

MEETING OF THE DENVER LANGUAGE SCHOOL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 28th, 2020

Location: DLS Whiteman Campus

Time: 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Conference Call (303) 557-5869 Pin 1234

Mission Statement – Achieve academic excellence and intercultural competence through language immersion education

In Attendance:

Board Members Carter Davidson, Corelle Spettigue, Josh Lin, Susan Hennessy, Faye Caronan, Dave Larkin, Parker Schenken

Attending by Phone Bryan Snow

Non-Board Members Katie Evereth, Eva Doblaz, Yu-Hsin Lien, Camilla Modestat,

Meeting Called to Order: 6:09 pm

Public Comment None

PTO Update - none

Approve Minutes

Carter moves to approve the minutes from 01/28/19.

Faye seconds. No discussion. All in favor. Motion carries.

Approve 2020-21 Academic Calendar

Parker moves to approve the Academic Calendar for 2020-21. Carter seconds. Only item of note is the potential for Susan Cordova to call for schools without heat mitigation to begin 2 weeks later

All in favor. Motion is approved.

Financial Report - Bryan Snow

- Personnel: Hire for another team member will push the budget up, but Kathy and Lori have already provided for it in the cushion for our budget. Lowers our contingency by 10k (to 40k)
- Trying to anticipate increases for next year, especially for transportation
- Planning for 2020-21 budget is underway. Lori, Rachel, and Kathy are looking at numbers and staffing for next year.
- We have a very preliminary number for student count (district is saying 882 for 2021-22)
- Contribution/Donations - 75k above our goal of 200k
- Additionally, our school has been awarded the Startalk grant (out of the University of Maryland, National Council of Less Commonly Taught Languages/National Security Agency) for 75k for STEAM camp paying for teachers, materials

Mid-Year Board Check-in - Corelle

4th Goal - Equity & Inclusion - Faye

- ➔ Equity committee meeting - first few meetings identifying out what to do/address
- ➔ Have included parents and staff in committee
- ➔ Utilizing particular tool to help suss issues out
- ➔ Looking at data from student surveys from last year
- ➔ Kathy, Anne Trujillo, Robert asking if there are additional questions needed to be asked to students
- ➔ Committee will yield recommendations for the board to move forward in the work of Equity & Inclusion

Anne Trujillo is point person for equity work for the culture with DLS staff (with Dr. Aaron Griffen)

Professional Development with Dr. Aaron Griffen

- ➔ Culturally relevant and culturally responsive teaching in the classroom
- ➔ Noticed some of the vocabulary was over the heads of teachers in Dec
- ➔ Eva and Yu-Hsin took questions provided by Dr. Griffin and translated them for teachers in Jan
- ➔ Need to follow up in small groups, continued PD, translation beforehand, material in native language and culture for pre-reading
- ➔ Discovering/learning how to be more effective for teachers

The Board should charge the committee to look at E/I for teacher in Behavior, Retention

Development - Camilla

- ➔ We're at \$275k with goal of \$200k
- ➔ Advancement - 1st round of school choice just closed and preliminary
- ➔ Student action project for 8th grade
- ➔ 45 mentors coming in - Reporter from chalkbeat, Dancer from ballet...
- ➔ Mayor's office sending senior advisors to tour
- ➔ CDE toured and looking at model
- ➔ Grants - Startalk
- ➔ Mental health grant for training from CDE
- ➔ Staff stipend from Colorado League for bookroom at Whiteman/early literacy program
- ➔ DL4 awards - marketing initiative for board to head - community awards

Executive Director Report -Kathy

Strategic Goal #1: Academic Achievement:

School Data Overview - Eva Doblaz & Yu-Hsin Lien

Target Language proficiency

- Use ACTFL Avant Stamp 4SE & 4S assessment (replacing APPL)
 - Funnel shaped scoring/reports
- Chinese reading - compared to national score
 - 2nd grade scored lower than national as 1st year being tested (1st time on laptops, 1st time being tested)
- Chinese writing
 - 2nd grade did not take because the need for pingyin
 - 3rd grade scored higher than national possibly because their test was given on paper vs typing in chinese characters in the computer
- Chinese listening - all grades did very well
- Chinese speaking - all grades did well
- Spanish reading - very high
- Spanish writing - intermediate levels are very high
- Spanish listening - very high
- Spanish speaking - high

SAC work & UIP Goals

- Discuss results from Parent & student Satisfaction survey

We see the results on state assessment of our initiatives for FRL students have dramatically payed off

Chinese Curriculum Initiatives

- See that writing is a challenge
- Feel that this is an area of focus for new initiatives
- Math - reasoning
 - Our students don't have patience in explaining their answers
 - Possibly because of Singapore math (not a cultural emphasis in curriculum) - need to shore this up
- Assessments don't just test academic proficiency, but reasoning (using riddles) in target languages
- Found new help with leveled reading for Chinese program - ACTFL assessment lines up with Level Chinese reading levels and available leveled books

Spanish Curriculum

- Looked into new 4th & 5th grade Spanish language curriculum
 - Previous curriculum has not been updated and does not align with common core
- New Inquiry-based Social Studies Curriculum Development
 - Previous survey showed low enjoyment of social studies
 - Many novels for English are based on historical events that students have not engaged in
 - Many topics did not connect in relevance for students
 - Created new curriculum based connecting historical events based on themes
 - Social studies teachers have been meeting 2x a week to develop curriculum
- New English language arts curriculum
 - Connected to social events (Sudan, immigration)
- Curriculum alignment in Middle school Math
 - new curriculum planner: Atlas (and for science)
 - Gaps in Singapore math - not a lot of focus on reasoning
 - Slows down in 6th grade because it is a review year for Singapore
 - 8th grade - want common core standards + algebra 1
- AP Course for 8th grade has been Approved for both Spanish and Chinese
 - Access to practice exams and tools
 - Use for 7th & 8th grade

Instruction Initiatives

- Implementing writer's workshop & six trait writing trainings
 - Lucy Calkins Writing Curriculum
- Redesigning standard based trimester assessment with teachers in both math and writing
- New bookroom at Gilpin with an online catalog system
 - Project to catalog our library
 - Hungry for books that support equity and diversity - would love donations

- Kagan Co-operative Learning
 - Both eva and Yu-hsin are certified
- Chromebooks in middle school
 - goGuardian keeps students on task
 - Hyperdocs
 - Powtoon - bideo making
 - Peardeck - connection to google slides and make them responsive
 - Edpuzzle - video lesson
 - Padlet

Board Rountable - March 9th

- Engage community/stakeholders around specific topics for our school
- Format : facilitator with table topics
- Engage stakeholders at a more meaningful level - parents, teachers, neighborhood

David moes to adjorn the meeting. Susan seconds.

Meeting adjourned at 8:59pm