



DENVER LANGUAGE SCHOOL

MEETING OF THE DENVER LANGUAGE SCHOOL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Date: 1/4/2016

Location: DLS East

Time: 5:00pm to 7:30pm

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

Minutes of the Meeting

Board In Attendance:

Dan Baack
Carter Davidson
Beverly Haddon (via phone)
Kristy Fantz
Josh Lin
Kenneth Ho

Also in Attendance:

Kathy Benzel, Principal

Not in Attendance:

Kate Blanas
Janine Erickson

Dan called meeting to order at 5:22pm

Board is supposed to be driven by a Strategic Plan.

Board members have been assigned to certain areas – goal is to have 4 and we need to build out these goals.

Goal #1: To be one of the best academically performing elementary and middle school programs in Colorado.

- UIP – Unified Improvement Plan – is part of the program – it's been around writing goals, ensuring that we are paying attention to that component. Continue to look at different ways to help students to become better writers.
- It's time for us to look at the curriculum – last year purchased an English curriculum.
- Mimi Met – curriculum analysis – will come at end of January and we need to decide what else we want her to look at while she's here. Kathy would like her to review the Chinese curriculum and give feedback.
- Kenneth proposed a review of why there is a performance difference between Spanish and

Chinese. Is the curriculum supporting the excellence we are aiming for in Chinese?

- Kathy feels that adding the Better Immersion program is addressing this but agrees Mimi should review.
- Our PARCC assessment shows we are achieving compared to other charter schools.
- Rolling out the ACTFL Assessment of Performance toward Proficiency in Languages (AAPPL) in the future.
- Do we feel that our community needs to know how we are trying to become one of the best schools?

Goal #2: To increase operational excellence at DLS.

- Pause before we add more board members.

Goal #3: Provide sufficient facilities to educate ECE through 8th grade students

Priorities:

1. Bond ask: extra \$ to build out Whiteman for K-5

To Do: get a meeting with Liz and Jennifer – Kathy, Kristy, Carter and Doug

Kristy will arrange a meeting with Liz & Jennifer

1. Application for a High-Quality Middle School where you are guaranteed a spot (probably in NE quadrant) - but we would have to apply via Dual Track model – if we take 6,7,8th graders
2. Private Company – approach in Spring after hearing back from DPS

Dan moved to submit Bond to make Whiteman a strong K-5 and submitting application for High Quality Middle School. Bev seconded.

All present favored.

Kristy and Carter will serve as Co-Chairs for the bond application and application for high-quality middle school.

Do we want to apply for a 2nd Charter? Let's review the schedule and make sure we are aware of the deadline.

Goal #4: Increase FRL Enrollment to 40% and increase diversity of existing community.

- We have not done a great job with increasing this number.
- We need better numbers in order make decisions. Kathy will hunt down
- Let's revisit to discuss different strategies.

Carter made the motion at 7:01pm to adjourn the meeting. Bev seconded. All present favored.