

CSC Minutes – Denver School of the Arts
November 13, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 4:00PM

Present were Brad Brockbank, Raphae Posner, Caitlin Monaghan, Megan Alterkruse, Bill Kohut, Jennifer Castillo, Joel Nosker, Taylor Bowman, Brandon Becker, Thomas Goodrich, Chip Baker, Susan Borgos, Brenda Morrison, Roni Turner and Heather Doyle Maier.

I. COMMUNITY INPUT

Brenda Morrison presented her concerns about the ways that teachers present their course information. Some teachers use Wikis, some use Admodo, some have their own websites, some use their DSA web page, some send e-mails, some have no online presence. This makes it difficult for students to keep track and it is even more difficult for students who have learning disabilities and/or problems focusing and it may have a negative impact on a portion of our school population. Brenda would like to see some form of standardization so that students have a better way to keep track of their workload.

Mr. Kohut acknowledged that this may be an issue, but according to the Master agreement, we can't make a teacher have a web page. Brad expressed a concern that we really have no ability to make the teachers conform to a request for standardization with regard to web presence. Everyone agrees we need to put this on our agenda to see what we might be able to do.

There was no additional community input.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was agreed that last month's minutes shall be reviewed and approved by e-mail.

In addition to the minutes being circulated today via e-mail, there was also a message that indicated that we should drop the diversity piece from the community meeting tonight. Roni is concerned about this. She understands that there will be a focus on outreach. She believes that's fine, but we still have an issue as to what we do with students of color once they get here. Jenn says the issue with getting around to diversity is that we need to get the surveys out and David has had issues getting together with Dr. Joseph, which has delayed that process. Roni says she is here to help facilitate that when the time comes.

III. STUDENT TOPICS

The student representatives thanked the faculty and parent representatives for the ideas we provided at the last meeting.

IV. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

- Review the chart for discipline and attendance

V. DSA COMMUNITY MEETING

There will be a Community Meeting this evening. To that end, we went through the proposed DSA Community meeting slides. We offered one or two changes as we went through. We discussed the format. David will do most of the speaking.

Mr. Kohut is concerned about the community sharing component. After all of the announcements he's not sure how much time will be left and we need to wrap things up and get the parents back together by 7:55 for the Spirit of the Arts Awards. One idea that Mr. Kohut and Sue Gonzales discussed is to take questions on each topic as it comes up and then maybe offer that the parents write down any unaddressed questions and we can look at them and deal with them later via e-mail. Mr. Kohut did a run-through of the slides and it took from 4:28PM-4:42 PM (14 minutes - but with questions from us)

We discussed the details of the slides.

First, we'd like to move DSA from a Green school to a Blue School. Second, we'd like to successfully implement the Common Core State Standards and Instructional Tasks. To do this, the following has to happen:

- School Performance Framework - We need higher improvement within each cohort

We need better engagement - more students need to stay - our students, as with other 6-12 schools, are measured between 8th and 9th grade and we tend to lose students to more traditional high schools

- School Satisfaction surveys - we need a higher number of responses, and better responses, from both students and parents

To initiate academic growth we are doing the following:

Middle School doing "Write to Read" in Social Studies and Science Classes. In this program they have to read an article and write a paragraph

High School students are being given common expectations for writing in all classes. They should write as well for their Science class as they do for Language Arts.

Middle school math teachers are aligning the curriculum to meet new essential learning goals - set up by the District.

High School math teachers are aligning the curriculum to test frameworks. Junior students are being asked to practice the ACT test until March, just prior to the state testing date. Ms. Odom is tracking this project. Students are being asked to turn in the practice tests so that she can keep track.

The second topic for tonight's Community Meeting is about what the bond and mill levy mean to DSA. The answer is, updated materials, enrichment in the Arts, and other elective subjects, improved technology, help with tutoring and math support.

The bond helps with ADA improvements, building code improvements, renovation, IT and equipment upgrades. The mill levy will provide the updated materials, Arts enrichment, technology support and tutoring and math support.

Student Council will Present the issues they have been discussing with the CSC at the Community Meeting.

Mike Johnson will Present on Outreach initiatives.

Sue Gonzales and Brad will do a presentation on PTSO. They will explain the distinction between PTSO and CSC and ways in which parents can and are getting involved.

Breakout Discussion Sessions - We originally thought that we should have breakout sessions for Outreach, Student Council and PTSO, where parents could pick the group in which they wanted to participate. We decided that this might not work within the designated time frame and instead decided to allow for a question and answer period and offer that people could stay after if they have more in depth questions. We also agreed to solicit questions from the community that merit a longer discussion and we would agree to address these at another time.

In looking at what to emphasize, we all agreed that Mr. Kohut should emphasize to the parents why we want to go from Green to Blue - it means more money for the school.

Reschedule the Retreat. Do we need to reschedule. Consensus is that there are several issues that we can't handle within the scope of a regular meeting. Diversity is an issue we need to address at the Retreat, the scope of communication issue that Brenda brought up is another issue, and the Summer program needs to be discussed as well. The question was asked, do we need to do it as a Retreat or can we do two longer meetings? Bill suggested that Dave poll us by e-mail regarding the issues for discussion. We need to keep January 11th open for a retreat - at least a half day. Jenn and Bill will come up with three or four options that we can look at.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 PM.