
Downtown Denver Expeditionary School

Board of Directors Meeting

7:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Sept. 16, 2015

Minutes

Establishment of a quorum

Present: Susan, Tara, Roland, Kristina, Brittany, Terry, and Liz on the phone; Scott, Erin and Letia.

Review and approval of the minutes of the August Board meeting

Treasurer's Report (Roland)

Roland reviewed the budget analysis with the board.

Review of the Statement of Net Position: Trying to understand the pension liability – large long-term liability appears on the balance sheet. Other charters face the same issue. Our fund balance is great; we have plenty of cash reserves; this component of the audit is for GASB compliance, and we are waiting to learn more.

Brittney moves to approve the audited statement; Kristina seconds. Approved unanimously.

Officer Nominations (Brittany)

Current-serving board officers; Terry will continue as chair, Kristina will continue as secretary, and Roland will continue as Treasurer. Susan makes motion to approve officers. Tara seconds. Approved unanimously.

Question of vice-chair. DDES charter does not require it. Brittney makes recommendation to recruit a couple new board members and then make that decision.

The goal is to recruit at least two new board members in the next month or two. Looking for ethnic diversity, someone with a financial background, and a former educator.

Middle School Update (Terry)

We are making a formal request for space of DPS. DDES may need to consider either raising some money for upfront capital costs or absorb some annual operating costs.

Playground Update (Dave)

No progress on the nearby space. There is a question of whether we would rent the space and take on the cost of maintaining it.

Scott: In its current state, it is not usable – would require retrofitting for space and safety.

Scott, Erin and Letia discuss space constraints at the school – the need for a playground space, particularly for older kids who need a release. The board is willing to discuss options, and staff can pull together a matrix of possible options and needs.

The Middle School Committee will begin to discuss these facilities and space issues. Brittany, Liz, Susan, Terry, and Dave will be a part of it. Susan makes a motion to recast the Middle School committee to include new people and a subcommittee will meet to discuss facilities. Terry seconds. Approved unanimously.

Strategic Plan Update (Tara)

Tara has been examining the process of strategic planning for the school. She looked at other schools' processes, including Strive Prep, Odyssey, and RMSEL.

We could do an internal process to create our strategic plan, involving interviews with external stakeholders and a lot of time. We could hire an outside contractor; Civic Canopy led the strategic planning process for the Children's Campaign. Costs could range from \$5,000 to \$20,000.

Tara will call Bill Fulton to discuss options for facilitation as a next step.

Executive Director's Report

- Enrollment Update
 - Letia: Not much different on enrollment this year. We have a healthy waitlist (K is 40+ students, for example). We are where we wanted to be for October count. 2% jump in minority population; 15 new African American families.
 - There is a goal to increase services; there is a partnership with Emily Griffith High School, sharing nursing services 3 days per week. Secured a psychologist (3 days per week) and two Naropa interns (2 days per week, under the CU Boulder umbrella).
- "EL" Name
 - Scott: In December 2016, the brand name Expeditionary Learning will cease to exist. It has been around for a little over 20 years. EL pays Outward Bound for the use of the brand. The new name is EL Education. Should not have any impact on DDES.
- Dashboard
 - Erin: Revised workplan, finalized as a staff, led to an adjustment of the student achievement goal. Last year the goal was that 70% of students would meet or exceed growth targets on MAP assessments. It is an extremely ambitious goal, but we were very close to hitting that last year. Kept that goal the same. They took out the goal about individual classrooms (60% in individual classrooms would meet or exceed targets). Added a static

achievement rating – 80% of students are at a grade-level norm on MAP. Energy is focused on a reading-centered goal to track connection between professional development and achievement. The staff does track data in other subjects. Board indicated a desire to set goals for math as well as reading.

- Legal Update (Executive Session Pursuant to CRS 24-6-402(4)(c))
Brittany moves to go into Executive Session. Tara seconds. Unanimously approved.

Old Business

Reminder to the board to sign conflict of interest agreement.

New Business

Discussion to move the January board meeting. We'll move to January 13th. Kristina will send out meeting invitations for all board meetings; also put together board contact information.

Susan: Asks when we should hold a public presentation about the school to prospective donors. Terry suggests doing it in January.

Erin: The school accountability committee needs a community member. 4 meetings per year.

Public Comment Session

Meeting Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Brittany. Seconded by Kristina. Unanimously approved.