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SOAR Board of Directors Meeting
October 16, 2026, 9:45 am - 12:00 pm

Staff Attendance: Maria Burdine Principal, Rosalind Gullatt Assistant Principal, Dawn Salter Assistant Principal, Christi Goetz Director of Academic Programming & Multilingual Education, Sonia Sisneros Senior Director.
Board Attendance: Rona Wilensky Board Chair, Jamita Horton Board Co-Chair, John Kearney Secretary.
Board Member on Zoom: Roddrick Marshall Board Member
Board Absence: Liane Morrison Treasurer
Staff Absence:
Guest:
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/84035287577?pwd=zQNLYYJSb2sEVWU19SloSr28qWsFks.1

9:47am Welcome and Check in:

- Minute of silence.
- Check in.
- Introductions.

9:55am Motion to Convene the Meeting:

- Motion: Jamita Horton Board Co-Chair moved to convene the meeting.
- Second: Roddrick Marshall Board second the motion.
    - Any comments on the minutes or agenda.
- All in favor to convene the meeting – all

9:57am Public Comment Time If Needed (3 mins per person):

9:59am Consent Agenda:

- Motion to approve the amended agenda and the consent agenda which now includes only the meeting agenda and the minutes from the previous meeting. The dashboard has been moved to the Senior Director's report: Jamita Horton Board Co-Chair moved to consent agenda.

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- Second: John Kearney Secretary second the motion.
- All in favor to convene the meeting – all

10:00am Maria Burdine Principal:

- School Updates
  - Discussed the school culture survey and three after-school professional development sessions.
  - Staff are participating in strategic planning with consultants.
  - With the end of the first quarter and trimester approaching, staff are preparing report cards.
  - A full-day professional development session is scheduled for October 30, focusing on planning and implementing vertical learning, Emergenetics, and the Wonders curriculum
- Staffing/Hiring Updates
  - Interviews are underway for third-, fourth-, and fifth-grade teaching positions.
  - One 1:1 paraprofessional resigned, and interviews are underway to fill the vacancy.
- School-Wide Goals
  - Reviewed annual typical growth goals and the Unified Improvement Plan (UIP), with a focus on increasing student proficiency.
  - Discussed i-Ready baseline data for reading and math.
  - Reviewed strategies for improving literacy outcomes for students in kindergarten through third grade, increasing parent engagement, and improving attendance.
  - Discussed aligning feedback surveys with the trimester schedule and using parent coffee events to strengthen family engagement.
  - Reviewed the October student count and its implications for the school community
- Strategic Plan Priority #1: Tier 1 Instruction
  - Launched the new Professional Learning Community (PLC) structure.
  - Discussed classroom visits and feedback from Ashlee Saddler. The contract covers 12 days, with two days completed as of the meeting.
  - Conducted the first after-school strategic plan check-in with staff during professional development. Summary of feedback will be presented at November meeting
  - Discussed mentorship opportunities and gathering staff feedback on effective practices and next steps.
  - Staff check-ins are planned approximately every six weeks.
- Strategic Plan Priority #2: Behavior Management
  - Discussed Panorama and the consistency of current in-house practices.
  - Reviewed the rollout of the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS), involving leadership and instructional coaches.
  - Discussed restorative practices role-playing activities with staff.
- Strategic Plan Priority #3: Staff Efficacy

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    - Grade-level team leads were introduced following a leadership meeting.
    - Discussed the opportunity for team leads to receive a stipend.
    - Reviewed the Emergenetics "Meetings of the Minds" professional development facilitated by Yolanda Greer the previous month. Staff feedback has been positive.
- School Performance Framework (SPF) Update:
    - The request for reconsideration was discussed.
    - The i-Ready data submitted did not result in an increase in the school's SPF rating. The school remains in the same improvement category.

10:40 am Sonia Sisneros Senior Director Report:

- Updated Bonus policy for vote:

    - The minimum school performance goal is to increase the overall SPF percentage points earned by 2.1 points, which would place the school in the overall "Performance" (Green) rating category. While 2.1 points represents the minimum threshold we will work toward, our commitment to student achievement extends beyond meeting this minimum. We will continue to strive for the greatest possible growth and improvement, keeping student achievement at the forefront of our work. The target October bonus will be up to 2.5% of the bonus year's gross salary.

    - Motion: Roddrick Marshall Board Member motion to approve the updated bonus policy
    - Seconds – John Kearney Secretary second the motion.
    - All in favor of approving the consent agenda – all.

        - Provided a brief update regarding a legal case settlement.
            - Discussed staffing, including employee onboarding and departures.
        - Discussed that a few preschools model one room (support for students with special needs) have Special education teacher vacancies in these classrooms resulting in students arriving at SOAR without Individualized Education Programs (IEPs).
        - Maria Burdine discussed the new Support on Special Assignment (SOSA) position. An existing staff member was hired to provide support through coaching, participation with the leadership team, and classroom observations. Our SOSA will cover classrooms for a variety of meetings where teacher attendance is needed.

10:53 Rosalind Gullatt Assistant Principal Report:

- Attendance
    - Reported improvements in student attendance.
    - Discussed how changes to school start times have contributed to the improvement.
    - Reviewed the 98% attendance benchmark for Denver Public Schools (DPS). Schools below the benchmark must demonstrate how they address student absences.
- New Teacher Academy

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  - Presented Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) as a tool for measuring student growth at SOAR.
  - Discussed establishing SLOs once, with progress checkpoints at midyear and year-end.

11:03 AM Sonia left the room.

- Gift and Talent (GT)

  11:05 Sonia entered the room.

  Assessments are being completed for first graders

11:08 Dawn Salter Assistant Principal:

- RP Role Play
  - Presented role-playing activities conducted during professional development.
  - Discussed connecting restorative practices to SOAR Habits.
- Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) Roll Out
  - Reviewed the MTSS rollout during professional development.
  - Explained that MTSS encourages intentional planning to support the success of all students.
  - Discussed the importance of implementing appropriate Tier 1 supports before submitting a formal MTSS referral.
  - Reviewed academic and behavioral support processes, including the one-page guide and teacher request form.
  - Explained that the MTSS team reviews student concerns, discusses next steps, and determines appropriate follow-up or evaluations

11:22 am Christi Goetz Director of Academic Programming and MLE Report:

- Multilingual Learner Redesignations
  - Presented the Life Cycle of a Multilingual Learner and how many students for the following categories.
    - Identifications
    - MLL in Program
    - 2026 Redesignations
- Upcoming “Fall into Literacy Night”
  - Wednesday, October 28th.

11:30am Rona Wilensky Board President:

- Student and Staff use of technology
  - What is the current policy/philosophy for classrooms and teachers?
    - Cell phone:

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        - Must be in their backpack or locker.
        - Adopted DPS policy, cell phones are put away.
    - Cell phone policy for staff:
        - No texting in classrooms, no cell phone during student time. No talking or videoing students.
        - Not just cell phones, devices, i.e. tablets.
    - Technology in classrooms
        - When you walk into classrooms you will not see students on laptops.
        - Just for assessing and iReady.
    - Teachers have access to whiteboards, smart boards.
  - Discussed AI, what is allowable technology overall for students.
  - If issues begin to emerge, please bring them to the Board. Seems like there is a good balance and we are following policies.
- Board Dashboard
  - Discussed a prospective new Board member and potential next steps, including a school tour and interview.
  - Discussed a prospective Treasurer and requested a résumé for consideration.

11:53 motion to adjourn the meeting move to executive session.

- Motion: Jamita Horton Board Co-Chair motion to adjourn the meeting.
- Seconds – John Kearney Secretary seconds the motion.
- All in favor of adjourning the meeting – all.

Executive Session

DocuSigned by:
Kelly Moulton
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Preparer: Kelly Moulton

Signed by:
John Kearney
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Reviewer: John Kearney Secretary and Rona Wilensky Board Co-Chair