

**SOAR Charter School Board Meeting
December 12, 2014**

Date, Time and Place: December 12, 2014, SOAR 4800 Telluride Street, Building 4,
Denver Colorado 80249

Attendance of Board Members:

Present: William Weintraub, Sue Sava, Rona Wilensky, Ellin Keene, Ethan Hemming, Rosann Ward, Dan Smink, Shelli Brown

Present by phone:

Absent:

Quorum? Yes

Also in attendance: Marc Waxman, Lacei Bixby, Brad Fischer, Gianna Cassetta

Members of the public in attendance:

Meeting brought to order - Bill moved, Rona seconds 8:51 AM

Agenda

8:45 Consent Agenda

- November minutes
- Financials
 - Discussion around PERA
 - We are going to be carrying our own liability – in January PERA will no longer carry liability for us. It’s going to be a large number – something around \$800k. This will not show up on the 990 (public doc) – it will never show that negative. They are going to roll it up to the district at some point. This is part of a B95 law that was passed – a new account standard – if you’re a part of your own pension plan, you have to carry your own liability. This only affects public pension plans.

Shelli moved, Sue seconds 8:52am

8:50 School Updates

- Dashboard

9:00 Board Education

- Erin's 4th grade classroom
 - Observations
 - Students were writing a literary essay in response to a book called What Jamie Saw.
 - Students with single desks (sitting alone) – Marc wants teachers to think about the tension between getting students to fit the school & getting the school to fit the student. Being inside 8hrs a day isn't supporting students. Students have the option to have a standing desk or a desk that is set aside from the rest of the other students.
 - Gianna is having profound effect in the classroom. She will follow up to see how teachers take on the responsibility of what she is doing in the classrooms.
 - What does the conversation look like after the book is finished? Students should be able to reach a higher level of thinking – alone or with individual coaching.
 - Students are able to snack on fresh fruits or vegetables throughout the day.
 - At this time, writing is the most difficult subject. We are pushing the boundaries of what kids are expected, but we are also meeting the teachers & students where they are.
 - Notes
 - Gianna is doing work with & around this. Marc, Ellin & Gianna spent time together to brainstorm PD – she needs to concentrate her work more intensely in fewer classrooms to see bigger change.

9:45 Committee Reports

- Strategic Planning Committee
 - We aspire to create guiding principals
 - We ended with a vision that we felt comfortable with & wanted to bring to the board.
 - Meat of discussion – what are we missing?
 - Are they really prepared to create the world that they want for themselves & others? This is a huge gap.
 - We need to focus on the individual child.
 - The broader view of helping kids & changing the world/their world.. social/emotional learning is a key component.
 - Students have the ability to make change now & we don't full embrace this yet.
- Board Recruitment Committee
 - Claudia Gutierrez is ready to be nominated.
 - Our next priority is a lawyer.
 - Potentially a PR person

Rona nominates Claudia Gutierrez, Bill seconds, all in favor 10:40am

- Finance Committee Updates/Approval Items
 - Dan is resigning in January from treasurer. Ethan will take his place as active treasurer.

Bill moved, Rosann seconds, all in favor 10:45am

- Governance Committee
 - The process for Marc's evaluation needs to be revised. Executive committee is responsible for this.

10:00 Vision

- Conversation around what our vision should be.
 - The board are the owners of our vision statement.
 - We are aiming for something beyond assimilation.
 - The statement should be bold.
 - Strategic planning committee should come back with 3 or 4 different statements on what we discussed today.
 - We are going to do essential questions, guiding principles & mission metrics next.

10:30 Fundraising

- Our last meeting we said we wanted to get more strategic about fundraising. A group of the board, Marc & Sonia are thinking more strategically about fundraising going into next year.

10:45 Parent engagement discussion

- Skipping as this is a big discussion & more time is needed. We need to discuss what this really is. We are trying to make metrics for something we haven't defined.
- We added new UIP goals, and then we made proposed suggestions & revisions.
- Next board meeting we will vote on the new UIP goals & any changes.
- In February we should have all taken Rona's survey.

11:00 Adjourn

- Adjourn into Executive Session

Dan moved, Sue seconds 10:58 AM