

## SOAR Charter School Board Meeting

Date, Time and Place: September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016, 4800 Telluride St. BLDG 4, Denver, CO 80249

### Attendance of Board Members:

Present: Sue Sava, Rosann Ward, Sarah Glover, Rona Wilensky, Jerry Osei-Tutu, Liane Morrison, William Weintraub

Present by phone: Claudia Gutierrez

Recused: n/a

Absent:

Staff absent: Dan Smink

Quorum? Yes

Also in attendance: Laurie Godwin, Sonia Sisneros, Brad Fischer, Kelly Moulton, Lacey Martinez

Members of the public in attendance: Angela Lyles, Andrea Holloway, Wayne Gilbert

Meeting brought to order – Bill moved, Rosann seconded 8:43 AM

**Going forward, all Board meetings will adjourn at 11:30 AM.**

### **Agenda:**

- 8:45-8:50 Public Comment
  - Members of the public introduce themselves
- 8:50-9:00 Consent Agenda
  - Minutes
    - Lacey will make 2 minor adjustments to the August meeting minutes then post to the website.
  - Monthly dashboard
    - We have had a lot of shifts with students leaving to other schools because they are being called off of waitlists at other schools. To fill those gaps, we have called students on our waitlist.
  - Monthly financials

Motion to approve the consent agenda – Liane moved, Bill seconded 8:57 AM

- 9:00-9:10 Finance Update
  - Approval of revised budget

- Our carry over increased and we have more in reserves than we thought we would.
- We received kindergarten paraprofessional funding from Denver Public Schools.
- We removed the after school enrichment revenue because Kids Adventures is running that for us now.
- We have updated staffing.
- We removed the Stanley Interns.
- We have doubled the math consultant time.
- In reserves, we have restricted funds & unrestricted funds. Contingency is an expense that we show but we haven't specified how we're going to spend it. We move it to reserves & say we're going to spend it this year, but we don't know how we're going to spend it yet. We don't spend reserves without Board approval.
- We have funds balance, which is the pot of money at the end of the day. We have a restricted portion & an unrestricted portion. Surplus plus reserves equals funds balance.

Motion to accept the revised budget as presented – Bill moved, Liane seconded 9:05 AM

- Approval of the Financial Audit
  - The pension looks like we're 4million dollars in the negative balance. In reality, our fund balance is \$416,000. We pay into PERA instead of into Social Security. Whenever you have a pension, you have to account for it. This is a liability we have to show but we'll never pay this.
  - Sue congratulates the financial team on the clean audit.
  - Rosann mentions that the finance committee is a nice & tightly run committee.

Motion to accept the audit for FY16 as presented – Rosann motioned, Bill seconded 9:11 AM

- Vote to change banks: Wells Fargo to First Bank

Motion to approve the move from Wells Fargo to First Bank – Rona moved, Sue seconded 9:13 AM

- 9:10-9:15 Mission Moment
  - Sonia speaks to the Kindergarten Coffee meeting.
  - We asked parents why they are choosing to send their students to SOAR and what their hopes & dreams are for their students.
  - Parents appreciate that we teach personal values, which are also taught at home.
  - A family who is new to Colorado expressed how much they appreciated the welcome they received when they walk into the school & the classroom.
  - Bill asks about teaching the students value, if it's required and where it comes from. Sonia says that it's part of the social emotional learning built into responsive classroom.

- Laurie adds that every parent that was in the room spoke about the front office staff as the most welcoming front office.
- 9:15-9:20 Update on Board Pipeline
  - Sonia, Andrea & Wayne stepped out of the room for the conversation.
- 9:20-9:35 Head of School Report
  - Laurie speaking on teacher absences & the PTO policy
  - Laurie wants the PTO policy re-written. There's no incentive for staff to not use their PTO.
  - Laurie will talk with staff & bring it back to the Board in November.
  - We have a new student attendance policy that stresses the importance of students not missing any days of school. If a student is absent they get an individual call asking why their student isn't in school. Prior to this, families with an absent student would receive an automated phone call saying that their student is absent & to please call the school to tell us why.
  - Curriculum update & math support – we added 20 days to Rachael Risley's contract
  - We ordered all new curriculum for every grade level that Laurie initially suggested as a resource. This is helping teachers deliver grade level rigor in every grade. Teachers requested help with their curriculum because they felt like they couldn't keep writing their own curriculum.
- 9:35-10:15 Board Norms Presentation (Sarah)
  - Moved to November
- 10:15-10:30 PARCC Data Cursory Review
  - Laurie reviewed last year's PARCC data.
  - The Board had a lively conversation about the data.
  - Maya Laguna from DPS has been invited to present to the Board in November.
- 10:30-10:45 School Social Worker Introduction & Therapy Dog Presentation
  - Gina Aguglia is our new Social Worker. She has been a social worker for the last 5 years. Gina talked about Kirby who is a public service dog that we are currently using as a form of therapy.
- 10:45-10:55 Update on Staff Diversity
  - Sonia met with Ashley Clark who works at PEBC to see if connections could be made in terms of recruiting more teachers of color. Ashley is going to visit SOAR with a group of PEBC folks in November.
- 10:55-11:00 SAC Sign-up
  - Liane Morrison, Sarah Glover, Rona Wilensky – October 26, 2016
  - Sarah Glover – December 14, 2016
  - Jerry Osei-Tutu – March 15, 2017
  - Sue Sava – May 10, 2017

- 11:00 Adjourn

Motion to adjourn – Bill moved, Sarah seconded 11:00 AM