

**SOAR Charter School Board Meeting
February 13, 2015**

Date, Time and Place: February 13, 2015, SOAR 4800 Telluride Street, Building 4,
Denver Colorado 80249

Attendance of Board Members:

Present: William Weintraub, Sue Sava, Ellin Keene, Ethan Hemming,
Rosann Ward, Rona Wilensky

Present by phone: Dan Smink, Claudia Gutierrez

Absent: Shelli Brown

Quorum? Yes

Also in attendance: Marc Waxman, Sonia Sisneros, Lacei Bixby, Brad Fischer

Members of the public in attendance:

Meeting brought to order - Rosann moved, Bill seconds 8:48 AM

Business Meeting

8:45 Consent agenda

- Public Comment
- Board minutes
- Financial packet

Motion to approve, Bill moved, Rona seconds 8:52 AM

9:00 School Reports/Dashboard

- Lyndsey Hilbun, Kindergarten teacher, speaking on math data
 - AMC (Assessing Math Concepts) is a new online math assessment teachers are using for kindergarten & first grade to gather data for math.
 - This data helps teachers to see what students know and what they don't know.
 - The data that's collected in AMC aligns with what the teacher is seeing in the classroom.
 - These assessments happen at the beginning of the year, mid-year & end of year. You can run reports to show the growth.
 - 1st grade is struggling with this. Kindergarten has it easier in the sense that they have smaller class sizes & every kindergarten teacher has a paraprofessional in the classroom.
- Jessica Welch, Administrative Director, reporting on data

- The mid-year text level goal is the end of the year text level goal for 4th/5th grade.
- Almost half of our 5th grade students are ELL & ELL data for 5th grade is negatively impacting the scores.
- 1st grade DRA reading levels always fall low mid-year due to how it's constructed, then goes back up at the end of the year.
- Parent engagement – what is the plan for a teacher who isn't progressing in this area?
 - 'Home visits' was a survey to see what interests there were – do we have staff that would do it? If we have staff that would do it, what would it look like, how much would it cost?
 - This data analysis is still under review & there is work to do around this.
 - Teachers are making more plans for sending home parent communication weekly or making calls bi-weekly.

9:30 Presentation of Draft FY16 budget

- The approval for FY16 budget will be in April or May

9:45 Board Education: use of technology and writing in response to reading

- Students seemed very comfortable sharing their findings with board members.
- Board members had engaging conversations in this classroom. Students were very welcoming & seemed to be having fun.
- One of the staff goals is to be able to walk into a classroom & have every student be able to say, "what am I doing & why?" and every student who was asked, was able to answer those questions.

10:00 Three reports: "Academic Data" to "Data Presentation: Student Achievement Data and UIP Reports

- See attached data deck. Marc reported data on grades K-5 reading and writing. The board discussed fall and winter results and discussed ELL scores as well as 5th grade results.

10:15 Revisit and vote on new vision and guiding principles (30 min)

- The why: We would like to move forward & get this in teacher's hands as soon as possible, so that teachers can begin implementing guiding principles with children.
- Strategic Planning Committee incorporated perspectives & feedback from each board member.
- Motion to approve new vision:
Revised vision: SOAR STUDENTS CREATE FULL AND MEANINGFUL LIVES, ENRICH OUR DEMOCRACY, AND CREATE A MORE JUST SOCIETY.
Motion to approve, Bill moved, Rona seconds 11:03AM

SOARing Principles

- We develop habits of systems thinking.
 - We work with and are responsive to our families and the community
 - We foster the health and well-being of our students and families We cultivate intellectual and academic growth
 - We nurture the development of analytical and critical thinking
 - We develop social- emotional attributes and skills
 - We cultivate creative competencies
- We cultivate and invest in a culture where students and teachers are learning alongside one another

Next Steps:

1. Faculty will explore and discuss new Vision and SOARing Principles
2. Faculty will brainstorm how they will demonstrate evidence of progress, i.e., “how will we know,” based on Guiding Principles.
3. Marc will share outcomes of this conversation at the March 13, 2015 Board meeting.

Bill moved, Rosann seconds 11:08 AM

10:45 Committee Reports

- Board development
- Finding a lawyer to join the board
- Finance
- Getting data on board self-assessment

11:00 Adjourn

- Adjourn into Executive Session – Rona moved, Bill seconds 11:08 AM