

SOAR Charter School Board Meeting

Date, Time and Place: March 11th, 2016, 4800 Telluride St. BLDG 1, Denver, CO 80249

Attendance of Board Members:

Present: Sue Sava, Shelli Brown, William Weintraub, Rona Wilensky, Laurie Godwin, Claudia Gutierrez, Ellin Keene, Ethan Hemming, Dan Smink

Present by phone: n/a

Absent: Rosann Ward

Staff absent: Sonia Sisneros

Quorum? Yes

Also in attendance: Marc Waxman, Lacey Martinez, Brad Fischer, Kelly Moulton

Members of the public in attendance: Angie Mcphaul and Becky Zachmeier

Meeting brought to order – Shelli moved, Rona seconded 8:47 AM

Agenda:

- 8:45-8:50 Public Comment
 - Introductions – DPS Portfolio Management guest, Angie & Becky and Kelly Moulton with Brad from Multiply
- 8:50-9:00 Consent Agenda
 - Minutes
 - Change to February minutes – change Dan’s name to Bill in the motion to adopt the consent agenda.
 - Some Board members are going to the Mount St. Vincent training. Marc will send information to the board.
 - Monthly dashboard
 - Withdraws & enrollments most have to do with students moving.
 - Monthly financials
 - Acknowledgement for Marc, Brad, Ethan & Dan for managing our budget so closely every month.
 - FPF DPS update
 - DPS used to give us nine to ten measures and they would grade us on each individual piece. Now they’re keeping all of those same measures, but they’re giving us an overall rating.
 - We’re low risk & in the green area for FY15. The one area that we’re not low risk in is our unassigned fund balance.

- Ethan will give an update on the financial visioning at the next board meeting.

Motion to adopt consent agenda – Bill moved, Rona seconded 9:10 AM

- 9:00-9:45 Presentation by Sylvia Bookhart re: Operation Moving Forward
 - Operation Moving Forward represents work done in partnership with A+ Denver to assess, tour, meet with, and collect data on all schools located in Far Northeast Denver by educators and area stakeholders. The summary of findings was published in a report and identified the top three priorities in the area with the hopes of using the information to advocate to the DPS Board and the community about area needs.
 - Sylvia talked about the findings in relation to the Denver 20/20 plan.
 - Example: If there's a 20/20 plan & my child is reading below grade level, how are we going to get my child reading on grade level?
 - There are 5 areas that the Operation Moving Forward identified as priorities:
 - 1.) Authentic customer service
 - 2.) Cultural responsiveness (onboarding and ongoing)
 - 3.) Academic rigor
 - 4.) Wraparound services
 - 5.) Social emotional needs
 - We're looking at the whole child with this approach.
 - There are issues around culture, mental health, etc. that adults in our community aren't completely aware of which brings challenges as a community in terms of being connected.
 - Marc mentions our plan to become a trauma informed school.
 - Sylvia mentions that SOAR is the only school (of about 27 observed) that has a solution. Most schools are talking about the deficits & we're talking about the assets.
 - Discussion around the students who have gone through traumatic experiences, how it affects them, their behavior and how a trauma informed staff can help.
 - Discussion around discipline.
 - Parents are saying that the SEL piece is the biggest issue in schools. They want a balance of the 5 areas that the Denver 20/20 plan looks at.
 - Sue would like to put a continuous priority on this as far as keeping this up to date and making sure we have regular progress check-ins.
- 9:45-10:15 Finance Committee
 - The finance committee notes sum up what happened in the meeting.
 - Today we need to approve FY17 budget.
 - Since the last time we talked, some of the big changes are that we added about \$70,000 to the Trauma Initiative, \$30,000 for the Student Support Coordinator & \$30,000 for an additional part time Interventionist. We haven't locked in the professional development line item for next year.
 - Unless the Board directs Marc differently, he is trying not to make any decisions around the contingency budget, the PD line (that should be booked as flexible money, not necessarily PD) & should we hire more staff members. He would like

to make sure the incoming Head of School's priorities are reflected in the budget, too.

- Discussion around reserves
 - PTO payout
 - In the past we've paid out paid time off for up to 10 days. We are going to do a payout this year because we received more money than we anticipated. It's not currently in the budget for next year. Next February we will discuss PTO payout for next year.

Motion to approve FY17 budget – Ellin moved, Ethan seconded 9:24 AM

- 10:15-10:30 Director's Report
 - Second review of interim data
 - Middle school success of SOAR alumni at DSST
 - We recently discussed the desire to know more about how our alumni are faring in middle school. Among other reasons, we want to ensure we are doing our best to prepare students for their next stage. To that end we reached out to DSST GVR Middle School because 28 students of their current 6th grade class is composed of SOAR alumni. DSST admin sent us detailed academic and behavioral data on the students, and they met with Sonia, Jess, and Meghan to discuss their noticings in more detail. Long story short - SOAR alumni are doing very well! Some more detailed information about SOAR alumni attending DSST GVR Middle School:
 - Overall, they are the most prepared students compared to that of any sending elementary school.
 - As a whole, grades of students are relatively strong compared to peers.
 - As a whole, they are meeting behavioral expectations.
 - As a group they have the lowest rate of "failing" (they have the least number of students in the intervention process).
 - Social/Emotional skills are high relative to peers. They are the best at communicating with adults as well as managing and talking through conflicts.
 - The next step is for SOAR admin to follow up in May to have an info sharing meeting between admin staff about our current 5th graders that will be attending DSST GVR and to determine specific next steps to support the transition of these students.
- 10:30-11:00 Interviews with DPS Staff (only pre-selected board members need attend)
- 11:00-1:45: Executive Session – Head of School interviews

Motion to adjourn – Shelli moved, Dan seconded 10:33 AM