

**SOAR Charter School Board Meeting
November 14, 2014**

Date, Time and Place: November 14, 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

Present by phone: Shelli Brown (for the voting & first part of the meeting)

Absent: Rosann Ward, Dan Smink

Quorum? Yes

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

Members of the public in attendance: Claudia Gutierrez and Laurie Godwin

Meeting brought to order - Bill moved, Rona seconds 9:00 AM

Agenda

8:45 Consent Agenda

- October Minutes
 - Delete “adjourn into executive session”
- Financial Packet
 - Skipped November meeting due to folks not being able to make it.
 - DPS requested money back from Oakland that we didn’t spend. We have determined the final amount and cut the check.

Bill moved, Shelli seconds 9:18 AM

- 990 (Our non-profit tax return)

Rona moved, Bill seconds 9:19AM

- Increasing Gianna’s contract by \$30k
 - Ellin & Sonia to revise Gianna’s contract (complete change order)
 - Gianna’s work is based around what is stated in the CDE grant.
 - Gianna’s hourly rate is \$200/hr for the work she is doing in other schools and with other organizations.
 - Thinking about if the board should interview Gianna & teachers separately to see how they feel about Gianna’s work.

Rona moved, Bill seconds 9:32AM

- 9:00 School update
- Teacher empowerment initiative
 - Teachers present every week to the rest of the staff on best practices & tools they use to teach.
 - Revisit OSRI feedback on 191
 - Dashboard
- 9:10 Board Education – the walk-through
- Staff Goals around “engagement and vigor”
 - Board classroom observations
 - Students clearly knew what their job was, the process of doing it & what they were expected to produce.
 - Marc in classrooms helping students – not normal of school leaders.
 - Students were self-confident with strangers. The social/emotional piece was clearly displayed.
 - Some classrooms felt like they were set up for presentation.
 - Some students were struggling with reading & basic math.
 - Engagement & vigor wasn’t consistently observed during walkthroughs.
 - The 5th grade team wants to specialize in their content knowledge of subjects.
 - Reading & writing will be taught separately by a different teacher.
 - Math & reading will become a specialized teaching subject.
- 9:55 Parent Engagement Metrics
- Marc created these as part of the strategic plan
 - SOAR implementation plan - Goal # 8: Significant progress is made towards parent engagement and community building.
 - Schools can’t engage parents alone.
 - We can’t control what happens at home, but we can communicate with parents what they can be doing at home to help their students.
 - We want to get more input from parents about what they want to see around parent engagement.
 - What might parent engagement look like in the future?
 - Engagement over rigor
- 10:00 Strategic Plan Update (UIP)
- The board will calendar the discussion in December for changing the earmarking of the reserves.
 - Gianna will present on social/emotional metrics
 - We got rid of goal 3 because of the number of returning staff. (bench mark #3 core principals)
 - Benchmark 4 – succession plan, we are holding ourselves accountable & going back to the “why”.

- Goal 5 – incorporated now into goal 4. What came out of strategic planning – retention, teacher planning & pipeline is part of goal 4. The staff needs to deeply understand the model. This is why teacher retention is a part of the succession planning.
- Do we need to calendar anything upcoming about succession planning? If so, when? The board discussed the importance of board duty – when something happens, they need to revisit their supervisor duty.

10:10 Vision

- Moved to December agenda.
- Quick update
 - We are re-envisioning our vision here at SOAR.
 - The SPC met & ran through an exercise that Sue developed. They designed their own visioning model.
 - The board will create a visioning statement. Afterwards they will develop essential questions to ask themselves, which will design & guide their work; then they will design mission metrics.

10:45 Continue Fundraising Discussion

- Individual donors and Board role
 - Discussing fundraising action plan
 - If you individually want to solicit any funders for SOAR, contact Sonia or Marc.
 - We should all be soliciting. Right now there isn't any plan to have board members soliciting.
 - There was a brief conversation about having parents solicited – we will not do that. It doesn't support the families we have & who are as an organization.
- Marc will do feedback loops with the board.

11:00 Adjourn

- Adjourn into Executive Session

Bill moved, Ethan seconds 11:02AM