



Minutes: Board of Directors Meeting
November 21, 2014 at 7:30am

Board members in attendance:

Patrick Donovan - Chair	Rich Billings - Treasurer (by phone)	Amy Anderson (by phone)
Pamela Harris	April Manzanares - Parent Rep.	

Board members absent: Scott Laband - Vice Chair, Nick Waugh, Jessica Johnson

Also in attendance: Dana Alshouse, RMP parent

Staff in attendance:

James Cryan CEO	Michael Turner Director of Strategy & Operations	Rebecca Kisner Director of Community Engagement	Amy Zhu Manager of Finance	Jen Heller, School Leader
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Agenda Item	Discussion / Resolution	VOTE or Next Step
Call to order	The board meeting was called to order at 7:34am by Pat Donovan.	
Approve agenda & minutes	The board approved the November meeting agenda and the September meeting minutes.	<i>Motioned – Rich Seconded – Amy Approved 5-0</i>
Staff Report	<p>Dashboard Review Highlights: Scholar attendance has been very solid all year until this month, although we are still trending above where we were in November of last year. Parent satisfaction (NPS) continues to be <u>very</u> strong. We will dive deeper into cash on hand and fundraising. We've also added a board performance metric.</p> <p>Academic STEP Data - led by school leader Jen Heller. STEP data is trending towards proficiency in most grade levels until 3rd grade, where there is a lot of work to do to reach the target STEP 12 at the end of the year. Ideally third graders come in at a STEP 8 or 9; we</p>	

have a large group of kids stuck at STEP 8, but are confident they can grow to a STEP 10 or 11. Our bigger concern is the students stuck below a STEP 7. We presented this information to parent Captains last week.

James added that for the board's reference, we started with one 1st grade class in year one and added a second 2nd grade class in year two, which has built out to two full 3rd grade classes in year three (this year). Jen added that our year over year proficiency is increasing; we raised the rigor bar earlier this year than last.

Interventions:

- Data analysis on the percentage of total scholars making growth, breaking out data on English Language Learners as well as scholars who have returned to RMP vs. those starting with us this year.
- Jen and Jenni meet with every single teacher to do a deep dive in reading data, looking at strong, medium and low readers, determining the biggest gap and the best intervention.
- Jen and Jenni meet with grade level data teams on action plans every single week.
- In 3rd grade in particular, teachers collecting weekly reading assessments in two ways: responding to reading in writing to a text on their level, and another read aloud text that is on grade level.

Jen and Jenni are also participating in Relay Graduate School and learning PD from some of the Uncommon Schools, as well as implementing high leverage reading strategies Jenni learned from her visit to Success in October. trying to be strategic and thoughtful about core drivers of success.

Pat asked how we anticipate this correlating to PARCC. Jen feels PARCC will be much more rigorous than TCAP. We chose the STEP assessment because it's incredibly rigorous, so we expect that all of our kids who are on grade level at the end of the year will also score proficiently on PARCC. We are also preparing our scholars for PARCC assessments to be online, so that computer skills are not a barrier to success for our kids. Pat thanked Jen for sharing early indicators to create awareness and avoid surprises for the board.

Jen will send a report to the board in the beginning of January after the next assessment cycle in December.

Development

RMP has had three significant wins with development this fall - a \$250,000 commitment from the Walton Foundation, a \$589,500 commitment from the CDE start-up grant, and a very successful presentation to the CSGF for a multi-year ask of a \$1.1 million to build out a four school network model over the next four years.

	<p>High level: we currently have cash in hand or written commitments for about \$480,000; we have left to raise over \$900,000 which does not include the CSGF ask. We're also presenting for the NGSi grant to Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in December, which could be up to \$500,000 for start-up funding towards blended.</p> <p>In terms of general operating, we've submitted proposals to Buell, Calder, Broad, Carson, and Summit 54. We're also activating engagement with local foundations to try to increase local funding. We have additional asks to the CO health foundation to improve the RMP1 playground and to WFF to support parent advocacy.</p> <p>DPS recommended our charter renewal with a two-year contract and option for a two-year extension pending 3rd grade assessments, which is the best case scenario for an elementary charter school in Denver in our position. We were one of three operators to receive all green metrics on our review (with DSST & STRIVE)!</p>	
Smart Growth Factors	<p><u>School Leader</u> Jenni spent a week at Success in NYC in October and will spend a week at Brooke in Boston in December.</p> <p><u>Facility & Enrollment</u> Per our email updates, we engaged in long conversations with DPS staff and board and they have agreed to support an incubation placement in Kepner Middle School, pending a vote of approval at the next DPS board meeting on December 18. We've started operationalizing towards enrollment in southwest Denver.</p>	
Financial Update	Vote to approve Monthly Financials.	<i>Motioned – Seconded – Approved 5-0</i>
Visit from RMP Scholars & Important Dates	<p>Becca gave an overview of an excellent community building parent event called Festival of Nations, and two second grade scholars, Mathious and Leah, joined the meeting to share their learnings from the event.</p> <p>James reviewed upcoming dates including the holiday party on 12/19 and our next board meeting on 1/23.</p>	
Meeting Adjourned	The board meeting was adjourned at 8:57am.	