



**Highline Academy
Board Minutes
Board of Directors' Meeting
Highline Academy
2170 S. Dahlia St.
Denver, Colorado 80222
Monday, Oct. 10, 2011
6:15 p.m.**

PRESENT

Tom Bulger
Derrick Hudson
Papa Dia
Tina Valtierra
David Larm
Francis Scheve
Rachel Hutson
Edith Zemanick
Ruth Kedzior
Jennifer Holladay
Jon Lowry

STAFF

Denise Kelso
Gregg Gonzales

NONSTAFF

Leonard Arnold

ADVISORY BOARD

ABSENT

PUBLIC

CALL TO ORDER

President called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

ESTABLISH QUORUM

A quorum was established.

CONFIRM AGENDA

President confirmed agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Updates to the 8.8.11 minutes: FRL acronym corrected (not FAR), feedback from the League, not from Nora, and we budgeted for 501 students, not 506
Derrick maintains his motion to approve and Tina 2nd.

MPU

Motion: To approve the minutes of 9.12.11 with corrections.

Jennifer moves the motion, Tina 2nd.

Motion PASSES with one abstention (Jon because he was absent).

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

- Principal-in-residence Anna Lieberman introduced herself.
- Administration, Finance Committee, and Leonard Arnold, Elk Ridge Consulting, presented the bond covenant and reporting requirements summary. An FY 12 Bond Reporting Calendar and a Charter School Bond Financing Team chart were distributed. Leonard said that the school can only sign a lease for a year. The Building Corp, a separate entity, borrows the money and signs the loan. Once a year we confirm that we lease the building for another year. Financials will be run every three months.
- Gregg gave an enrollment update. We have 498 students, down a few students in 7th and 8th grade. Starting late may have been an issue, also losing a few students to other middle schools, but generally improved from a few years ago. There are only 18 kindergarteners from new families, the rest are siblings of past or current HA students. The count for Reporting Day was actually over two weeks. A breakdown of all students ethnicity by grade was distributed.
- Gregg presented and led a discussion on the DPS SchoolChoice unified enrollment system which will be first utilized for students enrolling for the 2012/13 school year. Up till now, charter schools have had their own lotteries. With the new system, charter schools gained in terms of facilities, and in some freedom and being allowed to hire their own special education services. This is a huge win for charter schools. Families will be allowed to pick their top five school choices, and the computer will pull the lottery for us. This will be run and funded by DPS. Some pieces will be out of our control. All schools will reserve 5 percent of open seats for students who come in after enrollment deadlines. Last year was the first where we had complete enrollment. If applied to this year, our 7th and 8th grades would have to accept students after October. Parents will be informed of lottery results. Waitlist will include kids at other schools. Parents who care will do their research. This does not dismantle our current system, and we can opt out later. District needs to know by tomorrow. This will be an annual decision, not a life sentence.

Motion: To authorize the board president to execute the service agreement between HA and DPS pertaining to the SchoolChoice unified enrollment system.

Jon moves the motion, Rachel 2nd.

MPU

- DU Partnership. The clinic is up and running and moving along. Classes won't start until next year. BOD has made our donation for this year. There are a dozen DU students in our building each week.
- Charter Renewal is done. Thanks to Gregg, Denise, the team at school, and to Jennifer Holladay who did a lot.

BUSINESS MATTERS.

Reports

SAC (Accountability Committee). A Glossary of Accountability Terms was distributed. A report on 2010-2012 SPF status and growth was distributed and discussed. Return rate on the parent satisfaction survey was average, about 72 percent, but the responses we got were over 90 percent positive. Status tells us where we are, growth refers to how much change there has been. Growth is what really matters. Gregg knew middle school math would be low, taking steps to address that. Wherever we have placed the focus has seen a spike. Advisory board will take this as input. Gregg distributed and reviewed SPF Strengths and Deltas, 2011. There are ambitious plans for next year, including addressing achievement and gender gaps, aiming for stability in status in K-3, growth for 4-8.

Executive Committee.

- A chart was distributed regarding BOD strategic priorities, responsibilities, and ownership. Send feedback to Francis and Jennifer. We will report out again soon. A draft was distributed on policy committees. There are some specific proposals to talk about and feedback needed to support main committees. We want to make sure all board members are aligned with their passion areas/areas of strength. Rachel will help with reappointments, Jon in replication, and David in finance. Thanks for Francis and Jennifer for their work on this and for a great retreat.
- Regarding replication, the idea of a high school came up. It would be good to have a place for our students to go. Maybe we could find other charter schools to partner with on this. Advisory board will advise on alternatives. Jennifer Douglas is consulting on replication. Several options will be reexamined and discussed.
- FYI: Tom has requested that Jennifer lead the next BOD and Executive Committee meetings.

Finance Committee is still looking for two more members. Jennifer will communicate on this.

OLD BUSINESS

Motion: To increase budget by \$750 from the HA Reserve for expenses of ribbon cutting ceremony.

Tom moves the motion, Jennifer 2nd.

MPU

NEW BUSINESS. Ruth would like the BOD to provide flags for HA. She will get an estimate of the cost for our next meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

- Cultural Fair Nov. 5
- Mr. Gonzales dressing as an alien on Oct. 26 as a book fair reward incentive!

ADJOURNMENT.

Motion: To adjourn.

Jon moves the motion, Rachel 2nd.

MPU