



Monarch Montessori of Denver Charter School and
First Steps at Monarch Montessori of Denver
Board of Directors' Meeting
4895 Peoria Street, Denver, CO 80239

June 21, 2018

- I. Preliminary
- a. Call to Order
Pursuant to proper notice of the meeting, the meeting was called to order in the library at 5:45 pm.
 - b. Welcome Guests
None
 - c. Roll call
A quorum was present as follows:
Board Members: Ms. Jessica Brody, Mr. Chris Kanapackis, Ms. Selina Ramos, and Ms. Adey Dimalanta. Ms. Laura Pretty and Ms. Catherine Kartman were also present.
 - d. Public Comments
None
 - e. Announcements
None
 - f. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda.
Vote: Yes – 4, No – 0
- II. Consent Agenda
- A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposed May 8, 2018 Board of Director's Meeting Minutes.
Vote: Yes – 4, No – 0

A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposed May 30, 2018 Board of Director's Meeting Minutes.

Vote: Yes – 4, No – 0

III. Reports

a. PTO Representative Report

No report was presented.

b. Financial/Treasurer Report

Ms. Laura Pretty delivered the Financial/Treasurer Report. May is 92% of the way through the year. First Steps is at 93% for revenue against the working budget. Expenses are at 92% against the working budget. Charter is at 97% for revenue. Expenses are at 92% against the working budget.

c. Executive Director Report

Ms. Laura Pretty delivered the Executive Director's Report. She indicated that she has been focusing on the DPS Charter Renewal and the Dual Language Path and 6th Grade application. Summer camp was just completed. There were 48 students in the program for two weeks. Charter is also getting ready for the "Jump Start" camp prior to the new school year.

First Steps completed all tasks per the agreement with Licensing. There were two inspections within the last month. Laura and Catherine reviewed the inspection reports. First Steps is getting ready to launch the bilingual classroom.

d. First Steps Report

Ms. Catherine Kartman presented the First Steps Report. She reviewed the director dashboard with the Board. Enrollment is down for the summer, which is common in First Steps. First Steps is getting lots of inquiries and giving lots of tours to prospective families.

e. Charter Report

Ms. Laura Pretty delivered the Charter Report. Ann continued observations and completed formal evaluations of all staff in April and May. Teacher turnover is much improved over last year. Last year, lead teacher turnover was 44%. This year, it was 10% (1 teacher). Looking at the academic data, Charter has seen a huge dip in 4th grade academic gains. Ann and Laura will be exploring that further.

f. President's Report

Ms. Adey Dimalanta delivered the President's Report. She noted that this is her last meeting as President. The Board thanked her for her service.

- g. School Accountability Committee Report
No report was presented.
 - h. Building Committee Report
No report was presented.
 - i. Technology, Infrastructure & Security Report
No report was presented.
 - j. Strategic Planning & Fundraising Report
No report was presented.
- IV. Q&A
N/A
- V. New Business
- a. New Board Member: Vote for Approval
Katherine Casey introduced herself and explained that she would like to join the Board because she is interested in offering the Montessori model to a diverse range of students. Professionally, she consults with educational institutions. She also used to work for DPS.

A motion was made and seconded to elect Katherine Casey to the Board of Directors.

Vote: Yes – 4, No – 0
 - b. Enrollment Updates
The Board discussed current, projected and target enrollment for 2018. For Charter, the goal is to get to 248 students. Right now, Charter is at 225. There are more students enrolling than at the same time last year, but disenrollments are also up.

First Steps is on a waitlist for infants. Toddlers are also on a waitlist. For Primary, there are only two openings right now. For dual language, there are six open spots, five of which are for Spanish speakers.
 - c. ECHO Outdoor Learning Plan
The Board discussed options for a future building location so that any landscaping can be planned around it.
 - d. CCAP enrollment – vote to increase CCAP numbers
The Board discussed whether to increase the number of CCAP seats and what the impacts would be from an equity standpoint, as well as from a financial standpoint.

A motion was made and seconded to increase CCAP slots to 15 with the intention that the three additional CCAP spots will go to Spanish-speaking families in the bilingual classroom.

Vote: Yes – 5, No – 0

e. Attendance policy

The Board discussed the challenges in implementing the current attendance policy and the goals of the proposed policy, which are to increase attendance, enhance equity, and communicate the importance of attendance to academic success.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the new attendance policy subject to the edits requested by the Board.

Vote: Yes – 5, No – 0

f. Review DPS Charter Renewal Application

The Board reviewed the Part A DPS Charter Renewal Application and appendices.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Part A DPS Charter Renewal Application and appendices for submission to DPS.

Vote: Yes – 4, No – 0

g. 6th Grade & Dual Language Application

The Board received an update regarding the application, which is due in August.

h. Schedule July meeting

The July Board meeting will be cancelled. In lieu of the standard meeting, the Board will hold a strategic planning session in early August.

VII. Recap Action Items & Assignments

N/A

VIII. Adjourn Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 9:11 PM.