

**MEETING OF THE DENVER LANGUAGE SCHOOL BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, April 28th, 2020**  
**Zoom Meeting**  
**Time: 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM**

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

**In Attendance:**

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

Absent Board Members              None

Non-Board Members                Kathy Benzel, Doug Seligman, Robert Newman, Annie  
Trujillo, Babette Hudson-Tsao, Yu- Hsin Lien

**Meeting Called to Order:**      6:05 pm

**Public Comment**                      None

**PTO Update - Babette**

Trying to roll out teacher appreciation efforts and messages. Staff appreciation banners will go up on both buildings. They will be hung this Thursday/Friday and then revealed next week.

A tribute will be held in each class for each teacher group through the Tribute Program. This will be facilitated by room parents. \$65 Target gift cards will be distributed to all teacher/staff members.

**Approve Minutes**                      Josh moves to approve the minutes from 04/14/20.  
Dave seconds. No discussion. All in favor.

Motion carries.

## **Administrative Update**

### **Enrollment Forecast**

From a budgetary perspective, DLS is targeting for an 869 student count, but is looking at potentially 916 students. Even though the student numbers will likely be stronger, DLS targets for a more conservative number.

Shout out to Yu-Hsin and Eva who had to recreate our assessment tool for entering DLS for grades 2 and up to accommodate remote assessments. There are about 60 students who are hoping to test in.

Retention in middle school looks really good right now. Some of the highest numbers we have ever seen.

### **Budget Forecasting (DPS Board of Education Meeting)**

Kathy and other DLS leadership attended the DPS finance meeting and the forecast is not looking good. The CDE is looking at a huge budget shortfall and will be looking at really deep cuts across the state. Relief funds will likely be going to Title 1 school funds. Business managers have been told to run the budget at a negative 5% of PPR, which translates into a drop from \$8,237 per pupil to \$7,816 per pupil, talk about it being even deeper than that. DPS talking about decreasing teacher salaries. Purchase services might be impacted like nurses, social workers, DLS will have some minimal restructuring of some positions at the network that won't be backfilled. Will have more details later. Despite budgetary challenges, DLS still made it a priority to implement Phase Two of the HR plan - longevity bonuses and salary increases for teachers, TA's and instructional staff.

### **Staff Webinars**

Starting next week, Kathy will run staff webinars every two weeks through the end of the school year. The webinars will address: the successes we've had throughout the year, plans and priorities for next school year, education around budget impacts and priorities, staff input on our approach to budget and provide support and stability during this time of crisis.

### **Summer Programming (MySchoolBucks)**

Summer camps currently on hold. Typically held the 3rd and 4th weeks of July. Will plan to reimburse registration fees to families who have already registered. District leadership will be getting recommendations from the health department over the next few weeks regarding the status of summer camps.

Startalk camp grant is postponed to Summer 2021

DLS will consider all possibilities as we learn more regarding facilities use, prioritizing safety of staff and prioritizing safety of students.

DLS is assessing how to address the “summer slide” with possible targeted instruction and prioritizing at risk students.

Considering raising student fees to help with the budget shortfall. DLS has not increased these fees in many years. This would be something that the board would have to vote on. Kathy proposes that the finance committee meets and comes up with a proposal to the board.

### **End of Year Celebrations**

Kinder Continuation - planning is underway

8th Grade Continuation - planning for a virtual continuation is underway, but DLS wants to bring 8th graders back for an in-person celebration when we are allowed to do so again.

VAPOW - the Visual and Performing Arts Showcase will be held this Friday - 4pm-7pm.

Capstone projects are underway and wrapping up. DLS facilitated about 35 virtual student/mentor meetings today.

Celebration for Doug - planning is underway

### **Student Support Team Updates During COVID 19 Remote Learning**

The main goal - support staff and students with behavior, SEL, and academic challenge:

- Continue to support students with IEP's, 504's, and ALP's

- Continue to support students who were brought to the MTSS process prior to remote learning. Small groups aren't allowed remotely under FERPA, but one on ones are.

- Engage in multiple opportunities to support families in the new context

  - Fireside chats

  - Google forms for requests for assistance

  - Providing one on one mental health check-ins

  - Website and Schoology update pages

Observed that kids and parents have been more stressed out moving from week two to week three of remote learning. DLS is trying to share a universal message to be kind to yourself and others, be your best self.

Proud of Jessica and team for celebrating our efforts/ successes with remote learning

Deans are also leading the charge with the few middle school students who are not consistently attending classes.

## **Remote Learning Successes and Challenges**

### **Successes to celebrate!**

Very high participation across K-8 classes. In many classes, teachers are reporting over 95% attendance.

100% of students are accounted for.

### **Challenges:**

Technology issues are being addressed and resolved as we are leaning together as a community.

The Zoom bombing that occurred yesterday in a Kinder class was addressed quickly and is being resolved. The teacher brought each student in one at a time from the virtual waiting room into the virtual classroom, but the hacker was somehow able to bypass the waiting room and enter without the permission of the teacher. DLS admin consulted with Legal and IT support to make sure the school is addressing the situation to the best of its abilities. For the time being, DLS is no longer going to use Zoom as one of its learning platforms. There are still some pieces of this investigation pending, but we have done everything we can and feel very secure in our online platforms.

Kinders were using iPads, but will now switch over to ChromeBooks for added security.. First week of extended spring break, a huge order was placed for iPads and ChromeBooks. 220 arrived. Will switch out for parents who need ChromeBooks in place of iPads. Big giant round of tech distribution. Thanks to Doug, Caleb and Jessica. Also thanks to communications dept for facilitating all of the communications Old iPads operating systems are too old. New Samsung Android Tablets Swapping out about 60 of them.

Learning and Leadership Grants awarded 18,500 to seven staff members to pursue master's level programs.

Day without Hate:

April 24th Shout out to Jessica and Matt who really spearheaded that. Along with Frank DeAngelis. Able to get t-shirts out to most of our staff.

## **Financial Report - Bryan**

### **March 2020 Financials**

Finance committee met on 4/17 - Corelle, Kathy, Lori, Rachel and Bryan

Funding committed through June 30th

We continue to pay hourly staff, facilities employees, fees to the district, etc

Revenue is in excellent shape - Lori and Kathy always take conservative approach to budgeting

- Expect about \$260K about budget

- Contributions and donations \$80K above expectations

- Grants continue to be processed. FFE (furniture, fixtures and equipment) will cover recent technology spend

Overall expenses trending below budget

- Some savings to be seen in the next two months (less supplies, no food at meetings, no end of year field trips)

- Legal expenses not having material impact on budget

### **Current Budget Highlights**

Transportation costs increasing

- District charged additional \$20k (+7% per mile) - DLS not notified

- Did agreed to a 50-50- split with DLS of additional \$30k cost of bus terminal

- Uncertain if we will see any refunds for transportation that we didn't use as DPS is using buses to transport food, sanitizing equipment, etc.

Reserve fund balance forecasted to be 1.857M. On as strong of footing as we could possibly be to weather all of the financial challenges.

### **New important dates:**

- Draft Budgets Due 5/15/20

- Board Adopts Budgets by 7/1/20

### **DPS modeling numerous scenarios for next year**

- Nothing is definitive yet

- PPR will most certainly be lowered, but mitigated at expected increase in student count

- Transportation expense going up by a minimum of 7%, and possibly more

## **Facilities Committee**

DLS Gilpin Field - per Dave, the committee met briefly with Mark Farandino who shared that DPS is overwhelmed and that facilities and field crews under the DPS budget will not likely prioritize the DLS field.

Likely have to pay for the project ourselves. Likely in the 100K range. Facilities to follow up with DPS if DLS can pursue project 1) in general, 2) if we pay for it, 3) using our own contractors.

Next steps to have board approval to move forward using our own funds and then approach DPS. Board to address this specific topic at the next board meeting to come to consensus.

Bussing picture for 2020-21 - would be fewer kids on each bus given the likelihood of social distancing this fall. Are we wanting to provide more bussing or wanting to decrease routes/numbers of riders. Something we need to have on our agenda soon. Utilization data - Caleb and Miriam compiling data about previous utilization - should have numbers soon.

Corelle - board still needs to meet every two weeks through the month of May. May 12th next meeting.

Susan moves to adjourn. Lisa seconds. All in favor. Motion carries.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:54pm**