

MINUTES

DSST Public Schools Board Meeting

January 18, 2024

DSST Home Office, Blue Sky Conference Room

Meeting Called to Order: 2:04p.m.

Board Members Present:

Alyssa Whitehead-Bust*

Andrew Sinclair

Brenda J. Allen

Billy Brown

Dominick Moreno*

Fatima Rezaie

Glenn Russo

Gloria Zamora

Jean Kutner

Jim Taylor*

Mary Haynes

Patrick O'Rourke

Peter Fritizinger

**Joined via zoom*

Parent Present: None

Board Members Absent: David Greenberg, Teresa Berryman (on leave)

DSST Staff Present: Aaron Griffen, Andy Mendrop, Antwan Wilson*, Bill Kurtz, Carrie Ramsey*, Danielle Felder, Heather Haines-Koehler, Katie Glenn, Nick Plantan, Nicole Fulbright*, Shannon Feeney (**joined via zoom*)

DPS Staff Present: None

Others Present: None

Public Comment: Maya Wheeler; DSST: Conservatory Green High School parent.

"I contacted the principal on January 8, 2024, to voice my concerns about a few issues, including allegations regarding a teacher and my child's IEP being updated to reflect her new diagnosis. Instead of implementing the plan we discussed, the principal instituted a new plan without my approval. Unfortunately, his actions and the lack of

transparency from the staff resulted in a series of events leading to my daughter's suspension from school on January 9, 2023. This caused her to miss class and lose valuable education time crucial for her success.

This situation has left me deeply disappointed with the overall engagement I've had with DSST Conservatory Green HS. My concerns about the allegations made by my daughter have still not been investigated or addressed to my knowledge because I have not received the findings or the written report explaining why my daughter was suspended. It appears that the school holds children accountable without ensuring accountability among adults. I'm tired of the ongoing struggle to ensure the right treatment for my daughter and how DSST continues to treat Black children. Collaboration between parents, principals, and teachers should be a priority, rather than a continual imbalance of power where school staff seem to prioritize self-preservation over the well-being of the students."

Welcome:

Mr. Russo welcomed everyone to the meeting and then meeting attendees participated in an icebreaker.

Ms. Haines-Koehler introduced Ms. Feeney, Montview's Middle School Director. Ms. Feeney shared a brief overview of the school and then engaged in a Q&A with the board.

Approval Items:

Motion to approve previous board meeting minutes, Zamora

Second: Fritzing

Vote: Unanimous approval

Discussion: Mr. Kurtz and Ms. Whitehead-Bust presented a PPT on DSST's 2023-24 mid-year update which included updates on DSST's 2023-24 Network Report Card and 2023-24 Strategic Plan Priority Scorecard. After the presentation, Ms. Whitehead-Bust facilitated a Q&A session with the board.

Reports:

CEO: Mr. Kurtz shared with the board updates on DPS School Choice numbers and initial data. Ms. Felder also shared that participation in our family survey has increased.

Advancement: Mr. Mendrop presented a PPT giving the board an update on DSST's 20th year celebration. Following the presentation, Mr. Mendrop engaged in a Q&A session with the board.

New Business: None

Executive Session

Mr. Russo stated, "I would entertain a motion to go into Executive Session as permitted by the Colorado Open Meetings Act for the purpose of considering the following matters:

- (2) Pursuant to Colorado Revised Statute 24-6-402
 - (4) (f) personnel matters

Motion to go into Executive Session, Allen

Second: Kutner

Vote: Unanimous approval

Motion to adjourn Executive Session, Zamora

Second: Fritzingler

Vote: Unanimous approval

Motion to adjourn board meeting, Allen

Second: Haynes

Vote: Unanimous approval

Respectfully Submitted,

Katie Glenn (note-taker), Secretary