



DENVER LANGUAGE SCHOOL

MEETING OF THE DENVER LANGUAGE SCHOOL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Date: April 25, 2017
Location: DLS East,
Time: 6:00pm to 8:30pm

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

In Attendance:

Board Members	Carter Davidson, Rebecca Rogers, Matt Wagner, Lisa Peloso, Josh Lin, Doug Elenowitz, Barbara Medina, Kate Blanas
Absent Board Members	Kenneth Ho, Randy Jeffrey, Corelle Spettigue
Non Board Members	Kathy Benzel, Lori Deacon

Meeting Called to Order: 6:10 p.m.

Public Comments None.

Minutes Approval of the March 21, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes.

- Kate moves to approve the minutes. Rebecca seconds. Motion passes.

PTA UPDATES

Reviewed written PTA Report (attached as Exhibit A).

Specifically discussed scheduled Q&A with Mike Johnson, DPS Board Member, as potential opportunity to ask relevant questions to the issues facing DLS. Lisa, Matt and Carter will be corresponding to determine best course of action for crafting potential questions.

BOARD UPDATES

Financial Update – Lori Deacon (Contracted CFO for DLS)

Kathy and Lori have spent considerable time reviewing the budget for next year and everything looks good as far as being able to have a balanced budget based on current needs. Technology is a definite strength, thanks a lot to Camilla's work with development. Kathy and team are working on a count as to what school has to determine what is needed. Grant funded summer programs (for example, robotics) have great benefits for school, staff and students in terms of money, training, and equipment.

Unsure about transportation costs at this point. It has increased but it's not clear by how much yet. Fees for parents will be increased proportionately.

Facilities Update – Kathy Benzel and Doug Elenowitz

What constraints will be put on us during the construction and how will we work with this? It's not going to be possible to use classes under construction. Solutions will be found, with careful planning, if we don't use an accelerated schedule. The estimated start date for the construction at DLS East is summer 2018. Relevant people will meet to discuss scheduling for the construction. Approval will go through state instead of city which will be faster. What about other facilities? This is still being worked on.

Bond Update - None.

Board Recruitment Update - None.

School Accountability Committee (SAC) Update - Kate Blanas and Kathy Benzel

Reviewed written SAC Meeting Minutes (attached as Exhibit B).

Governance Committee Update - Josh Lin

Our bylaws have been approved by DPS. Policies will be worked on and attached as needed. DPS asked that we update our conflict of interest policy, as it was the source of problems in 2015. The proposed changes to the conflict of interest policy will be reviewed by DPS. The board will read, discuss, approve and adopt bylaws and policies next meeting (May). Motion to do this made by Matt, Lisa seconded. Motion approved. It was suggested that we create a governance committee in the future. Policies should chart the direction for the school and should not be dependant on personalities on the board. As each committee forms their policies, which should align with the strategic goals, then we can move forward in a dynamic manner, as transferable concept from year to year.

Principal's Update

Reviewed written Principal's Report (attached as Exhibit C).

Language data results were phenomenal, our immersion consultant couldn't even believe the scores. See link in principal's report for charts with this data (to be posted on website). Letter to DPS about the SPF still not answered. Huge waiting list for Spanish Kindergarten. We will receive a chart of the professional development activities paid for by the school this past year.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Lisa moved to go into Executive Session to discuss real estate matters. Motion seconded by Josh.

- Executive Session began at 7:01 p.m.
- Doug moved to adjourn the Executive Session, Matt seconds the Motion.
- Executive Session ended at 8:04 p.m.

Doug moves to adjourn the Board Meeting, Matt seconds.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:05 p.m.

EXHIBIT A

PTA Report

Events

- PTA General meeting on Tuesday, Feb 28 at 5:30pm DLS East, following update/Q&A with Mike Johnson, DPS Board Member
- CNY - amazing show, lots of volunteers helped out and PTA earned \$2,045 in ticket sales.
 - Held debrief meeting to discuss guidelines with budget, costumes, timelines and expectations for teachers and parents for future reference
 - FH - modeled after CNY, three food trucks and selling pizza again that evening

Fundraising

- Spring Scholastic Book Fair: Feb 27-March 3
- Family Movie Night out movie "Wonder" April 10, 5:00pm at Harkins Theater in Northfield

Restaurant Nights

- February 21 and 22, 2017 Lucky Cat
- March 15, 2017 Chipotle on Monaco
- April 23, 2017 Casa Bonita
- Nothing Bundt Cakes April 24-29
- Skate City Thursday, March 2 from 6-8pm

Spring Break Middle School China Trip

- Pizza sales raised \$500 at CNY and will be doing this again at FH
- PNO monthly

Spring art show April 21, 2017 with silent auction for Learning and Leadership Fund

Kickball tournament: Sunday, May 21 James Bible Park

- Try to raise \$1500 per language per grade (ie Mandarin 1st grade)

School Support

- Staff Gift Fund - \$50 given to Mandarin teachers/TA's on CNY, will also give a \$50 gift to each Spanish teacher/TA, English and Specials teachers on FH.
- Teacher Appreciation Week Feb.6-10 - massages/coffee cart/cards and flowers/ teacher lunch with taco bar and dumplings/ happy hour at Kitchen Next Door in Glendale

Green Team is holding classroom recycling competitions from 3/6-3/24 and holding a lunchroom competition 3/20-3/24.

March Madness Read-A-Thon - PTA is working with the English department to schedule reading sessions for parents to come in the week of Feb 27-March 2. Also providing prizes and guest readers/authors to attend.

Resurrecting DLS Dads - looking at holding an informational meeting in March

Continuation to be held on June 1 - a committee was created with a PTA Board member working with Camilla Modesitt and other volunteers.

SAC-Admin- PTA will partner to hold a new parent orientation for the 2017-2018 school year

EXHIBIT B

Principal's Board Report

February 21, 2017

Kathy Benzel, Principal

Standard I: Strategic leadership

- ❖ Charter Contract- determining appropriate waivers for DLS and completing Charter Renewal contract with DPS due February 24th.
- ❖ Tom Boasberg will visit DLS February 24th. We are prepared for a data driven conversation with Admin and classroom visits.

Standard II: Instructional Leadership

- ❖ Assessment Preparation
 - CMAS/ PARCC scheduling, training, staff prep, infrastructure trial
 - AAPPL- Assessment that will replace SOPA/ ELLOPA testing has begun and will wrap up in March
 - iStation data by grade level matches what research shows for immersion learning, 8th grade is a very small subgroup and had fewer hours in target language for their 5th grade (2013-14), and there was no articulated, research based English Curriculum until 2014-15.

Standard III: School cultural and equity leadership

- ❖ Parent Education Night- Tue, March 14, 6:30pm – 8:00pm
 - Topic: Social Emotional Learning at DLS/ Whole Child Supports
 - Will explore topics:
 - Differences between bullying and interpersonal conflict;
 - Ways to support your child;
 - Ways that DLS supports students;
 - Programming at DLS in the area of Social Emotional Growth.

Standard IV: Human Resource Leadership

- ❖ Planning for next year- early hiring
 - We are signed up for 5 Job Fairs and
- ❖ Staff Intent to Return Data: 88.5% intend to return

Standard V: Managerial Leadership

- ❖ Transportation Planning committee meeting- Raise amount per student rider for next school year from current \$120 annual.
- ❖ 5th Grade Intent to Continue at DLS in Middle School
 - Returning: 66 of 98 total students
 - Not Returning: 9/98
 - Undecided: 23/98

- Of the 66 Returning Students:
 - Chinese: 36
 - Spanish: 30

Standard VI: External Development Leadership

- ❖ Development/Outreach/ Advancement Update
 - Focus on High School readiness
 - Articulation for middle school math at DLS to high school math courses
 - School visits with DPS leaders- World Languages, math courses for high school

Contributions To Date:

Daniels Fund -- \$50,000

PC's for People -- \$16,800

GSA -- \$115,853

Crow Canyon -- \$5,000 (Scholarship)

United Way -- \$575 (Teacher Assistance)

TOTAL: \$188,228

Standard VII: Measures of Student Learning

- ❖ Continued collaborative effort with DPS to ensure that our Early literacy scores are being accepted and loaded on the DPS back end data systems.
- ❖ SOPA/ ELLOPA data