

MINUTES

DSST Public Schools Board Meeting
November 20, 2014

DSST: Conservatory Green Middle School, Room 237

Meeting Called to Order: 2:34 p.m.

Board Members Present:

Dan Wilkerson
David Greenberg
Deborah McGriff (via phone)
Heather Lamm
Jackie Sullivan
Justin Jaschke
Michele Cooper
Norwood Robb
Sean VanBerschoot
Steve Halstedt
Steve McConahey
Teresa Berryman

Parent Present: Lolly Block (Cole Campus) via phone, Wylly Staab (Byers Campus)

Board Members Absent: Don Kirkpatrick, Keith Evans, Matthew Schnittman, Tanya Kelly-Bowry

DSST Staff Present: Bill Kurtz, Christine Nelson, Denise Queen, Jackie Blizzard, John Clark, Katie Glenn (note taker), Susan Barrett

DPS Staff Present: None

Welcome

Mr. Halstedt apologizes about the new agenda and the board book not being aligned. This issue will be resolved for the board meeting in January.

Mr. Kurtz introduces John Clark, the School Director at DSST: Conservatory Green Middle School and commends Mr. Clark for his great leadership.

School Director Q&A: John Clark, Director of Conservatory Green Middle School. Mr. Clark begins by stating that the school year is off to a great start. He shares that his team has great communication with each other they have implemented efficient systems to help with their daily work. A main focus of their team is how they engage with their community and teachers. They focus on having a shared vision of the school and what they want it to be. Mr. Clark also shares that they offer a good range of student clubs and athletic programs. Mr. Clark continues to share a challenge/concern that him and his team have and will continue to face. The challenge is to keep the student population diverse. They had great success last year. However, they are hitting the ground running this year to keep it moving forward.

Mr. Clark introduces Jackie Blizzard. Ms. Blizzard is a Computer Science teacher at Conservatory Green Middle School.

Ms. Blizzard begins by giving a brief background of herself. She continues by presenting a visual overview of the computer science programs the students are currently learning and programs they will learn in the future as they continue on to 7th and 8th grade.

Consent Agenda

Motion: Approval of previous board meeting minutes, McConahey

Second: Halstedt

Vote: Unanimous approval

Motion: Approval of the following 2014-2015 Committee Charters: Executive Committee, Nominating and Governance Committee (with amendment to include a process for recruiting), Education Committee, Finance Committee, IT Advisory, and Audit Committee, Wilkerson

Second: Robb

Vote: Unanimous approval

Motion: Approval of adding Gloria Zamora to the DSST Board of Directors, Jacshke

Second: McGriff

Vote: Unanimous approval

Motion: Approval of November budget, Cooper

Second: Sullivan

Vote: Unanimous approval

Motion: Approval to move forward with College View High School, Robb

Second: McGriff

Vote: Unanimous approval

Discussion

Mr. Halstedt states that the agenda has changed to allow for deeper discussions on various topics as well as more discussed with the School Directors.

Common Core

Mr. Kurtz introduces Susan Barrett. Ms. Barrett is the Manager of Curriculum and Assessment for Humanities at the Home Office.

Ms. Barrett presented an overview of the common core state standards and instructional shifts.

Board Effectiveness Survey Follow-up

Ms. Lamm and Mr. McConahey presented key takeaways from the board effectiveness survey. The takeaways included the following:

- Confusion on Board expectations
 - Action Steps: The Nomination and Governance Committee will update the board contract each year to include board plans and expectations.
- More education on current educational topics (example: Common Core)
 - Other topics: Understanding of the fundamental financial model of DSST and how it affects us, what it means to breakeven (are we self-sustaining), college persistence and placement, who is doing what out there and learning new models.
- We need to clarify DSST's risk management plan, succession plan, and long term plan.

Ms. Lamm and Mr. McConahey noted that the results to the survey were not significantly different than the previous two years. They also noted there was more of a balance between 4s and 5s this year compared to 3s and 5s previously. The feedback from the survey will be incorporated into board planning at the Executive Committee meeting.

Strategic Next Steps from the Retreat

Mr. Kurtz presented an overview of DSST's Vision 2022 Growth Plan and Vision 2025 Growth Plan.

Reports

Mr. Halstedt opened the discussion by asking if there were any questions regarding the home office and committee reports. The board then preceded to have an open Q and A.

The Education Committee and IT Advisory reported that they are engaging in a joint project on data security.

Ms. Berryman thanks the board members for submitting their individual board plans. The next step is to hold board members accountable for their individual board plans.

New Business: There were great questions asked but hard to discuss in a small amount of time. As a board they must decide on how much time they want to spend on each topic (attrition, retention, etc.) and then schedule it into the agenda.

The board all agreed that they like the new agenda format better than the old one.

Motion for adjournment of Board Meeting at 5:29pm, Greenberg

Second: Robb

Vote: Unanimous approval

Respectfully Submitted,

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