



SOAR Board of Directors Meeting
October 17, 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, Liane Morrison Treasurer

Board Member on Zoom: Michelle Tyrus Board Member

Board Absence: Roddrick Marshall Board Member, Jamita Horton Secretary

Staff Absence:

Guest: John Kearney (PEBC)

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>

9:44am Welcome John Kearney (PEBC) prospective board member.

- Introductions.

9:45am Welcome and Check in:

- Minute of silence.
- Check in.

9:55am Motion to Convene the Meeting:

- Motion to convene meeting – Liane Morrison Treasurer
- Second – Michelle Tyrus Board Member
- All in favor to convene the meeting – all.

9:55am Rona Wilensky Board President:

- Kia Murry follows up from last month's board meeting:
 - o Approve or amend the agenda.
- Does anyone want to change the agenda?
 - o No.
- We will add a time for public comments to our agenda.

9:59am Consent Agenda:

- Dashboard:
 - o Additional student in Center Program - October count.
- Monthly Financials:
- Minutes:
 - o The process, Kelly takes meeting minutes, when done sends to Rona & Jamita, and sign through Docusign.
 - o Liane questions on last month's meeting minutes – Literacy, 4 classrooms in 4th grade? Maria - do we change it depending on SPF data for next school year ex: do we change the 4 classrooms to 5th grade.
- Motion to approve the consent agenda – Michelle Tyrus Board Member
- Seconds – Liane Morrison Treasurer
- All in favor of approving the consent agenda - all

10:04am Rosalind Gullatt Assistant Principal Report

- New Teacher Academy
 - o Provides new staff with opportunities to bond and discuss the challenges of practice. We had a session helping them understand in practical terms what we do with Student Learning Objectives (SLO's) and iready data.
 - o Gives new teachers to ask questions, and challenges of practice.
 - o 30 minutes once a month on the 4th Thursday, after their workday.
- Restorative Practices - Second Step - School Culture
 - o Second Step: 7:40am – 8:00am community circles
 - o Second Step ties into School Culture.
 - o We can see monitor teachers use of Second Step and then check in with teachers, and find out what support do they need.
 - o Then it ties into our habits at SOAR. Hope all this work will increase our SPF.
 - o Maria – intentional, tracking progress of Second Step, and making sure we are checking in with staff.
 - o Liane – Comments or questions with new staff/new teacher academy meetings regarding Second Step.
 - Rosalind – Usually no, Rosalind brings it up, being proactive, to follow up with new staff.
 - The new staff meeting creates a safe space, other topics come up in the meeting.
 - o Michelle – Do they find it helpful for the new staff and how many meetings have been?

- Rosalind – communication from new staff, emails, thanking for the meetings, and been very appreciative, opportunity for new staff to say thank you and it's been helpful.
- Rona – Curious if staff might benefit from a crosswalk between Second Step Habits and Restorative Practices.
 - Noted for future PD for staff.

10:14am Maria Burdine Principal:

- Welcome new PEBC prospective Board Member: John Kearney/observer
- Keishla Rentas (Parent) will come to the next board meeting.
- School Updates
 - Literacy Night Tuesday, October 14, 2025
 - Booth for parent survey. 13 took it.
 - Bookmarks & activities in the classroom.
 - Show student work.
 - Take home activities.
 - Thrill share (is this the name?) app, replaced Reach Well
 - Culture survey for staff on Professional Development work.
 - Responsiveness of Leadership Team.
 - Accountability.
 - CU will send to staff on Monday, Thursday PD.
 - Report will be back before the League visit.
 - Aligning our professional development, strategic planning, and culture survey.
 - Fieldwork:
 - Bully prevention – Struggle of Love.
 - Eye Love Care – Free exams and free glasses, those students are in the system, to follow up the next following year.
 - Sensory Gym.
 - Hawk Quest.
 - Staff Wellness:
 - Rock Creek Farm – Pumpkin Patch.
 - Workouts/Yoga in dance studio.
 - Offsite activities.
 - Survey to staff on what they want to do.
- Staffing Updates
 - Lots of Staff to staff restorative conversations are happening
 - Attendance conversations are happening with individuals on a case by case basis
 - Rallying behind our purpose.

- Discussing balancing what is in our lives verse meeting the needs of students in our classrooms.
 - Trying to find the balance of support and them asking questions. Leadership trying to be supportive but also know there is work that needs to be done.
 - Would Motivational rewards help?
 - Resignations, 1:1 Instructional Assistant, an Instructional Assistant, & In House Substitute.
- Strategic Plan Update
 - Bringing staff together for meetings.
 - Possibly change time of the meeting.
 - Behavior support is important
 - Implementation of differentiated learning that pushes all students is needed.
- Teaching
 - Ashley asked committee what should the school stop doing and what should it start doing
 - What do we need to stop doing and what do we need to start doing.
 - Evidence based view.
 - The work is very action based, take the work today, and start tomorrow.
 - More strategic to behaviors, what are our responses, and be proactive.
 - What impact am I having.
- League of Charter School Site Visit: November 4th – 6th
 - Parent Coffee will be that 1st week.
- School Goals
 - Initial SPF came back, priority improvement.
 - Shared accountability and share with staff.
 - Vertical algin meetings.
 - School goals with iReady data.
- SPF/UIP: Preliminary Data
 - Coordinating with Max at DPS,
 - ELA and Math
- Parent/Guardian Community Survey
- School Safety in Denver: Juvenile arrests in possession of a handgun
 - Far Northeast safety meetings.
 - 1st week of October.
 - Discuss how many handguns there are in our younger kids' hands.
 - Statues and next meeting invite Denver Public Schools administrators to discuss the statue regarding the consequences of having a gun.
 - Go to city council to discuss the statues.

10:59 am Sonia Sisneros Senior Director Report:

- Review of Financial Auditor
 - o Finance auditor failed peer review.
 - o No audits need to be redone, DPS did additional looking at our audit.
 - o Will decide what auditor we go with during our Finance Committee on November 20th. Board members are invited to our finance committee meetings.
- SpEd Update
 - o Looking for Center Program Teacher, Coaches and Sped Chair are helping in staffing as a teacher, monitoring IEPs.
 - o 11 IEP's needed to be written in October
 - o Caseload high, 71 students in special education.
 - o Funding for special education and wondering if other surrounding schools are experiencing the increases.
 - There is a Special education working group at DPS. We have a reputation for serving our students well..
 - o The district came by for planning next year and the community needs new schools, needing sites for Center Programs.
 - Other surrounding schools have multiple Center Programs.
 - o We are in a Denver Public School facility.

11:15 Bathroom break

11:19 am Christi Goetz Director of Academic Program and MLE:

- October Board Report: Beginning of the Year iReady + Fall into Literacy Slideshow
- iReady Reading
 - o Year to year comparison
- iReady Math
 - o Year to year comparison
 - o There is a lot of room for growth.
 - o Celebration –math significantly below grade level decreased from the previous year.
- Comparing data that CMAS had growth and iReady showed no growth.
- 2nd year using iReady math, now that we have the data for comparison.

11:29am Board Business:

- Rona sent the bylaws and manual to the board, for them to read each year.
- Bylaws
 - o Instead of specific meeting dates and change to so many meetings dates each year.
 - o Discretionary, on titles. Currently we don't have a VP, inclined for VP as needed at discretion of the board.

- Can we remove that position?
- Do we need it if it's not necessary position.
- Agreed to Delete it and save the description for when it's needed.
- Annual conflict questionnaire.
- Meeting procedures.
- Board of directors' grievance process.
- Board of directors' attendance policy.
- Rona has a folder to keep all signatures.
- Public Comment:
 - Board will discuss a a procedure for public comments at next meeting
 - Sonia thinks there is a policy for public comments.
- Kia was concerned about visiting classrooms and naming teachers by name. That should only be done in executive session.
 - Norm, just refrain from naming teachers.
 - She thought Board members were engaged and got all the work done in the meeting.
 - Suggested a standing board governance committee.
 - Recruiting board members.
 - Self-assessments.
 - Could it be staff members, leadership team? Yes. , Can't be more than two board members because then it becomes a public meeting.
- Maria – will reach out to the one family board member.

11:47 motion to adjourn the meeting and have a mini executive meeting:

- Motion to adjourn the meeting – Liane Morrison Treasurer
- Seconds – Michelle Tyrus Board Member and move to executive.
- All in favor of adjourning the meeting - all.

12:00 convene Executive Session to discuss prospective Board members

12:20 Adjourned

DocuSigned by:

Kelly Moulton

E89BF26ACA9F42B...

Preparer: Kelly Moulton

Signed by:

Jamita Horton

F9C5EF93867A4D0...

Reviewer: Jamita Horton Secretary