

SOAR Charter School Board Meeting
August 8, 2014

Date, Time and Place: August 8, 2014, SOAR 4800 Telluride Street, Building 4, Denver Colorado 80249

Attendance of Board Members: Sue Sava, Rona Wilensky, Dan Smink, Ethan Hemming, Ellin Keene, Rosann Ward, Shelli Brown

Present by phone: none

Absent: William Weintraub

Quorum? Yes

Also in attendance: Marc Waxman, Sonia Sisneros, Brad Fischer, Lacei Bixby

Members of the public in attendance: None

Meeting brought to order - Ellin moved, Rosann seconded 8:51 AM

Agenda

- **8:45 Consent agenda**

- Introductions

- July Minutes

- Financial packet

- Brad requested an addition to the consent agenda – financial policies are part of the consent agenda.

1. The board has approved to increase Gianna's contract to \$45,000. Per our policy, if any single line item is raised by \$15,000 or more, the board needs to vote on it. Sonia will draft a change order for Gianna's new contract, for Ellin's approval.
2. We owe cap const. back because we didn't use it. This has been paid (\$20k).
3. Sue suggested that we should pull language from the conflict of interest policy & put it in the Financial Policies. Brad will do this.

Board vote on Ellin, Rosann & Bill's terms

Per Sonia we should re-vote membership since it was not captured in the minutes.

Motion to vote on terms: Rona moved, Sue seconded. Rosann abstained; all in favor.

PassageWorks Institute (Contract for Rona's work with SOAR this school year) \$4000. Rona isn't directly paid out of the contract. A committee of teachers elected for the program's implementation this year. The teachers will have it first, and then bring it to kids.

Motion to approve – Rona moved, Sue seconded. (Rona rescinded the motion.) Rona abstains.
Motion to approve voting on everything but the board terms – Rosann moved, Shelli seconded.

- **9:00 Staff goals presentation (Dominique, Meghan & Jenny)**
 - Introductions
 - Meghan presented history of staff goals, then the team reviewed the goals.
 - 1st goal – Relationship building
 - 2nd goal – Increase the level of accountability for students & teachers,
 - 3rd goal – Social & emotional learning
 - 4th goal – Language of learning
 - 5th goal – Cultural pedagogy

- **9:15 Board Education: Homework Policy**
 - Marc describes the process behind creating this and briefly talks about how we decided to use Dreambox.

- **9:30 Renewal Process Preparation**
 - Next board meeting will be observed by DPS
 - We will focus on the vision & mission for this year
 - 1. Major changes include consolidation of staff, new format for goals and all staff except for one person is returning.
 - 2. Making a push to get families out to all SAC meetings.

- **9:45 FY14 Data Review**
 - We passed over this due to time.

- **10:00 Policy/Procedure for visitors to Board meetings**
 - Review current policy

- **10:10 Fundraising: Board Role v Staff Role and Goals for the Year**
 - 1. Discussion about “the why”
 - It would go into budget this year, and if approved, roll over to next year.
 - 2. Discussion of SOAR’s “wishlist”.
 - 3. This year’s budgeted revenue vs last year
 - FY15 – Foundations \$0
 - FY14 – Foundations - \$150,000
 - FY14 – Contributions - \$2,600
 - 4. Discussion on fundraising
 - Brainstorming who will be in charge, who has the skillset, etc
 - Rosann’s staff member to generate list of foundations by October
 - Longer conversation to happen around this in January (February deadline)
 - Marc & Sonia to create action plan

- **10:20 HR Exit Surveys**
 - We passed over this due to time.

- **10:30 Strategic Planning Committee Report - Marc, Sue, Rosann and Ellin met 8/5/14**

1. We want to create a strategic process that is grounded in an updated vision
We aspire to create guiding principles that could be meaningful for ourselves
2. Sue summarized proposed timeline from SP meeting from 8/5/14:
Oct/Nov – vision
What are we passionate about? If so, then...
What must we be best at? And so then....
Dec/Jan – essential Qs
Jan/Feb – principles
March/April – mission-metrics
May- unveil principles
June – action planning

- **10:40 Board Recruitment Development**

1. Potential board members – 3 folks on the radar, two are SOAR parents. Marc to give the names to Rona & Shelli.
2. Need to prioritize another board member who could step into the treasurer role

- **10:50 Staff Meeting Prep.**

Make sure everyone introduces themselves

Adjourn into Executive Session 10:58 AM – Shelli moved, Dan seconded