

MINUTES

DSST Public Schools Board Meeting

December 11, 2025

DSST: Cole

Meeting Called to Order: 2:06 p.m.

Board Members Present:

Alyssa Whitehead-Bust
Andrew Goldin
Andrew Sinclair
Billy Brown
David Greenberg
David Suppes
Deanna Campos Miller
Fatima Rezaie
Glenn Russo
Dr. Jean Kutner
Jim Taylor
Medford Moorer*
Patrick O'Rourke

Parent/Guardian Present: None

Board Members Absent: Mary Haynes, Dominick Moreno

DSST Staff Present: Dr. Aaron Griffen*, Andrew Mendrop, Analise Gonzalez-Fine, Dr. Antwan Wilson, Aubrey Lynch, Carrie Ramsey, Luisa Harkins, Makita Cotto*, Nella García Urban, Nick Plantan, Nicole Fulbright*, Rashmi Ryan-Brundin, Tamara Ghandour
Guests: Dr. James Clark, Danika Connolly, Lindsey Gish, Layla Herrera-Saucedo, Tyler Randolph

DPS Staff Present: None

Others Present: Yazmine Rivera – Cedar Parent

Public Comment: None

* = Joined virtually

Welcome:

Mr. O'Rourke welcomed everyone to the meeting.

School Director Report:

Dr James Clark, School Director of DSST: Cole Middle School shared an update on his first semester and engaged in a Q&A session with the Board.

Cole Middle School Teacher/Leader Panel:

Ms. Ghandour facilitated a panel with three teachers at Cole Middle School – Lindsey Gish, Danika Connolly, Tyler Randolph – and with Layla Herrera-Saucedo, the Community Engagement & Recruitment Manager. The group engaged in a question and answer session with Ms. Ghandour and board members.

Approval Items:

Motion to approve previous board meeting minutes (September 18, 2025), Greenberg

Second: Russo

Vote: Unanimous approval

Motion to approve previous board retreat minutes (October 9, 2025), Kutner

Second: Suppes

Vote: Unanimous approval

Board Service Recognition:

The board and DSST team members recognized Mr. Glenn Russo for his years of service to the DSST Board. Mr. Russo terms off the board at the end of December.

Discussion:

CEO Report: Ms. García Urban provided updates to the board on quarter 2, including enrollment, attendance, academic performance, student experience and staff surveys, retention, and program implementation. Ms. Garcia Urban thanked board members who attended the Elevate Middle School Champions Impact Tour with donors and external partners.

Strategic Discussion: Quantum 5 Strategy

Ms. Ghandour and Ms. Cotto gave an update on DSST's Quantum 5 Strategy, which focuses on culture and talent. The group engaged in small group discussions.

Strategic Discussion: DSST: Cole

Dr. Wilson led an update on enrollment at DSST: Cole and the group engaged in small group discussions.

Reports:

The Academic Impact Committee shared that they had previewed materials that will be shared at the next board meeting regarding academic performance.

The Advancement Committee shared that they are driving nominations for future board positions and focusing on fundraising.

The F&O Committee shared that DSST is on track financially.

The Executive Committee shared that they had been working on succession planning.

Executive Session:

Mr. O'Rourke 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) (a) Concerning the purchase, acquisition, lease, transfer, or sale of any real, personal, or other property interest.

Motion to go into Executive Session, Taylor

Second: Miller

Vote: Unanimous approval

Motion to adjourn Executive Session, Goldin

Second: Kutner

Vote: Unanimous approval

Motion to adjourn board meeting, Kutner

Second: Suppes

Vote: Unanimous approval

Respectfully Submitted,

Luisa Harkins (note-taker), Secretary