

## MINUTES

DSST Public Schools Board Meeting  
November 19, 2015  
DSST: Cole High School, Room 126

Meeting Called to Order: 2:38 p.m.

### **Board Members Present:**

Alex Hernandez  
Dan Wilkerson  
Deborah McGriff (via phone)  
Don Kirkpatrick  
Dwight Jones (via phone)  
Gloria Zamora (via phone)  
Heather Lamm  
Jackie Sullivan  
Justin Jaschke  
Keith Evans  
Peter Fritzing  
Steve Halsted  
Steve McConahey  
Teresa Berryman

**Parent Present:** Laura Jackabowski (Stapleton Parent), Michel Brossmer (Byers Parent)

**Board Members Absent:** Matthew Schnittman, Sean VanBerschoot

**DSST Staff Present:** Ben Cairns, Bill Durbin, Bill Kurtz, Christine Nelson, Denise Queen, Katie Glenn (note taker), Monica Acosta, Scott Walker

**Other Attendees:** David Greenberg

**DPS Staff Present:** None

### **Welcome**

Mr. Halsted welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Laura Jackabowski (Stapleton STP parent), Michel Brossmer (Byers STP parent), Ben Cairns (School Director at DSST: Cole High School) and Monica Acosta (Advocacy Manager at the Home Office).

Mr. Halsted continued by proposing changes to the agenda for the meeting. The advocacy strategy discussion was reduced to 20 minutes, the home office report was reduced to 15 minutes, and an executive session was added to the end of the meeting for 25 minutes.

**Motion:** Approval of new agenda, Berryman

**Second:** Fritzing

**Vote:** Unanimous approval

Mr. Durbin introduced Ben Cairns (School Director at DSST: Cole High School) and complimented Mr. Cairns on his leadership at DSST: Cole High School. Mr. Durbin also added that Mr. Cairns is a model high school leader in our network.

**School Director Q&A:** Ben Cairns, School Director at DSST: Cole High School. Mr. Cairns began his reflection by sharing a couple things that are going well at DSST: Cole High School. These items included relationships, specifically that every teacher knows every student in their classrooms, and general school culture is strong as well as student investment in their school culture. Mr. Cairns continued by sharing a couple things they are currently looking to improve. These items included scaling systems and doing a leadership team reset in regards to roles and responsibilities. Lastly, Mr. Cairns shared that they are also working on improving attrition

and enrollment. They are currently facing challenges and losing students due the perception of the Cole neighborhood as well as the increase in the costs of living in Denver. Mr. Cairns concluded this portion of the board meeting by an open Q and A session.

**Public Comment:** Ms. Brossmer asked a question regarding school-based fundraising. Mr. Kurtz and Ms. Nelson answered by stating that we are currently working on a network policy for school-based fundraising.

### **Consent Agenda**

**Motion:** Approval of previous board meeting minutes, Sullivan

**Second:** Lamm

**Vote:** Unanimous approval

**Motion:** Approval of 2015-2016 Committee Charters, Jashke

**Second:** Sullivan

**Vote:** Unanimous approval

### **Discussion**

Ms. Nelson and Ms. Acosta presented a powerpoint on DSST's Advocacy Strategy. They then concluded their presentation by opening up the discussion to a Q and A.

After the Advocacy Strategy presentation, Mr. Kurtz presented a powerpoint on DSST's Growth Strategy. He concluded his presentation by opening up the discussion to a Q and A.

### **Reports**

After Mr. Kurtz's presentation, he asked if there are any clarifying questions regarding any other information in the Home Office Reports or Strategic Initiative Charters.

Mr. Halstedt reported that the Executive Committee approved the board meeting agenda in their Executive Committee call on November 5<sup>th</sup>. They also discussed the results of the school board elections. Mr. Halstedt added that they will be discussing DSST's expansion in the executive session. Lastly, Mr. Kirkpatrick requested a deep dive on college persistence in an upcoming board meeting.

Mr. Kirkpatrick shared that the IT Advisory Committee and Education Committee spent their meeting discussing school accountability committees. He reported that they are going to form a template to help make the meetings consistent across campuses. Mr. Kirkpatrick added that the committee also discussed college persistence which is what sparked the request of a college persistence deep dive. He concluded his report by sharing that the committee will be focusing on equity at their next meeting.

Ms. Berryman reported that DSST is on track for enrollment except for at DSST: Cole and DSST: College View. She also shared that the committee is currently working on a long term financial plan for the new schools and home office. Lastly, Ms. Berryman reported that they will have a risk management update in the spring.

Mr. Fritzing reported that the Audit Committee does not have an update in the board book. He also added that the committee reviewed the tax return for DSST and management and filed it. Mr. Fritzing concluded his report by asking if there were any questions.

Ms. Queen reported that DSST was awarded CCSP funds for DSST: Byers High School and DSST: Henry Middle School. She also shared that CH2M Hill is donating \$50,000 to DSST for the upcoming year. Ms. Queen added that the Development Team is currently working on Slice of Pi and she continued by reminding the board that Slice of Pi is on April 29<sup>th</sup> and we are honoring Mike Fries this year. She also reminded the board about Colorado Gives Day on December 8<sup>th</sup> and that the team will be doing outreach within the next three weeks.

Mr. McConahey reported that the Nominating and Governance Committee is currently working on the board pipeline. He continued by stating that they will be putting together a document of names to share with

everyone. Mr. McConahey asked the board to review the document so that the committee is aware if you know anyone on the list and/or if there are any names that should be added to the list.

**New Business:** None

Mr. Halstedt stated, "I would entertain 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 5:05pm, Berryman**

**Second:** McConahey

**Vote:** Unanimous approval

**Motion to end Executive Session at 5:18pm, Fritzinger**

**Second:** Berryman

**Vote:** Unanimous approval

**Motion for adjournment of Board Meeting at 5:18pm, Fritzinger**

**Second:** Berryman

**Vote:** Unanimous approval

Respectfully Submitted,

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Katie Glenn (note-taker) for Sean VanBershot, Secretary