



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

January 21, 2016

- I. Preliminary
 - a. Call to Order
Pursuant to proper notice of the meeting, the meeting was called to order in room 210 at 5:46 pm.
 - b. Welcome Guests
Nick Bucy from Denver Public Schools Office of Portfolio Management attended.
 - c. Roll call
A quorum was present as follows:
Board Members: Ms. Brandy Haskins, Ms. Jessica Brody, Mr. Jim Ray, and Ms. Adey Dimalanta were present. Mr. Rob Clemens (by phone), Ms. Noel Magee, Ms. Ann Massengill, Ms. Patty Cragg, and Ms. Linda Arnold were also present.
 - d. Public Comments
None
 - e. Announcements
None
 - f. Approval of Agenda
A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda as amended.
Vote: Yes – 4, No – 0
- II. Consent Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposed December 3, 2015 Board of Director's Meeting Minutes as amended.

Vote: Yes – 4, No – 0

A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposed December 15, 2015 Board of Director's Meeting Minutes as presented.

Vote: Yes – 4, No – 0

III. Reports

a. PTO Representative Report

Mr. Rob Clemens provided a brief report from the last PTO meeting. The spring carnival will be on May 7th.

b. Financial/Treasurer Report

Ms. Patty Cragg presented the Financial/Treasurer report. December is 50% of the way through the year. Charter is at 52% for revenues due to the PPR payment. Expenses are at 43%. Salaries run a month behind. DPS services are on track.

First Steps is at 43% for revenue. First Steps is ahead on contributions and fundraising. Tuition is a little lower than anticipated. Expenses are at 48%, which is on track.

c. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Rob Clemens delivered the Executive Director's Report. He highlighted the improved MAPS score growth this fall to winter as compared with the same period last year. This year, 48% of students met their growth targets in math as compared with 31% last year. More students also met their reading growth targets as compared with last year. Mr. Clemens also noted that for kindergarten next year, there will be three kindergarten classes in Charter. There will not be a hybrid First Steps/Charter option. First Steps families will have the option to continue in private kindergarten if they want. First Steps is considering tuition discounts to retain kindergarteners.

d. Chief Academic Officer Report

Ms. Ann Massengill presented the report. She noted that she has been focused on doing ELA reports and trainings.

e. First Steps Program Director Report

No report was presented.

f. President's Report

No report was presented.

- g. School Accountability Committee Report
Mark Mehringer is working on analyzing the data.
 - h. Building Committee Report
Ns. Noel Magee presented the report. There are a few areas where we are potentially over budget. The largest potential cost overage is for a new fire panel. We are waiting to hear from the City about whether this is needed.
 - 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. Adopt Revised Bylaws for Charter and First Steps
A motion was made and seconded approve the amendments to the First Steps bylaws.
Vote: Yes – 4, No – 0

A motion was made and seconded to approve the amendments to the Charter bylaws.
Vote: Yes – 4, No – 0
 - b. School Performance Framework
Nick Bucy presented an overview of the SPF report. Last year's third graders at Monarch performed below the district and similar schools. Monarch's ELL students did not perform as well on ACCESS as other students in the state. Drops in early literacy might have to do with changes in the test administered. 29% of Monarch students are ELL students.

Mr. Bucy also discussed the Tiered School Support Plan. Students are being provided a basic level of ELD instruction but they are not being pushed to stretch to higher levels of language use. DPS staff have observed Monarch students, and Ann is visiting other schools to get ideas for improvement.

c. Charter – Approve Amended FY16 Budget

Mr. Rob Clemens and Ms. Patty Cragg provided an overview of the changes to the working budget.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the amended FY2016 budget.

Vote: Yes – 4, No – 0

d. Charter staffing update

Rob discussed a recent staff departure and possible plan to fill the vacancy with the Board.

e. Charter – Mid-Year Data Review

Discussed during executive director report.

f. Charter – UIP Final Review Coming Up

This has been submitted to DPS already. It will be submitted to CDE in April.

g. Discuss Draft Calendar for 2015-16

The Board discussed the draft calendar and provided feedback regarding vacation days, professional development days, and conference days.

h. First Steps – Approve allocation for FS funds to a savings plan

A motion was made and seconded to transfer \$15,775 per month for the remainder of FY16 to a savings account.

Vote: Yes – 4, No – 0

i. League of Charter Schools Preschool Survey Results

The Board discussed the results of the survey conducted by the League of Charter Schools.

j. Executive Session

A motion was made and seconded to go into executive session for the purpose of seeking legal advice of counsel pursuant to 24-6-402, C.R.S.

Vote: Yes – 4, No – 0

The board went into executive session at 8:58 PM to seek legal advice of counsel.

The board re-convened the meeting at 9:48 PM.

VII. Recap Action Items & Assignments

N/A

- VIII. Adjourn Meeting
The meeting was adjourned at 9:48 pm.