

## SOAR Charter School Board Meeting

Date, Time and Place: September 11th, 2015, 4800 Telluride St. BLDG 4, Denver, CO 80249

### Attendance of Board Members:

Present: Rosann Ward, Rona Wilensky, Shelli Brown, William Weintraub, Ethan Hemming, Ellin Keene, Claudia Gutierrez

Present by phone: none

Absent: Sue Sava, Dan Smink

**Quorum?** Yes

Also in attendance: Marc Waxman, Sonia Sisneros, Brad Fischer, Lacey Martinez

Members of the public in attendance: none

Meeting brought to order – Bill moved, Ethan seconds 8:59 AM

### **Business Meeting**

8:45 AM – Public Comment

8:50 AM – Consent Agenda

- Board minutes
  - Ellin noted that the minutes should include more information than what has been presented. Lacey will include more notes going forward. Shelli will also review for content.
- Increased scope of work and related fee for the following consultants; revised scope of work statements and total contract values are listed on the attached Change Order forms.
  - Sue Kempton - \$16,000.00
  - Gianna Cassetta - \$16,000.00
  - Rachel Risley - \$10,000.00

Motion to approve – Bill moved, Ellin seconds – 9:03 AM

- In addition, there are two contracts attached here related to professional development services for Marc:
  - TPV Consulting: provides executive coaching and leadership development services to Marc via teleconference at the rate of two, one-hour, sessions per month. This contract was approved by the Board as part of the budget approval.
  - PassageWorks: 13 hours of mindfulness coaching to support Marc in developing his capacity and skills to bring mindful presence and

practices to students in math in 3rd and 5th grade. This conflict of interest was disclosed; Rona excluded herself from the vote of which the contract was approved by the Board.

- Rona recused herself for the discussion and vote.

Motion to approve – Ellin moved, Bill seconds – 9:03 AM

- Both of these contracts are being surfaced to make sure that there is raised visibility into the professional development services being contracted for Marc.

9:00 AM – Audit Approval (VOTE NEEDED)

- A big change is GASB 68. We need to have the pension liability on our books – this creates a \$4 million swing on our books. It looks like we have \$3.5 million in deficit on our government wide financials.
- Pages 18 & 19 on the report show what we look at every month. We ended at where we expected.
- Page 40 shows our actual budget, which is what we saw last month – at the end of June.
- DPS put the performance frame work on hold for now as they figure out how to evaluate fund balances.

Motion to approve – Rona moved, Ethan seconds – 9:10 AM

9:05 AM – Budget Approval (VOTE NEEDED)

- We received a 5 year projection budget from DPS. They held PPR flat - they're saying it's not going to move due to TABOR. If the state doesn't do anything about TABOR, we could see a very flat PPR. (Brad put this in the projections.) This doesn't take into account that they're going to put into a new Mill Levy. (It's flat revenue.) There will be a deficit coming up in 2018 – that's the first year it'll show up. The largest change & the reason we're going for budget re-approval is because professional development went up more than \$50k – mostly because of Gianna Cassetta & Sue Kempton, but music & dance professional development for Yuzo Nieto & Michael Mestas as well.
- Reserves & PTO: this has been discussed with the finance committee. The way we have been dealing with reserves includes TABOR. We're saying we have about \$230k in reserves, but \$117k is TABOR and we can't touch that so we really only have \$130k. DPS hold 82k (3% of our PPR). Every year they recalculate it. DPS only holds it for PPR – we have to hold out more for TABOR. Brad says he may argue that we could potentially touch the difference.
- In Nov we will report progress of this issue to the board. (Budget discussion)

Motion to approve June 2015 financials – Ellin moved, Bill seconds – 9:10 AM

Motion to approve FY16 SOAR budget, Ethan moved, Shelli seconds 9:29 AM

9:10 AM – Revision to Board Calendar (VOTE NEEDED)

- In November we want to add a committee report on how they're thinking about reserves (under finance terms). This should be part of the ongoing finance committee reports. (Amount of reserves & use of them.)
- March begins the board of director self-assessment & head of school assessment – we will culminate in May.
- January board retreat will lead with review of the charter
- No approval needed since this is a working document

9:20 AM – Board Attendance and Related Policy Revision (VOTE NEEDED)

- No discussion was had as this item will be added to the October meeting

9:30 AM – Paid Time Off Policy Revision

- In the past we've paid out, up to 10 days of unused PTO at \$100 a day. We got rid of that, added maternity leave, bereavement, etc.
- We realized that people prefer the PTO payout.
- Today we want to approve a new policy that opens up the policy.
- Right now there isn't money to do PTO payout – this is not what we're approving today.
- One of the first things we'll do is take a little from contingency. We will be taking about \$8500 to match what the paras would have made if they worked for a DPS union school. This won't be finalized until after October count.

Motion to approve PTO policy without payout – Shelli moved, Rona seconds 9:36 AM

9:40 AM – Director's Report

- We're getting organized with the School Accountability Committee meetings. Sonia will send out meeting dates so Board members can sign up.
- Shelli & Rona will be leading a workshop in October on a scheduled professional development day with all staff around equity/diversity. This is a logical follow up to the related professional development that staff participated in before school started.
- More planning will take place around ongoing diversity/equity work over the course of the school year and into next summer's professional development.
- Rona will work on an RFP for a consultant to lead the work. Ideally, the consultant will come from the community.
- We're going to look into how much money we have for this, this year & going forward.

Motion to adjourn into executive session, Ellin moved, Rona seconds 10:02 AM

10:00 AM – Executive Session

- Director Review
- Update on Employee Issue

Motion to reconvene meeting, Rona moved, Bill Seconds 10:33 AM

10:20 AM – Finance Committee Report

- Discussed with budget approval

10:30 AM – Board Committee Reports

- Strategic Planning Committee
  - Board reflection - where does Board see itself in guiding principles
    - Rosann is overseeing this now & will touch base with Sue around this to get up to speed.
- Governance Committee/Board Development Committee; this (includes Board Assessment Review)
  - An update on board growth recruitment: We had been reaching out to a parent, Janet Damon. She is unable to join our board due to her work interfering with our Board meetings. She works in a school library for DPS and cannot get away during the day for meetings
  - We will still want to pursue another parent member & an attorney.
  - Sometime in the spring, Laurie Goodwin who is principal of Tollgate Elementary School in Aurora, would be happy to join us. She & Marc will meet to tour the school before this is finalized. Shelli will join in for Board representation. Sue has worked with her closely for years. We need to get her on boarded before Ellin & Rosann leave.
  - Self-assessment documents overview: We ran through the summary of responses & comments.
- Marketing Committee
  - We're in the process of scheduling a meeting

Motion to adjourn, Bill moved, Ellin seconds 11:00 am

11:00 AM – Adjourn