

## SOAR Charter School Board Meeting

Date, Time and Place: January 13, 2016, 4800 Telluride St. BLDG 4,  
Denver, CO 80249

### Attendance of Board Members:

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

Present by Phone: n/a

Recused: n/a

Absent: Dan Smink

Staff Absent:

Quorum? Yes

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

Members of public in attendance: none

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

Meeting brought to order – Rona moved, Sarah seconded 8:45 AM

8:45 Public Comment

8:50 Consent Agenda

- Minutes
  - Lacey will make changes note to name spellings
- Monthly dashboard
  - Reduction in suspensions
- Monthly financials
  - We will transfer CSAFE money next week
  - We hope to have a new Assistant Principal hired this month
  - Bill commends Sonia, Brad and Kelly on their work with the financials
  - Our FPF points are down because we're operating against the fund balance. Bill wants us to reevaluate how we manage our finances so we aren't in a negative margin operating position.
  - The ideal margin for DPS is for us to have a positive fund balance
  - The Board is asking Laurie, Sonia & Brad to start looking at where we can

start cutting expenses so we can get to and remain in a positive fund balance. We would need to put about a \$500,000 investment into our reserves account. We're within about a \$100,000 margin of putting our operating amount in a positive balance.

- Laurie, Sonia & Brad will share monthly where the \$100,000 will come from over time.

Motion to approve consent agenda – Bill moved, Rona seconded 9:08 AM

9:00 Approval of proposed 2017-2018 bell times

- We are proposing new bell times of 8:15 AM – 3:15 PM
- Transportation will make the final call

Motion to approve new bell times – Liane moved, Bill seconded– 9:11 AM

9:00 Review of the FY18 Draft Budget

- Sonia speaks to the process of how we got to the FY18 budget numbers
  - We take the previous year's budget then we refine and adjust
  - The next draft will be presented in April
  - The local revenue is our carry over number. We lose \$72,000 in E-Care dollars because we aren't in turn-around.
  - The Board asked that Liane and staff identify line items where they can zero sum the projections moving forward; don't spend time trying to zero sum on fixed line items

9:15 Head of School Report

- Sue notes that the PD differentiation aligns with our philosophy
- Laurie goes over the Head of School report

9:30 Mission Moment

- Bill believes we have a remarkable group of teachers. Based on classroom visits he feels appreciative of the staff we have in the building.

9:45 School Profile (2017-2018 Student recruitment efforts provided in the report below)

- *Student Recruitment:* Student recruitment efforts began in mid-December. 20,000 door hangers (paper media) were distributed to apartments and homes in the Montbello, Green Valley Ranch and High Point subdivisions. Areas targeted were the clusters where our current students live, areas where school closure is expected (John Amesse Elementary School) and the areas where the neighborhood elementary school's SPF dropped in ranking, e.g. Marrama Elementary School. The first round application window opened on January 5 and will close on January 31. School tours began immediately for all interested families. We will get updated information about the total number of applicants by mid-February. Concurrently, we will receive information regarding students applying to leave SOAR. Sonia will meet with any family applying to leave SOAR.

*Student Attrition:* By the end of January we will host our second Kindergarten coffee as a follow-up to the conversations that we started at the beginning of the school year. In addition, we will invite families of 3rd and 4th grade students in for an informal breakfast/coffee to learn about their students' experiences so far this year and gather input as to what they're most excited about for next year. This informal gathering is also be provided to offer these families a Principal touch-point.

Our student attrition over the last three years:

- 2015-2016: 4%
- 2014-2015: 7%
- 2013-2014: 25%

10:00 The history of Responsive Classroom and the gap in SEL implementation

- Olga Pagan has been a classroom teacher at SOAR since July 2013 and is currently our Math Coach. She is speaking on the history of Responsive Classroom and the gap in SEL implementation.
- SOAR @ Oakland and SOAR @ Green Valley Ranch went through a Responsive Classroom training during the 2013-2014 school year.
- During the 2014-2015 school year, SOAR @ Green Valley Ranch moved to a social emotional learning competency learning model.
- During the 2015-2016 school year, a lot less planning happened with the assumption that we were staying with the social emotional learning model. Folks were unclear if this was the whole school learning expectation. Mid-year staff received Trauma Training through Mount Saint Vincent. There wasn't a formal system and a lot of things were unclear.
- This school year staff received Responsive Classroom training but there hasn't been any follow up. Our training with Mount Saint Vincent has been inconsistent.
- Rona wants to know what the essence is of what teachers are trained to do in Responsive Classroom. Olga says she believes that the foundational belief of Responsive Classroom is responding to what your students need. Relationship building, teacher language, reinforcing language and student interaction is part of what and how Responsive Classroom influences how you deliver some of these things.

10:45 Board Working Agreements

- The Board worked through wording, language and what needs to be edited and changed. Will utilize new Working Agreements at Board Retreat on 2/10/17.

11:15 Update on Board Pipeline

- We may have a potential lawyer joining the Board in the near future.
- A question about SOAR staff also serving on our SOAR Board was asked. In our charter contract, there is a section that discusses SOAR staff not serving on the Board in tandem. Sonia will look through our charter contract to find this exact wording.
- Sue will connect with Rosann to follow up on someone from First Bank possibly

joining our Board.

- Rona will connect with Shelli Brown to see if she can connect us with folks in the Montbello & Green Valley Ranch community, or banks in the area.
- Sonia will reach out to Erin Brown to see if she can connect us with folks in her network.

Motion to adjourn – Liane moved, Sarah seconded 11:22 AM