

MINUTES

DSST Public Schools Board Meeting
September 18, 2025
DSST: Home Office

Meeting Called to Order: 2:09 p.m.

Board Members Present:

Andrew Sinclair
Billy Brown*
David Greenberg
David Suppes
Deanna Campos Miller
Dominick Moreno
Fatima Rezaie
Glenn Russo
Jim Taylor
Mary Haynes
Medford Moorer*
Patrick O'Rourke

Parent/Guardian Present: Yazmin - DSST: Cedar Parent

Board Members Absent: Alyssa Whitehead-Bust; Jean Kutner

DSST Staff Present: Aaron Griffen, Antwan Wilson, Carrie Ramsey, Luisa Harkins, Nella García Urban, Nick Plantan, Nicole Fulbright*, Tamara Ghandour
Steve Coit, Analise Gonzalez-Fiine, Andrew Mendrop
Guests: Amanda McDonald, Jacob Burdette, Dr James Clark

DPS Staff Present: Mackenzie Khan (virtual)

Others Present: Itzael Garcia, Breanna Self, Vernon Jones

Public Comment: Norma Dena - DSST: GVR Parent*

* = Joined virtually

Welcome:

Mr. Russo welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Public Comment:

Norma Dena, DSST: GVR Parent shared her experiences and frustrations with the traffic at the Evie Dennis Campus.

Celebrations:

Ms Garcia Urban introduced key new members to DSST Staff. Amanda McDonald, MD for AST Middle School, Montview Middle School and College View Middle School; Jacob Burdette, School Director of AST High School; Dr James Clark, School Director of Cole Middle School. Lizeth Martinez, VP of Academic Program shared a video message and Emily Felsenthal, School Director of Elevate High School, who is on personal leave, shared a slide.

Approval Items:

Motion to approve previous board meeting minutes (June 15, 2025), Suppes

Second: Taylor

Vote: Unanimous approval

Discussion:**State of the Schools:**

24-25 Performance - Ms. Ramsey reported that 15 of 16 DSST schools were green on the 2024-25 Colorado SPF. Mr. Wilson, Ms. Ghandour and Mr. Griffen also provided updates on their final goal accomplishments.

25-26 Scorecard - The Board engaged in a Q&A and provided feedback.

CEO Report: Ms. García Urban shared DSST's Big 5 Goals for the 2025-26 school year and strategic initiatives . Ms. Garcia Urban also provided an update on the strong start to this school year, including enrollment, attendance, and persistence.

25-26 Committees & Advisory Groups: Mr. Russo shared that, based on feedback from the board, the Advancement Committee would now incorporate Nominating. The Executive Committee would incorporate Governance. Audit would join the Finance and Operations Committee.

25-26 Board Meeting Agendas & Retreat: Mr. Russo and Mr. O'Rourke shared that they would like to update the bylaws and requested input from board members in the form of a survey.

Reports:

Advancement Committee - Mr. Mendrop shared information about the Champions Impact Tour on November 4, 2025 for donors and allies.

Executive Session:

Mr. Russo stated, "I would entertain a motion to go into Executive Session as permitted by the Colorado Open Meetings Act for the purpose of considering the following matters:

Colorado Revised Statute 24-6-402

- (4) (f) Regarding personnel matters.CEO, Nella Garcia Urban.

Motion to go into Executive Session, Greenberg

Second: Haynes

Vote: Unanimous approval

Motion to adjourn Executive Session, Taylor

Second: Moreno

Vote: Unanimous approval

Motion to adjourn board meeting,O'Rourke

Second: Suppes

Vote: Unanimous approval

Respectfully Submitted,

Luisa Harkins (note-taker), Secretary