

DeKalb Preparatory Academy

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 17, 2017

6:40pm-8:00pm

All Current Board Members were present with exception of Ms. Nicole Thompson, Suzette Arnold and Ms. Gwen Sims:

- 1) Roll call completed/Quorum satisfied
- 2) Agenda was **approved**
- 3) Minutes from December 13 meeting were reviewed and was accepted but not approved until the financial section was updated by the secretary with accurate information within the context of the minutes. Section will be updated and sent to board members for review.
- 4) Correspondence Received...**None**
- 5) HOS Update: Current student enrollment is 480 (last month the number was 487). HOS indicated enrollment continues to be on par to be stable for the balance of 2017; Total number of current staff is 58, continuing to recruit for a counselor; Map assessments were conducted in December; "Power Hour" instruction is in full swing, teacher & students seem to be fully embracing; The portable/modular installation is in progress, DPA is awaiting required approval from DeKalb County; Report cards for the first semester were distributed on 1/10/17. **HOS report unanimously accepted by the Board**
- 6) Financial Report presented by Mr. Hester and Ms. Wilhite: As of December 31 YTD actual revenues was \$2,170,025 total budget was \$4,652,800 total expenses were \$400,878. **Financial report was accepted by unanimous vote.**
- 7) Development Committee: No meeting
- 8) Academic Committee: Dr. Brown briefed the Board on the MAP assessment process and how to interpret the data. As the assessment is a "progress indicator" it shows that the administration needs to better understand what the causality issues are in grades 1, 3, & 4 where progress was below MAP established benchmarks or growth projections and address them. Dr. Brown and Mr. Estes assured the Board that they are combing through the data to better understand what needs to be done to increase student progress prior to the next

assessment. The following actions are being employed: Using the MAPS data for Mid Year Conferences with teachers; establishment of a teacher rubric to identify standard teacher mastery and focusing Power Hours on standard teacher content mastery. MAP results also indicated that grades 5-8 showed very good progress (by exceeding growth projections). **Board unanimously accepted the report**

- 9) Governance Committee: Board members Tanya Harris and Roberta Walker conducted a facility walk through on 12/20/16 met with teachers, observed classroom instruction and met with administrative team. They reported to have been impressed with what they observed, especially the achievement atmosphere. The next Board walk through will occur on 2/27 or 2/28 of this year. **Board voted to unanimously to accept the report**

- 10) Old Business: Board **approved** the dissemination of the staff & teacher survey to assess perception of DPA from a culture, management and academic perspective by 1/27; the Board will review by 1/20 Mr. Estes strategic plan update submitted in December; the board discussed vendor the potential contract with Dynasis an identified IT vendor.

- 11) New Business: Board approved February payment to Ciridia current IT vendor not to exceed \$6100 during this transition phase.

- 12) Community Concerns: Delmar Whittington owner of Ciridia IT services expressed concerns to the Board about the poor communication between DPA administration and him regarding the IT contractual process. He also articulated his past (was explicit about services provided at no cost as the school was transitioning from the past administration to the current one) and current commitment to the success of DPA. The Board thanked him for his important contributions to the DPA's progress and noted his comments regarding communication issues about the IT contractual process.

Adjourned at 8:30pm