

# DLS NAVIGATOR

*Helping the DLS community navigate the journey from one school to two*



DENVER LANGUAGE SCHOOL

## COMMITTEE

### *Updates & Reports*

#### Transportation

The Transportation Committee has been formed and shared the following.

**Who is on the Transportation Committee?** We are a group of dedicated parents who play different roles in the DLS community. We are a committee made of board and PTA members, administration, and "regular" parents. The split campus will affect some of us, will not affecting others, but we are all dedicated to finding a solution for the transportation concerns that serve the community and the school.

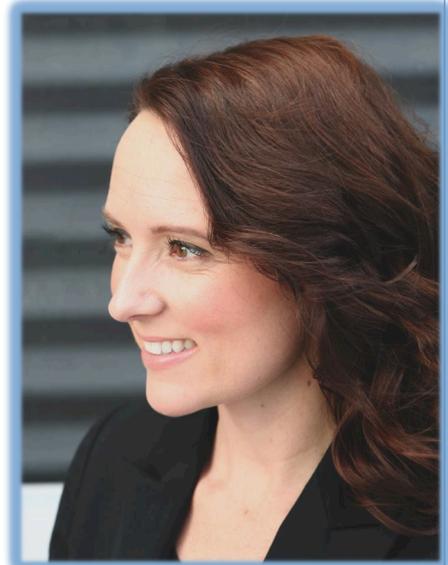
**What are the goals of the transportation committee?** In no particular order are goals are:

1. Provide a way for parents who have children at the two campuses pick up and drop off in one location
2. Provide bus stops at accessible locations for current and new parents to support the school's strategic goals regarding diversity and retention
3. Encourage and support carpooling and alternative transportation options for our families.

## Introducing "Project Manager: DLS West" Chelsea Monahan

In the past month Kathy Benzel hired Chelsea Monahan as our new Project Manager for DLS West. This is a contract position that will run through the summer and possibly longer. Chelsea's focus is to help manage the transition to the two-campus model. Her responsibilities include project management, communications and other projects determined by the administration. Chelsea reports directly to Kathy and will utilize her background as a middle-school teacher to ensure we're focused on the correct program elements for our students moving into the middle-school grades.

Chelsea is an educator and life-long learner originally from Encinitas, CA. Her professional background is in education, marketing, and community outreach, most recently directing an educational technology company focused on early childhood literacy. She has taught middle school world history and is credentialed in both social science and English.



Chelsea has a master's degree from UC San Diego in international relations focused on Latin America, and a bachelor's degree from UC Berkeley in political economy. Her volunteer work has included establishing educational programs and facilities in rural Guatemala, and serving on the boards of two musical education nonprofits in San Diego.

Chelsea has two children: Bella, a 2<sup>nd</sup> grader in DLS's Spanish program, and Liesl, an incoming kindergartener who can't stop talking about being a "future dolphin." We're excited to have Chelsea on the DLS team.

## Updates & Reports (cont. from page 1)

4. Balance convenience, service and cost.

### What resources are available?

We have a group of committed parents working on this issue, plus Board participation and much assistance from DPS experts. The school has budgeted just under 3 times the amount currently spent on busing to improve our bus service next year.

**What are the next steps?** We recently issued an online survey asking for feedback from the community on various transportation preferences and options. More than 240 of you have responded, we are processing the data and will figure out how best to operationalize the community's preferences through continuing conversations with DPS Transportation and the DLS community.

**Final Thoughts?** We do want to manage expectations. While we would all like for the bus stop to be right outside our door, the fact is that our students come from all over the City (a testament to the popularity and quality of our academic program). We will be making the best possible solution for our entire community.

## Curriculum

The administration has spent much time revising / creating our middle school curriculum. The new space available creates new opportunities. To see more details, review the Powerpoint which is included with the DLS Navigator e-newsletters on the website.

## Contact Information

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## Board Q&A (Continued)

*Question: How long are we looking at the DLS East / West model?*

*Answer:*

Our stated goal as a Board is to transition to a k-8 at one location model as quickly as possible. Unfortunately, this is far easier said than done. The DLS West move gives us flexibility. We can stay with the model for up to 10-years, but we also have the ability to change when needed.



Parent volunteers helping move furniture from DLS East and the DPS warehouse to storage for future use in DLS West. Left to right: Luke Wittemyer, Jay Berry, Moose Mamet, Evan Brooks, Lisa Peloso, Craig Wittington, Jeff Brown, Chelsea Monahan, Irene Keeley.

*Question: Will we have staggered start times between the two campuses?*

*Answer:*

Probably not, but nothing is finalized. We are moving as fast as possible on transportation plans, but we don't want to make any errors. We know that this is a key question for our community, and that folks want answers as soon as possible. To help us make the best decision possible, the Transportation Committee sent out a survey this month. That data, coupled with input from the experts at DPS, will allow us to make the best decision possible.