

## **Meeting Minutes of the DLS Board of Directors**

Denver Language School- Conference call

July 10, 2013

1:45pm

Voting in attendance:

Kristy Fantz

Beverly Haddon

Rick Gonzalez

Camilla Modesitt

Dan Baack

Sara Amodio

Huiliang Liu

Ryan Hunter

### **Call to order**

The conference call of the Denver Language School Board of Directors was called to order at 1:45 by the board chair, Ryan Hunter.

Ryan turned the meeting over to Camilla Modesitt, the Facilities Chair to discuss the latest developments from their conversation with DPS.

Camilla stated the most critical take away from the meeting was this: If we build an ECE/K-2 and keep the 3-8 at Whiteman. Brennan not be approved by the bond committee for the 2016 bond because we wouldn't have any pressing capacity issues.

Even if we do decide to go ahead with the ECE/K-2, we still need someplace to put students during the 2014-2015 school year, and place we have for certain is Calvary.

Below are the options

1. Move the middle school to Calvary indefinitely until we can finance and build a K-8 building.
  - Known costs are \$9,500/month for rent.
  - Unknown costs are a shuttle to run between the schools (guessing about 50k per year) and mobile classrooms which we have there.
2. Build an ECE-2 facility.
  - Known costs are approx. \$900,000 for the land and \$2M for the building.
  - Unknown cost – shuttle to run between the two buildings (guessing about 50k year per year) and other operating costs
  - If we choose this option, the building will not be completed until 2015-2016, which means we have to find a solution for the year that will be over 600 in Whiteman.
  - Possible options may be to put two portable classrooms on the Whiteman property (which means we will go over 600 but we can waive the requirement for one year), or the Church of the Epiphany at 1st and Colorado.
  - Another possibility is to move the 5-8 out of Whiteman for the 2015-2016 school year to Calvary, so that only the K-4 remain at Whiteman (thereby keeping our numbers at Whiteman under 600). Once the ECE-2 is completed in 2015, we can then move the 5-8 back to Whiteman and move the K-2 out, again keeping our numbers at Whiteman under 600.

Camilla stated that a K-8 under one roof is our ultimate goal whatever option we decide. Also, after the meeting with Adele from SLI, the project budget for the ECE-2 would cost around 9 million. Kristy wanted to see the program of requirements for that number because she needed a figure for an ECE-2.

Camilla stated we could try to do the project in phases, but still worried about it hurting our bond chances for 2016.

Bev agreed saying from her experience from sitting on the bond committee they gave priority to schools with a pressing need.

Dan asked if we have a financial feasibility study for Calvary. Rick had already spoken to Lori about putting this together, and she would need additional fees because it was outside her scope of work.

Kristy thought we should go back to David Suppes to understand our potential chances for the 2016 bond especially if DPS was approved for ECE-2 which would resolve our capacity issues for many years. Bev was not sure if David would meet with us again but did not object.

Kristy also had concerns over Calvary because we are at least 4 years out before we could build if we were to make the bond. Calvary we would have both a short term capacity issue and a long term issue with Calvary if the bond did not work out.

Kristy was concerned over attrition as well with the Calvary option because the middle school parents are more likely to leave if we further expressed concerns about the overhead cost of a separate middle school, and how that would affect our overall operating budget.

Dan agreed but thought we could do things to offset the attrition concern like a shuttle bus; however, he thought it would be better to

Whiteman more accommodating to a middle school. He agreed we needed the financial data and thought we might need to survey them to keep their students enrolled at DLS if we moved to Calvary.

Camilla thought we should look big picture regarding our ultimate goal of a K-8, and a small population sample would not be helpful. We should keep in mind our ultimate goal of a K-8.

Kristy wanted more information regarding the 2.5 million investment with our partnership with the University of Beijing, and was wondering if we would be investing in it if we ultimately went to Calvary, and did not build for a while. Camilla thought for our future K-8.

Ryan thought that Calvary was our best option given our circumstance. Huiliang also summarized that Calvary was our best option.

The board agreed that we could not vote without Dr. Sara's input, the financial data, or the information on the investors.

#### Action Items:

1. Follow up with Dr. Sara's for her input.
2. Try to meet with Jen Walmer and/or David Suppes to understand the feasibility of the bond and how our ECE-2 option could affect us.
3. Receive a proposal from Lori on the financial feasibility of Calvary and the ECE-2 campus. Rick thought the project would take time to work, but reminded everyone that Lori is tied up with the charter school audits including DLS's audit.
4. Meet with Forest City on their potential land and options.

The board voted on receiving the financial data. Dan motioned, Rick seconded. All members present were in favor.

Kristy made the motion to adjourn. Camilla seconded the motion...all board members were in favor.

The board meeting adjourned at 2:50.

Minutes written by Kristy Fantz, board secretary