



DENVER LANGUAGE SCHOOL

MEETING OF THE DENVER LANGUAGE SCHOOL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Date: February 16, 2016

Location: Stapleton Foundation

7350 E. 29th Ave., Suite 200

Time: 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

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

Minutes of the Meeting

Board In Attendance:

Dan Baack
Kate Blanas
Carter Davidson
Janine Erickson
Kristy Fantz
Beverly Haddon
Kenneth Ho
Josh Lin
Lisa Peloso
Matt Wagner

Also in Attendance:

Kathy Benzel, Principal
Camilla Modesitt, Director of Development

6:04pm Call to Order

Move to Executive Session to discuss personnel matters

**Executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters §24-6-402 (4)(f), C.R.S.*

6:40pm Janine moves to go out of Executive Session and Lisa seconds

6:41pm Dan moved to approve Feb 4th meeting notes and Lisa seconded

6:42pm Lisa moves to approve Feb 4th edited meeting notes and Bev seconded

Janine updates on new board member bios and went through a parent's email asking for more transparent communication from the board.

Dan says we have 105 responses from the parent and transparent communication is a concern

Should we send out a monthly board report based on meeting notes? Janine and Lisa will discuss with Matt to see if he can handle the report out to the parents

Board Update: Janine

- Discussed the potential of a new board member, Athena Baca-Chieza.
- We are still looking for a new board member with financial experience. We have a rubric of the types of board members we are looking to add to the board.
- Need to better define length of term for the board.
- Lisa said it would make people feel more comfortable if they knew how board members were selected and the criteria that had to be met.
- Kristy made a motion to appoint Kate and Carter for a second 6-month term. Janine seconded, all in favor approved.
- Bev recommended that Janine put together a doc outlining when people started and when their terms were up.
- Janine says we should have board training for all new members. Bring in Nora Flood to train all new members.
- Bev and Kristy will leave the board in May 2016. Kenneth and Dan will be moving off the board in June 2016.
- Kate, Janine and Lisa will be helping with bringing on new board members.

Financial Update

Kenneth and Lori

- significant loss which was expected based on 2 campuses
- Lori says there is no concern from DPS based on us being in a "growth stage"
- Denver's "at risk" population has dropped significantly due to commercial building downtown and families moving out of the city
- DPS is being extremely conservative based on the aforementioned situation – DPS has us at 677 total enrollment
- 728 students is what Lori is projecting still looking at a \$100k surplus
- projecting 95 new Kindergartners
- Middle School 6 -7 grades = 42 students – right now
- current 5th grade = 99 students
- Price will increase for employees (30% increase in plans) we will need to revisit the benefits structure

Development Update

- Camilla and Bev provided a draft of their working plan for review
- Camilla has submitted an LOI to (govt. entity for getting 1 Million Chinese speakers by 2020
- Robert Daly will be touring at end of month as part of the Kissinger Foundation
- All recapped in her weekly report

Facilities Update

Kenneth

- on-going leak in the ceiling (due to the snow)
- will need to revisit the lease surrounding the cafeteria and using that space

Long Term Facilities

Carter and Kristy

1. Bond Proposal

- DLS submitted our first proposal asking DPS to include us in the bond for funds to apply towards an addition on Whiteman. We heard back from Liz Mendez today who asked a number of questions.

We are taking this as a positive sign that we are being considered for inclusion on the bond. We are working on responding to Liz with the correct numbers ASAP.

- Dan and Kenneth have been speaking with the Mayfair neighborhood President about gaining their support for an addition to Whiteman. The board needs to discuss next steps as far as meeting with the neighborhood and securing their support.

- Carter, Dan and Kathy will meet with Troy ASAP to get his feelings on next steps to host a committee meeting to get their approval. Find out what he RNO schedule is and meet with their board.

- Mike Johnson (School Board member) called Kristy today and asked for more information and he will be meeting with Mayfair Neighborhood. Mike supports DLS' plan. Mike feels strongly that there may be open facilities for Middle School and he is working on a new call for east Denver.

2. Call for High Quality Schools in 2017

- After reviewing the call details and speaking with both Chris DeWitt and Jennifer Holladay, it was determine that DLS does not fit the criteria that DPS is looking for in 2017. They are only looking at the far Northeast (Green Valley Ranch) and not considering near Northeast, which would not be an ideal location for our school.

3. Northstar

- We are still in conversations with this private company about potential space that may come available.

Principal Report

Kathy

- DLS was awarded a grant that GSA put out (Gen Cyber) – \$147k grant for teaching training – we will be the center for the training in the summer – robotics specifically

- Mimi Met came this past week and had very positive things to say about DLS

- Made a plan for her to return in September and reevaluate

- Parent Education night – only 25 parents

SAC Report

Dan

- SOPA/ELLOPA report is positive and Dan will provide it next board member

- Students are acquiring the language

- Eva will provide a presentation on the data (March) we are accumulating from a test score perspective

- Overall our scores are very good

- Parent survey is almost complete – last time we did a survey was Spring 2013

- Broadly speaking the scores are better

- Area of lowest scores is around the board
- Dan will put together a report of the survey and will share that info
- Listening Tour: Spent time on Ryan's request and PTA feels that it is not their issue

PTA Update

- Elizabeth sent an update
- Staff Appreciation went well last week
- Staff lunch for student conferences March 4th
- Park Permit for kickball tournament – May 15th
- Transparency request to the board
- Appreciate Kathy's plan on staff retention – would like more specific dates

Public Comments

Listening Session

Moose Mamet – thanked us for the opportunity to speak. Parents are looking for a feeling of honesty. He has questions about the search process and will continue to wait for answers.

Wendy Green – would like to agree with Moose. Appreciates the opportunity to speak and thinks it's a great change to our process.

8:02pm Janine asks for a motion to adjourn

Lisa moves to adjourn

Bev seconds

All those in favor approved

*Executive sessions are closed to the public when conducted for topics allowed under the law as described in the Special District Association of Colorado (SDA).