

SOAR Charter School Board Meeting

Date, Time and Place: June 10th, 2016, 4800 Telluride St. BLDG 4, Denver, CO 80249

Attendance of Board Members:

Present: Sue Sava, Shelli Brown, William Weintraub, Rona Wilensky, Claudia Gutierrez, Rosann Ward

Present by phone: n/a

Recused: n/a

Absent: Dan Smink, Ellin Keene

Staff absent: Sonia Sisneros, Lacey Martinez

Quorum? Yes

Also in attendance: Marc Waxman, Brad Fischer, Kelly Moulton, Laurie Godwin

Members of the public in attendance: Sarah Glover, Jerry Osei-Tutu

Meeting brought to order – Shelli moved, Rosann seconded 8:52 AM

Agenda:

- 8:45-8:50 Public Comment -none
- 8:45-9:00 Consent Agenda
 - Minutes – There were a couple of grammatical corrections from Sue. Shelli corrected them and will send them back to Lacey to be posted.
 - Monthly dashboard
 - Monthly financials

Motion to approve consent agenda. Rona moved, Rosann seconded – 8:56 am.

- 9:00-9:10 Finance Committee
 - No finance committee meeting this month. Brad sent out financials to everyone. No responses of substance to note.
 - We are finishing the year as expected from a financial perspective.
 - We will most likely finish the year \$30k under budget. This is a combination of \$21k contingency not spent and \$9k savings on budgeted expenses. As we get closer to wrapping up the actual expenses we may need to revise the FY16 budget which we will do in July via email.

- Update on Mill Levy from Shelli – Shelli indicated that the Bond and Mill Levy Committee recommendations are now in the hands of the DPS Board. There are a series of meetings and public comment sections that will take place during the month of June before a final vote on whether or not to move this to voter approval in November. There was further discussion on the likelihood of a positive outcome from voters if this recommendation is included in the ballot.
- 9:10-9:30 Director's Report
 - Staffing update –Sonia and Jess managed the final staffing changes. They include: a new 3rd grade teacher who started a month ago, a new 3rd grade interventionist, a new flex teacher and 3-5 floating interventionist. Also, there will be a new social worker coming from Wisconsin with her therapy dog. This brought up questions about handling allergies or dog fears with students, ensuring that we are following DPS and campus policies with regards to dogs in schools, and the impact on our insurance policy. Brad will find out about the insurance policy. Bill asked about if any of the new hires were people of color. The answer was no. Important to note about new hires: there were 3 Stanley Teacher Prep individuals hired from that pipeline. There may be 1 or 2 social work interns coming to us, as well.
 - Enrollment update – Ideally we'd like to have higher numbers in kindergarten and first grades, which would be higher than what DPS thought. We are overenrolled in the other grades. There is attrition during the summer, so we have made our best guesses with consideration to that. From a financial point of view the over enrollment is a good thing; from a logistical point, we have some things to work out. The numbers will be revised again in August at the start of the school year and then we will have new numbers at the September board meeting. As mentioned in the Director's report, we actually held registration in May this year instead of the summer. This was Sonia's idea, which we think is great. As the numbers settle, DPS sends updated information – likely to Araceli (but Sonia manages this on a master spreadsheet).
- 9:30-10:20: Interim Head of School presentation on goals for 2016-2017
 - Laurie Godwin provided a one-page document summarizing what she has been doing since being appointed the new Interim Head of School. She met with the teaching staff informally and will help craft the July retreat for them with PEBC. Laurie has met with or will meet with school leadership and teachers. She has reached out to the DPS Board and been connected to the member who covers far northeast. She has been reviewing UIP information and school-wide testing data. She listed immediate goals on a support document. From August to October she will be focused on building relationships and getting a stronger sense of the school strengths and challenges.
 - Laurie invited the Board's feedback, questions, and things to consider moving forward. The ensuing conversation covered the following topics: UIP, guiding principles and related metrics, discipline/social and emotional learning, school culture, repairing relationships with staff, Board support during the transition,

conditions for charter contract renewal, school performance framework, kids with emotional disabilities, and the school accountability committee. Laurie and Marc will have a follow up conversation in the next week. He will make himself available during this time on a regular basis.

- Additionally, there will be a meeting with Sue, Laurie, and Maya Laguna from the Office of School Reform. Marc encouraged Laurie to attend the Charter School Roundtable quarterly meeting which is with school leaders and Tom Boasberg (DPS Superintendent). He also encouraged her to meet with Mount Saint Vincent representatives since they will be in our school doing trauma-informed work. Rona suggested Laurie talk to Gianna Cassetta about the work she did with social and emotional learning in this school and the tool she developed with teachers. Sue suggested that when Sonia meets with Brad over the summer regarding financials that Laurie be present. Brad asked how much she wants to be involved with the financials.
 - Sue reached out to DPS with the updated IHOS information. Rona reminded of the need to inform DPS of the change in our Board members, as well.
 - There was a question regarding sending the change in by laws that was voted on last month to the Board. Marc or Sonia will do that.
 - Rona commended Marc for leaving the building with a fully staffed building.
- 10:25-10:44: Board pipeline (including vote on potential new member)
 - Update from Rona – We are in transition period. There are a few individuals on the existing SOAR Board stepping down. Ellin is gone and we sent her flowers. Rona has interviewed several people as the first line contact. Shelli met with a couple of prospective members. Ideally, each new Board member will have three contacts, a school tour, and attend a Board meeting. We need to add at least 3 people to stay at the minimum requirement of at least 7. Ellin, Ethan, Shelli, Rosann, and Dan either have left or will be leaving in the next couple of months. All new prospective members were referred by Board members or staff. New potential members include Jerry (parent), Sarah, Andrea, Kyle, and Liane. Bill also asked for resumes. Sarah's vote will take place today. Liane's, Jerry's, and Kyle's, votes will be in August. Andrea's vote will take place in September. Sue will check with Bill Bethke (per Bill's request) regarding conflict of interest for Andrea since she is related to Sonia (school leadership) and Kyle since he is on staff at Mount Saint Vincent and is active in delivering services and supports to SOAR.

Motion to invite Sarah Glover to join the SOAR Board of Directors. Rosann moved; Bill seconded -10:34 am.

- Discussion regarding onboarding to include history and norming. Existing Board members will “buddy” with a new member. Rosann will work to onboard Liane when it is time so she can move into the Treasurer role.
 - Vote to extend Rosann’s time until December. Bill moved, Rona seconded. 10:40 am.
 - Vote on slate of officers: Sue as President, Rona as Vice President; Rosann as Treasurer; Shelli as Secretary – Bill moved, Claudia seconded – 10:44 am.
- 10:46-10:57: Executive Session - Contract terms for Interim Head of School
 - 11:00-11:21: Farewell to Marc

Motion to adjourn – Bill moved, Rona seconded 11:22 AM

There will be no July meeting. This June meeting was held in its place.