

MINUTES

DSST Public Schools Board Meeting

May 26, 2016

DSST Conference Line (303-524-6301)

Meeting Called to Order: 2:35 p.m.

Board Members Present:

Dwight Jones

Gloria Zamora

Heather Lamm

Justin Jaschke

Peter Fritzing

Steve Halsted

Steve McConahey

Teresa Berryman

Alex Hernandez

Jackie Sullivan

Matthew Schnittman*

Dan Wilkerson*

Sean VanBerschoot*

*Attended via conference call

Parent Present: None

Board Members Absent: Don Kirkpatrick, Keith Evans, Deborah McGriff

DSST Staff Present: Bill Kurtz, Christine Nelson, Scott Walker

Other Attendees: Caroline Gaudiani

DPS Staff Present: None

Welcome

Mr. Halsted welcomed everyone to the meeting.

School Director Q&A: Caroline Guadiani, DSST: Green Valley Ranch High School. Board asked numerous questions on school performance and culture which Guadiani answered. She departed the meeting at the conclusion of the Q&A.

Public Comment: None

Motion: Approval of previous board meeting minutes, Zamora

Second: Fritzing

Vote: Unanimous Approval

Budget Resolution

Budget for the 2017 fiscal year was presented to board in board packet.

Motion to approve 2017 Budget, Fritzinger

Second: Jones

Unanimous Approval

New Board Members

Nominees: Patrick O'Keefe, Glenn Russo, George Sparks, Gina Rodriguez, Nate Easley

Motion to elect five new nominees to DSST board, Lamm

Second: Berryman

Unanimous Approval

Board Leadership Succession

Zamora left room as Halstedt shared the proposed plan to elect a new board chairperson: Zamora will become the new chair-elect and will succeed Halstedt on January 1, 2017; Halstedt will extend his term as board member and chairperson through December 31, 2016; the extension will provide time for Zamora to fully transition duties from Halstedt by end of year. Kurtz advocated for plan as it would enable Halstedt to see through the completion of the current strategic planning process begun under his leadership last fall.

Motion to approve extension of Halstedt roles and election of Zamora, Wilkerson

Second: McConahey

Unanimous Approval

401K Fiduciary Responsibility Delegation Charter

Berryman explained that there is no benefit to moving to a 403(B), as it would increase costs. Recommendation is to delegate from the board to a management team led by Scott Walker.

Motion to approve changes to charter, Lamm

Second: Sullivan

Approved unanimously

Approval of Audit and Finance Committee charters

Motion to approve revised charters for each committee, Lamm

Second: Berryman

Approved unanimously

Executive Session

Mr. Halstedt stated, "I would entertain a motion to go into Executive Session as permitted under the Colorado Revised Statutes section 24-6-402 (4) to the purpose of: Pursuant to subsection (e) Determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations; developing strategy for negotiations; and instructing negotiators; specifically the timing and location of additional schools and campuses.

Motion to go into Executive Session at 3:27PM, Berryman

Second: McConahey

Vote: Unanimous approval

Motion to end Executive Session at 4:10pm, Berryman

Second: Wilkerson

Vote: Unanimous approval

Mr. Halstedt called the regular board meeting back to order.

Strategic Planning Discussion

Kurtz and Walker provided an update on DSST Public Schools strategic planning work.

Reports

Kurtz reported that ACT scores for this year are very strong. 23.2 at DSST: GVR, which is our first middle school class. 24.3 at DSST: Stapleton, which is very high. Growth at both of these schools was greater than 3.5. Sullivan asked how the schools would be celebrating the results and strongly suggested that our faculty in these schools should be encouraged to celebrate these extraordinary accomplishments.

Kurtz distributed language on inclusive paths and explained the importance of creating a culture that celebrates the full potential of every student, especially those that are part of our Center Based programs. The board discussed potential edits to the document.

Halstedt reported on the work of the Executive Committee, highlighting the election of Zamora and said that the group had largely completed all of its goals for the year. He said succession planning for DSST leadership beyond the CEO was a future goal.

Hernandez shared the progress the Education and Information Technology Committee has made and said the committee would continue to focus on tracking graduate outcomes and academic achievement growth, reviewing school accountability committees, and preparing for the Tech Deep Dive on June 28.

Berryman reported on Finance & Operations Committee results, stating that much of their work was ongoing and would be completed over the summer, specifically reviews of investment portfolio, long term forecast, compensation, and insurance coverage. Home office breakeven and enterprise risk management would be addressed in greater detail next fall.

Fritzinger reported that the Audit Committee work was complete and touted a clean audit for the 2015 fiscal year. He alerted the board that a comment was expected for the 2016 year reflecting DSST had no in-house CPA but did not believe this was a concern. He also shared that the audit services would be re-bid next year.

Schnittman, in reporting on the Advancement Committee, celebrated the recent success of Slice of Pi's record \$1.3 million result. McConahey discussed exploring a new group to assist in ongoing fundraising.

McConahey's report on the Nominating and Governance Committee highlighted the strength of the five newly nominated board members and the strong pipeline of twenty prospective members to be considered for future years. He also expressed a desire to find opportunities for social interactions amongst the board, particularly to help integrate new members.

Acknowledgement of Don Kirkpatrick and Steve McConahey's service

Halstedt asked the board to acknowledge this was the last board meeting of Kirkpatrick and McConahey, whose terms were ending per the board's term limit policy. He expressed great thanks and appreciation for their service and the tremendous contributions they had made to DSST.

*The board wants to thank Don and Steve.
Their departure from us we all grieve.
Their wisdom and smiles
Both go on for miles,
But per policy, now they must leave.*

Motion to recognize the contributions of Don Kirkpatrick and Steve McConahey, Halstedt

Second: Fritzinger

Vote: Unanimous approval

Motion for adjournment of Board Meeting at 5:30pm, Zamora

Second: Berryman

Vote: Unanimous approval

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine Nelson and Scott Walker (note-takers) for Sean VanBerschot, Secretary