



Meeting Minutes of the Board of Directors
Denver Language School

August 24, 2014

11:00am – 5:00pm

Location: University of Denver, Margery Reed Hall, Room 108

Voting board members in attendance:

Dan Baack
Ryan Hunter
Kristy Fantz
Beverly Haddon
Camilla Modesitt
Kenneth Ho
Janine Erickson
Jacob Welp

Administrators in attendance:

Kathy Benzel, Principal

DLS Staff in attendance:

Sara Heim-Smit, Student Development Coordinator and Dean

Call to Order:

Board Chair Dan Baack called the meeting to order in a public session at 11:30 am.

DLS Opening (Kathy Benzel, DLS Principal)

Kathy gave an overview of the past two weeks at DLS including trainings, expectations and shared responsibilities. Kathy's theme for the year is "A New Day at DLS". Staff set goals for the new year to build community and collaboration. Kathy reported on Professional Development: Brain Breaks with Robin Riley, Dig in and Help activity, Culturally Responsive training, Program meetings by language & grade level teams along with administration, Shared Responsibility,

FERPA training, Tech training, Singapore math training, Balanced literacy trainings, Restorative Practices, DPS Safety and Security, Grading assessments, & First week survival guide.

Dan shared the Q & A he had with DLS staff on August 15th.

Kristy expressed a need for a renewal of training in Immersion 101.

Restorative Justice Activity (presented by Sara Heim-Smit)

Sara engaged the board in a Restorative Justice Activity. She will present this at Parent Education Night on August 27 at DLS and she will also share the DLS 3 Principles of Responsible, Respectable, Ready to Learn.

Bonding Exercise (presented by Janine Erickson)

Janine led a brief activity to emphasize the importance of identifying acronyms during all board meetings.

PTA Update: (presented by Lisa Peloso, PTA President)

Lisa reported on goals for PTA this year: Positivity, Trust, and Parent-appropriate involvement. The PTA will use the new website to communicate. Lisa gave the names of PTA officers and committee chairs and their respective responsibilities. PTA will lead 3 “Direct Giving” parties starting with the Kindergarten at the Palladium, a Spring Event and the Bike Rodeo with proceeds going to the Green Team. There will not be a *Dancing with the Stars* event this year. Kathy and Lisa will talk about these events during Parent Education Night on August 27th.

Board Business:

Ryan made a motion to have a board “Meet and Greet” before the October meeting. Kevin seconded the motion. All present favored.

Board reviewed and discussed the 4 logos making suggested changes and eliminating two of the 4 draft concepts. The final 2 will go back to Megan from Zebra Incorporated to revise with the suggested changes.

Beverly made a motion to approve the July board meeting minutes. Camilla seconded. All present favored.

Goals and Strategic Plan Exercise: (led by Dan Baack)

The board prioritized key goals this year and was followed by a discussion of the goals within the strategic plan. The prioritized goals are:

- Continued-Academic Performance & Improvement
- Facility Solution
- School Culture
- Diversity

Strategic Plan Discussion

Goal 1 Continued Academic Performance and Improvement – To be one of the best academically performing elementary and middle school programs in Colorado
There are no changes to this goal
(Board Leaders: Kathy, Dan, and Janine)

Goal 2 To effectively communicate with all stakeholders
Changes: Goal 2.2 eliminated. Manage expectations around communications and increase Board operational efficiency and effectiveness, which Ryan Hunter added.
(Board Leaders: Camilla and Dan)

Goal 3 Facility Solution – Provide sufficient facilities to educate ECE through 8th grade students
There are no changes to this goal
(Board Leaders: Ken and Ryan)

Goal 4 Diversity – Increase FRL Enrollment to 40%
Changes: 4.3 eliminated - Increase percentage of English Language Learners within the DLS student population to 20% by 2017 was deleted
Changed to increasing DLS diversity possibly
(Board Leader: Ryan Hunter)

Goal 5 Increase faculty satisfaction and retention
There are no changes to this goal but moved under goal 2.
(Board Leader: Camilla, Administrative Leader: Kathy)

Facilities Discussion (presented by Kenneth Ho)

Ken led the discussion and directed board to review the Board Facility Summary showing the students, staffing and overall budget for each scenario including a Whiteman K-8 model 90 - person classes and a Whiteman K-8 60 person classes. The board discussed a number of ideas for a possible solution. Ryan and Kathy will meet with Lori to see what solutions we might pursue. Beverly and Ryan will meet with Alyssa Whitehead Bust from DPS. Their reports will be given at the September board meeting.

Ryan made the motion to adjourn. Kenneth seconded. All members present favored. Adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Janine Erickson, DLS Board Secretary