



Meeting Minutes of the Board of Directors
Denver Language School

September 17, 2014

6:00 – 8:00PM

Location: DLS Cafeteria

Voting board members in attendance:

Dan Baack
Ryan Hunter
Kristy Fantz
Kenneth Ho
Janine Erickson
Jacob Welp
Camilla Modesitt (via conference call)

Administrator in attendance: Kathy Benzel, Principal

Call to Order:

Board Chair Dan Baack called the meeting to order in a public session at 6:10 pm.

Dan distributed calendars contributed by DLS art Teacher Robin Breshnehan

Jacob moved to approve the minutes of the August meeting. Second by Ryan. Motion carried.

Kristy moved to approve the Board phone call minutes from August 29th. Camilla seconded the motion. Motion approved.

The board reviewed the audit. Lori Deacon was not able to attend the meeting. Jacob will complete the report. Audit has been finalized and sent to DPS.

DLS financial position indicates that though we are not a large school, we are well organized.

Ryan made a motion to approve the audit and Jacob seconded. Motion carried.

Board discussed the FY15 Analysis detail.
Mill levies are going to be affected.

Contributions and donations are positive, thanks to PTA efforts.

Camilla has spoken with several school Development Directors to get a feel for what they do and how they use this system. We will look into hiring someone at the school who can communicate regularly with parents and staff as the school needs help in this area.

The board discussed Facilities

Questions arose concerning a financial sustainable system.

DLS staffing model was modified this year to decrease the number of teachers.

Board agrees it needs to take a more in depth look at the staffing numbers.

Another area of concern is the supervision model. Suggestions include using TA's for target language instruction and not solely use them for making copies and supervision.

The board will find a formula for how many TA's are needed and reevaluation the term TA.

Board agrees that the facility discussion is the number one priority this year. An additional board meeting was suggested to work on this issue. The board will meet Oct. 4th to continue this discussion.

PTA President Lisa Peloso reported on the impact of the PTA. Board members will attend two PTA functions in September and more in the months to follow to show support for PTA and to thank them for their contributions. Lisa reported that they are purchasing science kits, new projectors and additional laptops for the classrooms and will help fund enrichment training in math, science, and engineering. Additional direct giving fundraisers are being planned.

The School Accountability Committee will meet on Monday, September 22nd. Kathy and Eva will attend as 2 administration representatives. Kathy reported that possibly three teachers would also be on the committee. The Academic Progress Report is complete.

Kristy reviewed the updated logos. The board voted on the final choice which is option 2 (whole world). The marketing committee will work on the tagline and colors. Work on the website will begin soon.

Principal Update:

Among the highlights Kathy shared that DLS will be celebrated by DPS for the (MGP) High Median Growth Percentile for TCAP score. Staff will be trained in RTI support, differentiation, and academic plans for students. DRA testing is almost complete for fall benchmarks, STAR testing is the next assessment window for math and English progress over time. New systems in place for Grading scales, Lesson and Unit planners, and DLS Report Card and Teacher evaluation systems are currently in development. School Culture and Equity Leadership continues to establish a community of professionalism with ongoing communication of expectations for staff. Additional trainings during Friday Professional Development include the Mandatory DPS trainings – Child Abuse and Neglect, Student Support and PBIS, and Science Standards review and planning.

Board Meet and Greet will be October 20th 5:30-6:30 PM

Ryan made the motion to adjourn. Kenneth seconded. All members present favored. Adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Janine Erickson, DLS Board Secretary

