

**Denver School of the Arts**  
**Collaborative School Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, January 24, 2008**

The first meeting of Collaborative School Committee (CSC) was held in Conference Room 2 at the Denver School of the Arts from 4:30pm until 6:00pm. Members present included:

Pamela Hawkins    Jonathan Howard    Ron Mediatore    Andrea Wiseman  
Donald Brizendine    Gregory Diggs    Lucy Phillips    Meridith Branscombe Lewis  
**Linée T. Perroncel-Principal**

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## **CSC Meeting Minutes**

The December 2008 meeting minutes were read and approved by the CSC committee

### **Role of the CSC**

A short description of the role of the CSC was developed and distributed for approval. The document focuses on “What the CSC is and is not” and was developed in consultation with DPS. The approved document is attached to the January meeting minutes.

### **CSC Retreat?**

It was noted that Superintendent Bennett spoke on NPR recently. Part of his discussion related to the CSC was about autonomy. It was suggested that the CSC convene a retreat for members in order to develop mission, vision and goals for the next few years. This topic continued as other issues (below) were discussed. Ultimately, plans for a CSC retreat were tabled.

### **School Flexibility**

The Principal spoke to the group about Budget, Time and Human Resources. In the past the focus was instructional reform, but now may be the time to focus on these other items:

- 7 period day scheduling
- Extra Classes

It was explained that because DSA is both a middle and high school, flexibility and autonomy is difficult. Transportation and Scheduling impose limits. Flex scheduling, as an example, exists at one local High School, but that school only has one grade and operates on a different bus schedule.

In terms of budgeting, it was reported that DPS will not continue to dictate where money is spent for schools. A change in budgeting involves providing a one line-item budget for schools and the school will decide how funds are allocated.

One committee member reminded the group that DSA currently has a mission statement. The question was raised about whether we are interested in starting with the existing statement and expand from there. A second issue surfaced around fund raising to support departments and programs. There was a desire to help the community understand what we do and what the needs are. In terms of flexibility and autonomy, we were reminded that some of the limitations involves advice from the teacher’s union that is designed to protect teachers. The situations of other districts may involve different contractual arrangements.

The Principal concurred. “The schools that are autonomous operate outside of the contract.”

## **Fundraising**

Linee shared comments about the budget and fundraising. “The budget is going to be a big thing. That will be a focus major focus for the remainder of the year.”

Linee is going for trying to raise \$100K by May. If successful, then CSC will have some say about how to spend the extra money. However, it was made clear that fundraising was beyond the scope of CSC responsibilities.

The committee spent some time sharing their experiences with fundraising in prior years or at other schools. There are a broad array of possibilities and resources in our school community. It was reiterated that the CSC will not be part of the money conversations.

Linee summarized some of the DPS budget issues. Her midyear review with the District occurred the day before this meeting. Linee expects to have increased funding in the coming year. She will be meeting with the DPS budget specialist on February 12, just before the CSC meeting scheduled for February 14 (3:30pm).

## **New schedule and concerns**

The committee discussed issues related to the new schedule. It was reported that the driving force behind the new schedule is graduation requirements from DPS: the Block schedule will not be enough to meet the new requirements. Linee observed that if we make the changes now, we can do so on our own terms. The more we put it off...the more dramatic the changes will be later.

Linee has reviewed different models in scheduling to see what would work. But there were still transportation issues. Some schools have different teacher contracts. Could reduce the time spent in their Arts. We don't want the Arts going to every other day just like regular classes.

Rumor: middle schools students will have their Arts major with high school students? **No**

But theatre, dance, stagecraft will lose a block for their Major classes, going from three to two Blocks. The 7 period day solves all of our problems...but creates new challenges. But these challenges are not insurmountable.

After next week, (DSA) Departments will begin to creatively and constructively try to resolve the problems. We want to make sure that the Departments can function wholly.

Question: Do we (CSC) have a responsibility for schedule? No. CSC does not have responsibility for schedule.

The final discussion centered on transparency, communication and representation of constituents (parents, teachers, staff, etc.).

Meeting was adjourned at 6pm.

**Next CSC Meeting: February 14th at 3:30pm**