

SOAR Charter School Board Meeting

Date, Time and Place: May 8, 2015, PEBC 600 Grant Street, Suite 525 Denver, CO 80203

Attendance of Board Members:

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

Present by phone: None

Absent: Dan Smink, Claudia Gutierrez

Quorum? Yes

Also in attendance: Marc Waxman, Sonia Sisneros

Members of the public in attendance: None

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

Business Meeting

8: 49am No Public comment
Consent Agenda
Bill's comment on the financials; Marc and Brad do a terrific job of managing the budget. Marc recognizes that it is a team effort.

Motion to approve – Rosann moved, Rona seconds 8:54am

915: Director's Report

Bill question's the school's attendance percentage. The percentage appears below the average in past years. We are currently without a Dean and we know of individual cases. Sue recognizes the good job on teacher attrition and hiring is going well.

We are hiring 8 new people. One new staff is a new Art Teacher; very experienced and wants to work in a place that values art. We have hired a new 5th grade teacher from DCIS Ford; new 3rd grade teacher is from River Song and then the other year is a 30-year experienced Interventionist. Marc moves forward to give a description of each of the staff. We did have some new strategies this year both in terms of where we posted and our approach of introducing the school to interested candidates.

PD is very diverse. Marc describes his approach to what is offered and how we are also including our new employees to this PD; also, we will have a group attend the SEL conference next week.

1000: Committee Reports

Finance Committee (Ethan)

Csafe – Brad wants to make sure that there are no concerns about this approach to save money. Sue thanks Brad for the extra work in investigating the details of Csafe. The vote, a motion to accept the vote, Bill seconds no opposition. There were no additional updates in the Finance Committee's work yesterday. There is a big change anticipated is rumored to happen in the fall of 2016.

Board Development

Rona's discussing with meeting with Tiffani Lennon. Tiffani is a Civil Rights attorney that has a relationship with Sonia. Rona will discuss the opportunity of joining the board as well as the commitment of our work in the Board and the attendance regular meetings.

Ellin in going to look into the availability of Dan for meetings. Dan appears very absent; currently. Sonia is going to look at the Bylaws around attendance and report the data to Ellin. If he's not available for the Board we may be able to continue with supporting our business and marketing work. Marc notes that he is has been very engaged with committee work.

Rona asks if we're looking for additional Board members. We are currently at 9 Board members. Sonia to send out the grid of terms for Board members; Ethan requested it. Rona will also check-in with Lori (?) from Tollgate/Joe Shoemaker.

Marc discusses with Shelli whether or not she will continue on the Board after Kahir graduates from SOAR. Currently, Shelli has the intention of staying on the Board and representing the GVR/Montbello community at large. Marc asks us to consider adding another parent. Marc mentions Janet (a mother that just returned from London). She is very bought into SOAR, has worked in education and is articulate about what supportive of the school.

Sue mentions the CEO/CFO from eBags – Rob Cassidy. He would bring more of the business and marketing.

Strategic Planning

Sue will review in the retreat.

1015: Other

FY16 Meeting Schedule

We will continue with the same trend of meetings. Lacey will send the draft out before we publically publish. There is no meeting in June.

A motion to give Ellin the authority to sign the Charter Renewal Contract. Bill motions and Ethan seconds.

Rona raises the element of paying closer attention to contracts. Ellin has spent a great deal of time looking at the contract and working with Bill Bethke (school lawyer) and Ethan. The language on performance is the only sensitive area; it's straight forward currently "we have perform the same or better" (within 5% of our similar schools cluster) in three areas. There is an "expectations" benchmark for PARCC. DPS is currently trying to create a template contract that they can use for everyone; they have realized the challenges with that. Our contract is unique. The contract runs to September 16, 2016. At this point we have no additional edits that can be made. Our chance to make changes is gone; Marc will send to the Board for the purposes of context for our next renewal period.

9:43 Motion to Adjourn, Sue second Shelli