

**SOAR Charter School Board Meeting  
January 10, 2014**

Date, Time and Place: January 10, 2014, Evie Dennis Campus, Student Union Building,  
Large Conference Room

Attendance of Board Members:

Present: Ellin Keene, William Weintraub, Sue Sava, Rona Wilensky, Dan  
Smink, Shelli Brown

Present by phone: None

Absent: Rosann Ward

**Quorum? Yes**

Also in attendance: Marc Waxman, Brad Fischer, Sonia Sisneros, Gianna Cassetta,  
Leah Miller

Members of the public in attendance: None  
Shelli motioned and Bill seconded, all in favor

9:00 AM to 10:00 AM Regular Board Meeting

Consent agenda items (All)

Review of school dashboards by Marc.

FY 14 Budget Approval & FY15 Budget Update (Brad)

- In the FY14 budget we are trying to pay the entire end of the year compensation out of OAK's budget. We will likely have 40k leftover at the end of the year. Likely that DPS will allow \$50,000.00 transferred as part of Doug Madison's contributions; was transferred to Oakland, we would be transferring it back.
- FY15 we are showing a 15k surplus and this is with the teacher compensation scale in it. We would like to say that we are approving the new teacher compensation scale. We are further ahead in the budgeting process than we've been in the past. There will be some fine tuning as we go through the next few months and ask for final approval in March. February we would look at this more closely with the Finance Committee and review with the Board.

Bill asks if it would make sense to say that we are looking to increase the compensation scale. Marc's response is that we aren't 100% sure what we will do in future years. There are several things we could do to adjust the budget before we need to adjust salaries down from what teachers will receive on Monday in their contracts.

We do not have funds for the GSS Intern. We would have to go into reserves for this. It's possible that we'd have only a 10-20% chance of getting someone or even the right person. If we find the right person then we will come back to the board to ask if we can spend the reserves. Sue has advised that her husband is part of the GSS intern program and asks that he not be considered for SOAR.

Sonia is applying for the Leadership Fellow Program through GSS. Marc is working with Jane to endorse her acceptance.

There is a lot of detailed information in the minutes; Sue, Ellin and Sonia have worked to streamline process instead of combining two sets of minutes.

Motion to approve Consent Agenda, Bill motion and Rona seconds.

Dashboard & Updates (Gianna and Marc)

- Update on the communication that went out to GVR families regarding the school's rating. This communication was sent to Reed's DPS email address. We did not see this before it was distributed. This letter described SOAR@GVR as a turnaround school and instructs families that they can enroll their student in another school. We will look at the intent to return forms and determine if a parent meeting afterwards is necessary.

Committee Reports:

- Finance: Budgeting Principles (Dan, Marc and Brad) – Budgeting Principles, this started with a conversation between Marc and Brad thinking about a succession plan and articulating principles on process and approach. To give us a sense of how budget could be managed more seamlessly; we are going from 120 staff to 40; moving from a 10 million budget to a 4 million budget. We expect to have 100% SOAR returning staff next year; some have already accepted. There is significant opportunity for a powerful culture change. It will be important for staff to re-norm. We are starting staff community building in February; we have the advantage of already knowing who are staff is going to be. This is a very unique opportunity.
- Board Development (Rona) – We have been putting feelers out and we have a few interested folks. There has been contact with Erin Brown. She hasn't decided yet but she wants to meet with Shelli and they are coordinating times. Rona has contacted Amy Desai and she is very interested and is checking her schedule. Rona will follow-up. Dan has contacted a finance person, Rona is meeting with this individual on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. He has been an auditor of non-profits and he would bring a wealth of expertise. Marc also recommends Ethan

Hemming. He is the CEO of CCSI. He and Marc have worked together before and Marc respects him and feels as though he would bring knowledge of the Charter landscape with him. We want to on-board new members systematically. We want to bring in at least three new members initially. We have briefly discussed re-inviting Doug back. Ellin will stay in contact with him; though, he hasn't responded to the email sent over the holiday.

Adjourn 9:47 Motion to adjourn. Sue moved and Shelli seconded.

10:00 AM to 1:00 PM Strategic Plan Work Session