



DENVER LANGUAGE SCHOOL

MEETING OF THE DENVER LANGUAGE SCHOOL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Monday April 20, 2015

Location: Stapleton Foundation

Time: 5pm to 8pm

Mission Statement – Achieve academic excellence and intercultural competence through language immersion education

Agenda:

5:15 pm – Call to Order

5:15 – 7:30 - The purpose of tonight's meeting is to review the Strategic Plan Goals for this year. Dan addressed the each goal and the Board reported on and discussed each objective.

Strategic Plan Goal #1 (Board Leaders: Kathy Benzel, Janine Erickson, Dan Baack)

- To be one of the best academically performing elementary and middle school programs in Colorado.

Objective 1.1: Achieve Distinguished status rating for DPS Public Schools (DPS) and School Performance Framework (SPF) by September 2014 (2014-2015 School Year).

Dan shared that he and Kathy have met on several occasions to discuss this goal. Participation in this year's surveys was overall good. Board is still waiting for Teacher and Parent Survey results.

Objective 1.2: Improve TCAP (CMAS) scores by 5% year over year.

PARCC replaced CMAS, which replaced TCAP. PARCC scores results will not be available until late summer.

Objective 1.3: Maintain SOPA/ELLOPA percentile groupings by year-over-year with the goal of 80Z% JAL for first 8th grade class.

Assessments will be administered in May. Scores will be available in October. Kathy is looking into possible alternatives to proficiency assessments to replace SOPA/ELLOPA.

Strategic Plan Goal # 2 (Board Leaders: Bev Haddon, Jacob Welp, Camilla Modesitt, and Kristy Fantz)

- To increase operational excellence at DLS

Objective 2.1: Implement a communication plans for the Board.

New website was launched. We will remove our Facebook page.

Objective 2.2: Increase understanding and awareness of Board actions.

The Board has held several town hall meetings, produced the Navigator informative newsletter and hosted parent education nights to meet this goal

Objective 2.3: Increase understanding and awareness of Administrative actions.

Kathy has regularly participated in board meetings and shared thorough reports of all activities and communications with DLS community, including "What's Changing" communications and updates on the move to DLS West.

Objective 2.4: Increase understanding of teacher compensation and incentives.

Art teacher Robin B. submitted a proposal for compensation options for staff members, including maternity leave and an upgrade in medical plans. Kathy shared current hiring activity and future program changes regarding music and electives.

Strategic Goal Plan #3 (Board Leaders: Kenneth Ho, Ryan Hunter)

- Provide sufficient facilities to educate ECE through 8th grade students

Objective 3.1: Build an ECE-2 campus by August 2015.

A three-year K-2 campus contract was signed with Calvary Temple. The site was acquired in a timely fashion. Board held several Town Hall meetings and sent monthly letters to communicate with the DLS community on updates on key decisions and initiatives for the new campus.

Objective 3.2: Raise at least \$4.5M to fund the construction of the DLS ECE-2 campus.

(This Objective is addressed in the Summary on Vision, Development, and DLS Board of Directors, submitted by Beverly Haddon, Development Committee and has been added to these minutes at the end of Goal Plan 4.)

Objective 3.3: Achieve significant participation by parents in the Capital Fundraising Campaign.

(This Objective is addressed in the Summary on Vision, Development, and DLS Board of Directors, submitted by Beverly Haddon, Development Committee and has been added to these minutes at the end of Goal Plan 4.)

Objective 3.4: Achieve significant support from DPS for the DLS Facilities growth plan.

The board met frequently with DPS and they have demonstrated strong support for facilities growth plan submitted by this committee.

Strategic Goal Plan #4 (Board Leader: Ryan Hunter)

- Increase the racial and ethnic diversity of the DLS student population to levels consistent with the DPS DLS comparable school cluster by 2017

Objective 4.1: Set appropriate expectations regarding cultural differences among the DLS community and teachers

This goal is ongoing and will be given more attention with the 2015-2017 Board of directors

Objective 4.2: Gain greater understanding of the priorities for the various cultural and ethnic groups of DLS families

This goal is ongoing and will be given more attention with the 2015-2017 Board of directors

Objective 4.3: Increase the percentage of Free and Reduced Lunch program participants within the DLS student population to 40% by 2017.

Some increase may occur with the new campus and new bus stops may increase diversity. This goal is ongoing and will be given more attention with the 2015-2017 Board of directors

Objective 4.4: Increase the racial and ethnic diversity of the DLS student population to levels consistent with the DPS DLS comparable school cluster by 2017.

Some increase may occur with the new campus and new bus stops may increase diversity. This goal is ongoing and will be given more attention with the 2015-2016 Board of directors

Below is a summary of our discussion on Vision, Development and our future Board of Directors, compiled and written by Board member Beverly Haddon.

1. Vision

The Denver Language School's long range vision is to establish an Early Childhood Education (ECE) through 8th grade curriculum that will produce 8th grade graduates who perform in the top 10 percent of all Middle Schools in Colorado.

To achieve this vision we believe we should develop two campuses for ECE through the 4th (or 5th) grades that would accommodate four classes per grade (two classes for Spanish and two classes for Mandarin) at each campus. Thus our total for both campuses would be eight classes per grade (four for Spanish and four for Mandarin). Our research on immersion schools, plus our own experiences predict that the Middle School population is usually smaller than the elementary school population, so it is important to expand the total population for our Elementary schools.

We should also develop one campus for Middle School that may be located at one of the Elementary

campuses, or possibly a separate campus, that would accommodate four classes per grade (two for Spanish and two for Mandarin).

We need to establish a time line for achieving the above. Today we have two campuses, so we should set a date to develop a second ECE – 4/5th grade campus. And we should set a date to determine the best site for a Middle School.

Once we have successfully developed this model, we will consider replicating the model in Denver or elsewhere in the Denver Metro Area or Colorado.

2. Development

The Denver Language School should establish a Board of Trustees (BOT) to focus on Development efforts that is separate from the Board of Directors (BOD). The BOT will be appointed by the BOD and will be guided by the Principal and the Board Chair. The BOD will focus primarily on facility and operations projects that support the Vision.

The BOT should have a liaison member from the PTA as an ex-officio member of the BOT to make certain that both entities are working to support and not compete with one another.

We will recruit candidates for BOT membership who can give substantial sums or who can connect us with individuals/companies/foundations/grant opportunities. The latter group will be called “The Connectors”.

3. DLS Board of Directors

The new target for Board Members will be eleven.

We should canvass the parent community to determine potential candidates that will serve as outstanding leaders for our school.

Candidates should be recommended to the Board Chair, and all candidates should be vetted by at least three Board Members, prior to making a recommendation to the full Board.

Candidate profiles should be established for the Board. The board will define the skills we are looking for and how many individuals we would like in each candidate profile. (The board may also have a goal to have non-parents on the Board, but not have that as a mandatory requirement.)

The Board will decide on a timeline to achieve these goals. The Board will follow up with comments and discussion on the topics of this summary and consider the starting date for introducing these changes.

The Board also discussed having Beverly and Camilla co-chairing the BOT, so we would begin to work on establishing this group. They will however serve on the Board until a new Board can be put in place in August.

7:30 – 8:00 Executive Session for the purposes of conducting discussions regarding the principal’s compensation as per C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(e) “personnel matters”.

Camilla motioned to adjourn the meeting and Kristy seconded.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45PM

Respectfully submitted by Janine Erickson, DLS Board Secretary



