

## MINUTES

DSST Public Schools Board Meeting  
September 24, 2015

DSST: Conservatory Green Middle School, Room 237

Meeting Called to Order: 2:37 p.m.

### **Board Members Present:**

Dan Wilkerson  
Deborah McGriff (via phone)  
Don Kirkpatrick  
Dwight Jones  
Gloria Zamora  
Heather Lamm  
Jackie Sullivan  
Justin Jaschke  
Keith Evans  
Matthew Schnittman (via phone)  
Peter Fritzing (via phone)  
Sean VanBerschot (via phone)  
Steve Halstedt

**Parent Present:** Michel Brossmer (Byers Parent)

**Board Members Absent:** Alex Hernandez, Steve McConahey, Teresa Berryman

**DSST Staff Present:** Bill Durbin, Bill Kurtz, Denise Queen, John Clark, Katie Glenn (note taker), Scott Walker

**DPS Staff Present:** None

### **Welcome**

Mr. Halstedt welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Michel Brossmer (Byers STP parent), John Clark (School Director at DSST: Conservatory Green Middle School) and Bill Durbin (new Chief of Schools at DSST).

Mr. Kurtz provided the board with a brief background about Mr. Clark. He then continued by complimenting Mr. Clark for being an amazing and authentic leader who leads by example.

**School Director Q&A:** John Clark, School Director at DSST: Conservatory Green Middle School. Mr. Clark began his reflection by providing the board with an overview of DSST: Conservatory Green Middle School. Mr. Clark's overview included that they currently have a team of 34 team members, five apprentice teachers, and an additional Special Education teacher due to the school's needs. He continued by elaborating on the Apprentice Teacher Program stating that it is exciting to development apprentice teachers and it allows his current teachers leadership opportunities to mentor them. He concluded his overview by saying that he is very proud of his team and their work. Mr. Clark added that they formed a student council this year because student voice is extremely important in the work that they do. Lastly, Mr. Clark shared that the team is excited to see the results from the first round of assessments and he concluded this portion of the board meeting by an open Q and A session.

Mr. Kurtz introduced Bill Durbin and provided the board with a background on Mr. Durbin.

**Public Comment:** Ms. Brossmer asked a question regarding the school choice process at each DSST school. Mr. Kurtz answered by stating that each DSST school has a different arrangement with DPS as well as their own enrollment preferences.

### **Consent Agenda**

**Motion:** Approval of previous board meeting minutes with one edit, Wilkerson

**Second:** Lamm

**Vote:** Unanimous approval

## Reports

Mr. Kurtz started by stating that in today's meeting we will discuss campus 7 in the executive session, academic results which will be presented by Stefan McVoy, one of our Director of Schools, and updates on DSST's Operating Plan which are provided in the board book.

Mr. Kurtz closed by opening up the discussion for clarifying questions regarding any other information in the Home Office Reports or Strategic Initiative Charters.

Mr. Halstedt reported that the Executive Committee report is on page 27 in the board book. He continued by sharing two items the committee wanted to bring to the board's attention. The first item was the DPS School Board elections. He strongly encouraged the board to donate to the three school board campaigns (Happy Haynes, Lisa Flores, Anne Rowe). He added that both Mr. Kurtz and himself have/will support all three personally. Mr. Halstedt continued by saying he believes the success of DSST Public Schools has and will depend greatly on wise and supportive governance from candidates like these. He closed by saying that conversely we believe an unfavorable school board can, and probably will, greatly impede DSST's progress. The second item Mr. Halstedt wanted to discuss was Initiative 2A. He asked the board to consider supporting the College Matters ballot initiative. The initiative is designed to provide DPS graduates with continuing financial support to attend college. DSST students, particularly low income students, should benefit since they are college ready. Mr. Kurtz added that he would like to request the board's support as a whole for Initiative 2A.

### **Motion to favor ballot Initiative 2A as a Board, Wilkerson**

**Second:** Sullivan

**Vote:** Unanimous approval

Mr. Kirkpatrick shared that the IT Advisory Committee and Education Committee will be combined moving forward. He continued by saying that they have provided a draft charter in the board book and the committee will be finalizing the charter on October 6<sup>th</sup> at their next meeting.

Mr. Kirkpatrick reported out for the Finance Committee due to Ms. Berryman not being at the board meeting. Mr. Kirkpatrick shared that the Finance Committee had their first meeting today. They reviewed the FY15 financials which have been provided in the board book and are currently discussing DSST's long term viability and specific tools they can use regarding this area.

Mr. Kirkpatrick reported out for the Audit Committee as well. He shared that they had the opportunity to audit each individual school's financials this year and those reports can be reviewed on DSST's website. Mr. Kirkpatrick added that Eide Bailly was very pleased with the help they received from our team. He continued by complimenting Scott Walker and his team on this effort. He concluded the Audit Committee report by sharing that the audit came through with no findings or management letters. Mr. Kurtz gave a shout out to Peter Fritzingler and Teresa Berryman for their work with the audit as well.

Ms. Queen reported out for the Advancement Committee and shared that the Development Team hired a new Development Coordinator, Brian Kramer, and Grants Manager, Christina McClelland. Ms. Queen added that they are both coming up to speed quickly and are getting into the thick with several upcoming grants. Ms. Queen continued by telling the board about Colorado Gives Day on December 8<sup>th</sup>. She concluded her report by sharing that we will be honoring Mike Fries at Slice of Pi and Steve and Susan Halstedt have already committed to co-chairing the event.

Mr. McConahey reported out for the Nominating and Governance Committee. He shared that they had a meeting today and updated their charter. They also went over who is in the board pipeline and requested that Mr. Kurtz attends their next meeting.

## Discussion

Mr. McVoy presented a powerpoint on DSST's 2014-2015 School Performance. He then concluded his presentation by opening up the discussion to a Q and A.

**New Business:** None

Mr. Halsted 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.
- CEO Evaluation

**Motion to go into Executive Session at 4:20pm, Wilkerson**

**Second:** Jaschke

**Vote:** Unanimous approval

**Motion to end Executive Session at 5:50pm, Kirkpatrick**

**Second:** Lamm

**Vote:** Unanimous approval

**Motion to approve CEO bonus for FY2015 and compensation for FY2016, Lamm**

**Second:** Kirkpatrick

**Vote:** Unanimous approval

**Motion for adjournment of Board Meeting at 5:55pm, Lamm**

**Second:** Kirkpatrick

**Vote:** Unanimous approval

Respectfully Submitted,

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