



SOAR Board of Directors Meeting  
September 12, 2025, 9:45 am - 12:00 pm

**Staff Attendance:** Maria Burdine Principal, Rosalind Gullatt Assistant Principal, Sonia Sisneros Senior Director, Christi Goetz Director of Academic Programming & Multilingual Education.

**Board Attendance:** Rona Wilensky Board President, Jamita Horton Secretary, Michelle Tyrus Board Member

**Board Member on Zoom:** Roddrick Marshall Board Member

**Board Absence:** Liane Morrison Treasurer

**Staff Absence:**

**Guest:** Kia Murray Consultant from Colorado League of Charter School Partner

**Preparer:** Kelly Moulton Finance Consultant

**Location:** SOAR Charter School 4800 Telluride St Bldg. 4 Denver CO 80249

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85242216304?pwd=2wSzZfDpPShcwaRq6kz9NbbAWw6Cob.1>

**9:47am Welcome and Check in:**

- Minute of silence.
- Check in.

**9:50 Kia Murray walked in:**

- Introducing Kia and Introduction to those who are all present at the board meeting.

**9:54am Motion to Convene the Meeting:**

- Motion to convene meeting – Michelle Tyrus Board Member
- Second – Jamita Horton Secretary
- All in favor to convene the meeting – all.

**9:58am Consent Agenda:**

- Dashboard:
  - o Discussion on tardies, do they align with last year?
    - Work in progress, follow ups with families, and home visits.
- Monthly Financials:

- Minutes:
  
- Motion to approve the consent agenda – Rona Wilensky Board President
- Seconds – Jamita Horton Secretary
- All in favor of approving the consent agenda - all

**10:03am Maria Burdine Principal & Christi Goetz Director of Academic Program and MLE:**

- Board Education: 2nd Grade Math Learning Walk Illustrative Math – Preview
- Jen Chacon + PEBC Teacher Resident (Lindsay) and Lauren Sullivan
  - o Instructions:
  - o Christi gave out SOAR Classroom Environment Criteria.
    - Multilingual learners, teacher’s setup, activities, and cool downs.
    - Today is assessment day, next month will be the walk through for Math.
    - Two classrooms, divide in half, spend 7 ½ minutes and then swamp classrooms.

**10:09 am 2nd Grade Classroom Visit:**

- Jen Chacon + PEBC Teacher Resident (Lindsay) and Lauren Sullivan.

**10:24am Learning Walk Debrief Maria Burdine Principal:**

- A minute of private reasoning before starting the discussion.
- Give a couple of comments about the teacher’s steps, and/or strengths.
- Debriefed walk throughs.

**10:27** Jamita Horton Secretary left the board meeting.

**1035** Jamita Horton Secretary returned.

**10:40am Kia Murry Colorado League of Charter School Partner for the November Site Visit (Partnering):**

- Colorado League will be here in mid-November.
- Kia and two other reviewers will be here, moved from 2 days to 3 days, due to the size of the school.
- Will do interviews with staff, leadership, look at the board, parents, financials and board governance.
- Will provide a full rubric, executive summary, consolidate to summary, then a two pager for stakeholders.
- Work with leadership, what are you doing, and what could be tweaked or accelerated.
- Will be debriefed with the board.
- We are not your authorizer we are your partner.

- November 14<sup>th</sup> Zoom meeting. 10 – 11 am.
- Maria will present the results in November with staff.
- Christi: DPS will also come to the school and is curious if Colorado League's rubric is similar to DPS? Colorado League could make changes to the rubric to make it comparable to DPS. Currently Colorado League's rubric is on big rubric with sub sections.

### **10:58am Senior Director Report Sonia Sisneros:**

- Review & approval of FY2025 Financial Audit:
  - o Auditors were at the finance committee meeting.
  - o No findings and an Unmodified Statement.
- Motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2025 Audit – Michelle Tyrus Board Member
- Seconds - Roddrick Marshall Board Member.
- All in favor of approving the Fiscal Year Financial Audit - all.
- Reapproval Budget 2025 - 2026:
  - o Student enrollment, PERA decrease, and the additional surplus, additional student in our center program.
  - o 5-year scenarios from Sonia and Kelly; attended a finance seminar which helped with thinking about our future financially.
  - o DPS published their salary schedule and when we build next year's budget, we will need to keep that in mind.
  - o Next year's budget will have multiple scenarios with student enrollment, federal funding, and state funding. Leadership has done some brainstorming what it will look like with our families starting to lose funding and how to support our families.
  - o Possibly discuss at the January board meeting to help leadership, what routes do we want to take for our future planning, and all the constraints for our families.
  - o Group coaching from Yolanda for the leadership team, trust and safety and how to pass that along to our staff.
- Motion to approve the 2025 – 2026 Budget – Jamita Horton Secretary
- Seconds – Michelle Tyrus Board Member
- All in favor of approving the 2025 – 2026 Budget - all.

### **11:12am Maria Burdine Principal:**

- School Updates:
  - o New staff, new students, staff are getting their jam, students are learning.
  - o Assessments are taking place.
  - o iReady student learning objectives. Get our baseline data next week.
- 1<sup>st</sup> full day of PD, Yolanda will be here to help elevate SOAR culture; Ashley will be present in the afternoon to do whole staff work on strategic planning.

- Staffing Updates:
  - o Working through restorative lens.
  - o Expectations and re-norming.
  - o Is Yolanda working with this? Yes.
  - o Resignation from our Center Program Teacher we have a strong a transition plan. Have two Special Education staff that are filling in along with support from Hope
- Strat Plan Update:
  - o Ashley is coming and the team is working on all the data that Ashley needs.
- Release vs. Resignation Language & Procedure School Goals:
  - o Discussed changing the word termination to release but they mean the same thing.
  - o If a teacher is not a good fit for the school, SOAR would report it as a release/termination and not give the opportunity to resign.
  - o Realigning our language with insurance. To reduce the space of risk.
  - o Board decided to use the word termination.
- SPF/UIP: Preliminary Data:
  - o ELA, Math and school culture.
  - o Standards of Learning, students meet their typical growth.
  - o iReady stretch growth
    - Now that we have our iReady math, we have data to compare.
  - o Hired a READ Act Specialist to help with reading plans and small groups.
  - o SPF went down and there is a plan in place. We are now High orange. Leadership met with Max at DPS; any school that went down has the option for request to reconsider. Hoping now that we are building collective accountability. We have the measures in place with iReady data, the Colorado League, and PEBC all coming together this school year.
  - o The literacy curriculum is Wonders.
  - o Jamita Secretary, is staff teaching the ELD curriculum with fidelity?
    - Yes, and ELD has higher growth. We need to see what is working there and to integrate those strategies with ELA and Math.
  - o Michelle Tyrus asked whether we need to improve the hiring process. Currently SOAR positions are all filled and surrounding schools are not filled. The applicant pool is not big and the Leadership Team looks for teachers who can be coached up.
- Working on culture survey to be administered in October
- New Board Member Conversations (Recruit Parent Members).

11:35 Sonia Sisneros Senior Director left the meeting.

11:39 Sonia Sisneros Senior Director returned.

**Skipped and will revisit at next board meeting - Rosalind Gullatt Assistant Principal Report:**

- New Teacher Academy
- Restorative Practices - Second Step

**11:50 Christi Goetz Director of Academic Program and MLE:**

- SOAR 2025 CMAS + ACCESS Growth Review

- Literacy:
  - o What hurts our data was the growth. Don't get growth data in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, we get the growth data in 4<sup>th</sup> grade.
  - o Question is, are teachers aiming their efforts at the appropriate level of content ?
  - o We have four classrooms in one grade, needing to look at our data to see if we need to change the four classrooms to a different grade.
  - o We have a lot of work to do.
- Math:
  - o There is growth but not proficiency.
  - o We are meeting with teachers, what were their goals last year, where did they land, and what is your goal this year.

**12:00 Board Recruitment Update:**

- Rona will be meeting with an individual from PEBC.
- Rona mentioned the SPF bonuses will not be paid out.

**12:10 motion to adjourn the meeting:**

- Motion to adjourn the meeting – Michelle Tyrus Board Member
- Seconds – Roddrick Marshall Board Member
- All in favor of adjourning the meeting - all.

DocuSigned by:

*Kelly Moulton*

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Preparer: Kelly Moulton

Signed by:

*Jamita Horton*

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Reviewer: Jamita Horton Secretary