

Denver Public Schools, Denver School of the Arts

## **Collaborative School Committee**

Minutes: April 11, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 4:35. Members present: Ben Siller, (parent) chair Diane Anderson (parent), Deb Rosenbaum (faculty) secretary, Michael Thornton (faculty), Andrea Wiseman (faculty), Garth Gibson (parent), Pamela Hawkins (teacher), Donna Mosely (parent), Eileen Feltman (visitor, parent), Peter Castillo (assistant principal), Meg Schomp (Friends of Denver School of the Arts, visitor), Pearlanne Zelamey (visitor, parent (?)).

### **Scheduling for Next Year, Pete Castillo**

Pete came to discuss the changes in the works for DSA's schedule for next year. Beginning next year, 40 new credits are demanded by DPS for graduation. This will necessitate some changes in how we schedule things at DSA. There will be more mandatory classes required for 9<sup>th</sup> graders. We hope to redistribute some of our classes by shortening the middle school day. (Currently we are above the middle school minimum requirements for hours in school.) By shortening the day 45 minutes we will be able to keep some of our electives. We are looking at a 9:00 or 9:05 a.m. start time for Middle School and an end time of 3:20 p.m. There will be three 90-minute blocks for middle school with a 45 minute elective at the beginning of the day. High School start time may be 8:15. Next year we will need more teachers to meet the scheduling needs; how this will be addressed is uncertain. DSA has the initial okay from DPS Transportation to make this change happen.

Committee members voiced concerns about loss of sports activities after school for middle school kids with new schedule. Members want to further discuss an earlier start time for Middle School. Pete said the exact start and end times can be flexible but we should try to avoid the more popular bus times of 7:30 and 2:40 to get what we want from DPS transportation.

### **Public Input**

None of the 3 guests wanted to speak. Meg Schomp was asked about the role and interest of the Friends in this principal search process. She reported that JFM Foundation (Mayers) gave \$25,000 last time for the principal search and the Friends are actively seeking funding to do this again through both JFM and DPS Foundation. They believe two funders might be an easier sell since one funder might be willing to "match" another.

### **Principal Selection Committee**

CSC reviewed and discussed the number to be on the committee following the guidelines we were given by Janice Spearman and DPS policy. A ten-member panel was decided upon to make the interview process easier and less intimidating for the candidates. Two votes were conducted with written ballots: one for the staff/faculty members and one for the parent representatives.

Molly Leamon (Administration), Andre Shaw (Administration), Jonathan Howard (Arts Faculty), Karen Larson (Staff, non-bargaining), Cindy Threet (Academic Faculty), and Frank Fyock (Arts Faculty), and Sable Collins (alternate, academic faculty) were voted onto the committee as faculty/staff representatives.

Parents' letters of interest were copied and reviewed by the committee. Discussion of parent and community applicants included diversity, tenure, involvement and experience working with DSA.

The following were voted onto the committee as reps for parents and community: Meg Schomp (Community and Friends of DSA Rep), Ben Siller (CSC Rep), Ruth Montoya-Starr (Parent-VA), Michelle Ferguson (Parent-Vocal), Helen B. Posner (alternate, parent), James Walker (alternate, CSC and Community Rep).

CSC felt the selection committee represents strong diversity in a variety of areas. Names will go into the next DSA newsletter and Ben will personally e-mail these people to let them know of their positions on the Selection Committee. Committee members will be advised of the commitment involved and asked to

accept or decline their nomination. Alternates might be encouraged to participate fully from the beginning so they will be able to step in if one of the regular panel members cannot participate. The first meeting for this Selection Committee is scheduled for April 19<sup>th</sup> where they will meet with Human resources from DPS to get training. They will also plan questions for the interview at this time.

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 25, 2007, 4:30. The School Improvement Plan will be discussed. The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.