



**Minutes of the Peak to Peak Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, 29 of November 2017 8am I College Counseling Conference Room**

The Peak to Peak community will inspire students to fulfill their academic dreams for college, to develop their creative passions and athletic talents, and to become responsible citizens.

Board of Directors in attendance: Voting Board: Derek Cole, Hank Dalton, Elizabeth Gable, Eveline Grady, Jaimee Miller, Gregg Sommer - Ex-Officio: Kelly Reeser, Sam Todd, Kyle Mathews, Lori Preston, Melissa Christensen

Via Phone: Joanne Hyman

Absent: none

Guests in attendance: Jennifer Dausvardis, Megan Freeman, John Wilcox, Traci Schoeneweis, Janice Thorpe, Clara Quinlan, Rachel Hirt, Kristianna Vedvik, Brian Rauscher

Call to Order: Hank Dalton called the meeting to order at 8:00 am.

Administrative Business

1. Approval of Minutes 2017-11-1

***Motion by Joanne Hyman to approve the 2017-11-1 minutes - second by Derek Cole
Motion approved 6-0-1 (abstention Gregg Sommer)***

2. Real Estate Contract

***Motion by Hank Dalton to authorize the Board President to sign a real estate contract,
second by Jaimee Miller
Motion approved 6-0-1 (abstention Gregg Sommer)***

3. Celebrations and Kudos

Kyle Mathews

- ❖ Shared the great news that Dan Seidman was selected for the 6-12 Athletic and Activities Director position, with a starting date of July 1, 2018.
- ❖ Kudos to Sheena Kelly for her work with the Speech and Debate team. The team won first and 4th places at the Castle Classic meet.

- ❖ Many thanks to Evelyn Firman and Betsy Leach for their work with our Spanish for Heritage Speakers class. Four students from that class were winners or runners-up at a Latino poetry competition on November 18th. Congratulations!

Kelly Reeser

- ❖ Highlighted the great work that is being done in our Heritage Class which received very positive press coverage.
- ❖ Many thanks to our Hiring Team that has successfully wrapped up two coach hires, and has filled the Athletic Director position.

Joanne Hyman

- ❖ Many thanks to Jen Dauzvardis for her great job on the Peak to Peak social media front, in particular the Facebook page. It's a great way to learn about the many successes of our students.
- ❖ Much gratitude to Linda Willetto for organizing a great staff appreciation lunch. It was very well received and a successful event. Thank you.

Lori Preston

- ❖ In the Middle School, we are celebrating the arrival of a new Puma: welcome Clayton Frederick Paul!
- ❖ Underscored the positive impact of the Heritage class on our students.
- ❖ Middle School is celebrating its successes and recognitions by entities such as MSN and Niche as the Best Middle School in Colorado.

Public Comments

- ❖ None

Election Committee - process and timeline for Spring 2018 election

Discussion (mainly Hank Dalton, Joanne Hyman, Traci Schoeneweis):

At this time of the year we start looking at the Board election timeline. Board liaisons to the Board Election Committee are Hank Dalton and Joanne Hyman. Nothing is changing about the typical timeline. The candidate information sessions will take place in February and ballots will be established in March with elections proceeding as normal. Last year's electronic voting was a success and will be implemented again at the upcoming elections.

Board Elections Best Practices

Jaimee Miller

A draft email for the Election Committee (EC) was sent out to fellow board members for review. No concerns have been raised. As a next step, the email will be sent to the EC which will then decide if research can be completed this year.

Discussion points:

- ❖ Research should incorporate best practices. The EC can then recommend a change in light of that research.
- ❖ Let's not limit the research to a study of best practices, it should include other research, as well as input from the community and conduct an overall vetting process. The suggestion was made to include "no change" as an acceptable outcome of the EC's deliberations.
- ❖ Jaimee Miller will tweak the email to the EC accordingly.

Hank Dalton

At the last meeting there was a statement made of a possible Sunshine law violation. To the best of his knowledge, and everyone present, no meeting has taken place in violation of the law.

Alumni Outreach and Update on Peak Scholarship Fund Recipients

Brian Rauscher gave a presentation on P2Ps alumni and scholarship programs.

- ❖ Last spring, he initiated an alumni steering committee. The committee has met once in the spring and will meet twice again this school year.
- ❖ He has worked on creating a template for an alumni newsletter.
- ❖ He is currently researching alumni databases. The goal of such a database is to enhance the interactions between alumni and current students benefiting the entire P2P community. He will present several options for next year with different price tags.
- ❖ An alumni lunch event was held, and another one will take place in January, coinciding with a research seminar event.
- ❖ Concerning the Peak Scholarship Fund, we are now four cycles into the process, supporting students in a good mix of private and public colleges. One student will be graduating early from Metro State. Overall the results are very positive with only one student dropping out. For the 2018 class we have identified a group of potential candidates. About 10 students will apply which will be a challenge for the selection committee. Going forward, Brian Rauscher is hoping to accomplish and focus on these three areas:
 - a. Set up matching scholarship with colleges. Some colleges have already expressed interest in this and it would allow us to increase the number of beneficiaries. It's challenging but a great opportunity.
 - b. Pursuing targeted local scholarships. There are large foundations around the metro area that offer partnerships with individual families or corporations (example: a Healthcare institution providing scholarships for a Health Care education)
 - c. Working more closely with the P2P development office to draw increased support from the P2P community.

Discussions

- ❖ Kudos to Brian Rauscher for taking his role to the next level. The ELT and Board would like to know how to best support him. His role is mission critical.
- ❖ The funding of an alumni database will be costly and a separate ask.
- ❖ It would be a great goal to increase the scholarship fund. It would greatly benefit our community. Currently, 40-50% of our students turn down their college of first choice because of financial considerations.

The Board thanked Brian Rauscher for his work.

Unified Improvement Plan

Kelly Reeser

The principals submitted to the District their findings. Once we receive the plans back from the district they will be published. Our principals are targeting groups of students that don't show the growth rate that we would like to see. The categories of the UIPs are not chosen by P2P, but rather prescribed by the District.

Lori Preston

Important work is being done analyzing iReady scores across the board and identifying needs that could be impacting our FTEs. It has come to light that quite a few teachers are looking for support when it comes to differentiation. We can get better at differentiation and very much appreciate the work being done by Liz Tarbutton who is powerhousing programs to improve literacy at the high school level.

Kyle Mathews

He sees the biggest room for improvement around iReady literacy score norming and increasing the involvement of families around that. Scores need to be communicated at each level to families, with action plans for those falling below grade level. Other work includes targeting a cohort of students who are not gaining at least a year's growth in English and/or math, and may have attendance challenges as well. As a K-12, we are also aligning our efforts on Multi-tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) implementation, and ways forward on formal intervention plans for those most in need. We are teaching staff on how to use Frontline as a data reference site and plan for documenting all MTSS interventions going forward (district online documentation system).

Break

8: 50am - 8:57am

EDO Report

Sam Todd

- ❖ The audit conducted by Airam Valdez was a successful process.
- ❖ The governor released his budget request. This budget reflects a per pupil funding increase of 4.5% for K-12 which is good news for us. Our own budget is based on a 2.2% increase projection.
- ❖ Sam Todd's report highlighted the staff working in P2P's finance department (Amy Skinner, Terri Tarbutton and Louise Peng). They are outstanding professionals, and we are lucky to have them.
- ❖ Food services: The Humane Society supported a meatless menu which was very well received by students.
- ❖ Fundraising: We are working to tighten up coding of donations, and ensuring to honor donor intent for each donation.
- ❖ Sam Todd and Kelly Reeser will be presenting on the Peak Option at State and national conferences.
- ❖ There is concern in the Charter community about a new tax plan that is going through Congress right now. The current bill would do away with tax-exempt bonds. The Senate version does not include that. We are hoping that the Senate version will remain in place. The Colorado Educational and Cultural Facilities Authority and the League are trying to educate the public on this issue. Charter supporters should contact their senators and political representatives to educate them on that and share their concerns.
- ❖ Great Education Colorado (GEC) is working on better funding of education in CO, and Sam Todd has arranged a meeting with with their representative. GEC is working on a new bill/initiative to increase support for education in the State (which is currently restricted by TABOR).

EDE Report

Kelly Reeser

- ❖ Kelly Reeser will meet with other charter leaders from BVSD at Summit Middle School tomorrow. The goal is for Charter leaders of BVSD to develop strong working relationships, and to collaborate on issues that impact charter schools.
- ❖ The new BVSD president will be Tina Marquis, and we are hoping to continue our good relationships with the BVSD leadership.
- ❖ ALPS/TAG report: Our ALPS coordinator Tracy Cloninger is streamlining the identification process for our students. This year, teachers are getting involved with student goals, and all groups involved are working on stronger collaboration. Having teachers be involved in the ALPS process is work intensive, but it's a State requirement and will support students better.

Discussion:

- ❖ There may be a need for a para in the ALPS department.
- ❖ The Board is encouraged by the new direction the ALPS program is taking.

Waiver from School Readiness Assessment

Kelly Reeser & Melissa Christensen

Peak to Peak will initiate the process to request an exemption from the state-prescribed school readiness assessment for Kindergarteners. Our findings show that this assessment has many faults. Ninety other charter schools in Colorado have been granted waivers, and the state is making it harder to receive an exemption. It is our goal to find support at the state level to support our endeavor. The waiver request will be presented to the Board for approval at the next meeting.

Curriculum Proposals

(STEM Seal of Achievement, Technology course proposal and vertical realignment with graduation requirements, Read 180 intervention tool, Global Issues course proposal)

Kyle Mathews

No comments have been submitted regarding the Curriculum proposals. He is looking for a vote in favor of their approval.

Motion by Derek Cole to approve the Curriculum Proposals, second by Eveline Grady
Motion approved 7-0-0

Strategic Plan Update

Kelly Reeser and Jen Dauzvardis

Jen Dauzvardis walked the board through the current draft of the Strategic Plan update and online presentation. It's still a work in progress and input or suggestions from board members is welcome at this point in time. The document is not finalized; photos will represent students from all grades. The document is a reflection of work being done on the strategic plan and includes a strategy map from our mission statement all the way up to our expected outcomes. The pages are organized into goals, strategies and expected outcomes. The strategic document should be Board-approved (should be on the agenda for the January meeting). An option is to release it our community with an accompanying introductory video. Our community can then reflect on the document with questions.

The Board thanks Jen Dauzvardis for all the work she put into this publication.

Future Meeting Topics

Hank Dalton

Touched briefly on identifying future agenda topics. Previously, if someone wished bring up a topic for possible Board action, they could approach the President and request it. To formalize

a process, we are going to have a regular agenda item “Future Agenda Topics.” Bringing in a guest speaker could be a good idea too.

Discussion:

- ❖ The suggestion was made to bring in a guest speaker once or twice a year that can help us improve on whatever we are working on and make us smarter and better.
- ❖ Let’s thoroughly vet who we would invite in as we want it to be meaningful.
- ❖ Let’s increase awareness around school funding. The school finance act is confusing and it would be very helpful to fully understand it.
- ❖ Bill Sutter or Dan Schaller from the League could come and speak about advocacy and how we could improve on that front.
- ❖ Another idea is to bring in architects to share their ideas around innovation, an expert on enrollment in light of strategic planning, or a university representatives who could shed light on how admissions are changing.
- ❖ The January meeting should reserve space to discuss the P2P website.
- ❖ Other topics could be student fees, calendar discussions etc.

Real Estate Discussion

Sam Todd

In the board report, Sam Todd outlined the process involved for the acquisition of the 2.4 acre land at Emma and Canterbury. Contacts have been made and with the help of a broker we negotiated the price to \$360,000 with closing costs being less than \$10,000, which is very favorable to us. The purchase price of \$360,000 represents 8.4 days cash on hand (DCOH). If we pay for the transaction with our financial reserves this would bring us down to 109 DCOH. DCOH will still be higher than the Board required (95 DCOH is the threshold).

Board Self-assessment/wrap-up

Jen Dauzvardis commended the board for transparency on best practices, and that the board is modeling to our students how to interact when different points of view are in play. She then coached the board on ‘voting and abstentions’ in a speed Professional-Development format, which helped board members gain clarity on the reasoning behind abstentions, voting etiquette, etc.

Executive Session: Real Estate per C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(a)

At 10:28 am ***Hank Dalton moved to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing real estate per C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(a), second by Derek Cole***
Motion approved 7-0-0

At 11:25 am the Board returned to its regular meeting.

Motion by Hank Dalton to authorize the highest ranking officer of the board available, to sign offers intended to acquire a property in accordance with the strategy developed in executive session, second by Derek Cole

Motion approved 7-0-0

Brief discussion on community communication regarding real estate:

The Board has agreed to purchase the property on Emma. Everyone is in agreement that the board needs to educate the community on the reasoning behind it:

- Our current strategic initiatives will require additional land.
- We need to protect ourselves against unfavorable outcomes that could ensue if the land was purchased by another entity.
- We need to take advantage of this opportunity because the cost is likely to rise.
- We are in a financial position to proceed with a purchase now.
- A statement will be put in the Friday Digest.

Adjournment of Peak to Peaks Board of Directors Meeting

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Hank Dalton, second by Derek Cole

Motion passed 7-0-0

The Board meeting was adjourned at 11:34am.

Respectfully submitted,

Eveline Grady
Secretary
Peak to Peak Board of Directors