tested with listening and speaking—all computerized. This program provides the teacher with immediate feedback by student and per level, so that the teacher can tailor methods/approach accordingly. This is the first time the Chinese program has something concrete and objective by which to assess their students. This is a big breakthrough to have this diagnostic tool.

Spanish – Eva

- iStation is testing kids in Spanish, as native speakers, not as immersion program speakers. So, the percentage results are as compared to native speakers across the nation.
- DLS has received 90 Chrome Books – should be a 1 to 1 computer ratio for each student in middle school. We will reallocate computers around the rest of the school to have at least 6 laptop computers in each classroom. Plus, thanks to donations, we have 45 other computers for the computer lab, thus freeing up laptops for classroom use. Should be starting these new computer assignments starting in January.
- Reviewed SOPA/ELLOPA Scores – Student Oral Proficiency Assessment (SOPA) / Early Language Listening and Oral Proficiency Assessment (ELLOPA).

Kathy highlights Development/ Personnel

- Personnel Reorganization after Sarah's departure has occurred. Ricardo (was ESL) is now Dean at DLS East to help with behavior/student support. Jessica has moved to DLS West to a more Dean-in-training role, starting an administrative program. Doug is now directly supporting both Jessica and Ricardo on the behavior side.
- Development--Camilla reports that between 250 individuals have toured DLS. This number is expected to increase to as many as 300. Fishbowls for middle schools have been well attended. Recruitment effort have been healthy/robust. DLS has attended all recruitment fairs. DLS ran an ad in the park hill newspaper. Someone from Governor's office participated in a tour, Luella Chavez-DeAngelo (used to be at Western Union, now with CU Boulder South Campus) and asked us to host a breakfast in the spring in order to share information about DLS with her contacts.
- Educational technology—DLS has formed two partnerships with PC's for Learning and PC's for People. We expect that by the end of the year we should be able to handle our technology needs.
- Still lots of work with 8th grade to plan field trips and college trips.
- Found homes for all student teachers (7 total).
- Working with 8th graders to put forward math teams together to understand the math levels for purposes of prepping for high school math placements.
- Math testing results – DLS out performs all the other charter/district schools, even despite the fact that they take the tests in English, despite learning the math in their target languages. This reinforces that the immersion model is providing benefits in Math. The abstract thinking in particular.
- Trip to China is a go. 16 students, 6-8 grade will be travelling to four cities for almost two weeks.

Strategic Plan – Carter

Robust discussion regarding scope and purpose of strategic plan. The Board re-established larger goals, strategies, and activities around the following:

- (1) Supporting Faculty and Staff to be a High Performing K-8
- (2) Financial Stability
- (3) Maintain board operational health
- (4) Positive and Diverse School Culture – Discussed Measures

Randy moves to adjourn, Lisa seconds.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:50 p.m.

Corelle Spettigue 1/10/2017 8:24 AM

Comment [1]: Are these right?