
Downtown Denver Expeditionary School

Board of Directors Meeting

7:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Alliance Center

1536 Wynkoop St.

Dec. 21, 2016

MINUTES:

- Establishment of a quorum
Present: Susan, Tara. Phone: Terry, Jessica, Brittany, Cory; Staff: Letia, Scott.
- Review and approval of the minutes of the November Board meeting
Motion to approve. Tara makes a motion to approve. Terry seconds. Vote is unanimous and motion passes.
- ED Report
 - SPF Action Plan Strategic Initiatives
 - Achievement Network Update
 - DDES Charter Renewal

Based on a suggestion of Tony Lewis from last month's meeting, the school team has paired down strategic actions. One strategy is using half crews, smaller instruction for both literacy and math.
Terry asks about classroom culture and behavior management.

- DDEMS Delay Resolution

We were approved for a two-year renewal with a two year renewal pending achievement. It's one year shy of the maximum renewal, which is only given to schools with a long track record.

The DPS Board resolution was to delay the middle school for one year, rather than two.

Kristina says that the DDES board had a different resolution for a 2-year delay; Scott reiterates that the board wants to reaffirm that position.

Susan says she wants the board to be nimble about facility and fundraising for the middle school, so we can act on opportunities as they arise. Suggests the board have a sub-group meeting to discuss it.

Terry says that we want to ensure the elementary school performs before opening a middle school, and there is a major state grant that will not come through for up to three years. She encourages fundraising now for current programs rather than the middle school.

Brittany echoes Susan around having a sub-group meeting of the DDES board to continue talking about the middle school and facility, particularly around the possibility of moving into Gilpin.

Jessica says that last year legislation passed that requires districts to notify charters of available facilities and allow charters to apply for a facility. It's worth putting together a plan, and that will create a formalized process.

The facilities committee will get together to look into the Gilpin opportunity.

- EL Assessment (see attachment)
- Walton Grant status

Scott has not heard back from Walton on the grant and delay of the middle school.

- Financial Report (Cory)
 - See attachment.
 - DPS is distributing mill levy funding to schools this budget year. Determining weights and distribution channels. There is about \$70,000 per 100 students. This is great news for DDES.
- Director of Partnerships update
 - My Brother's Keeper grant – We received an assistant for 60 hrs to promote greater diversity in our mentor relationship with our community. We should be able to combine this with Blue Bear buddies.
 - Enrollment update – CHOICE window is open. We have 5 enrollment fairs, 3 Headstart fairs, and several community outreach meetings. First report will be in February,
 - Accepting Gilpin students – We have been asked by the district to prioritize Gilpin families as their school is closing. We told them we would be able to prioritize Gilpin families who qualify for free and reduced lunch as it continues to work towards our mission.
 - Student presentation -- "Gratitude" by Lydia Gryth at 9 a.m.
- Strategic Board Recruitment
 - Process – Discussion of work with Charter Board Partners about recruiting new Board members
 - Training Dates – CBP will offer two training sessions:
 - Jan. 25 session on interviewing and selecting new Board members
 - March 8 session on onboarding and leveraging new Board members
 - Nominating committee was asked to revisit the skill set matrix for new Board members to provide to CBP
- Old Business
 - RMPBS space – Discussion of potential new partner in leasing of space

- Strategic Planning – Tara will investigate potential support for strategic planning initiative
- New Business
- Public Comment Session
- Meeting Adjournment