

Delaware Design-Lab High School
Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, 27 March 2017, 6:30 p.m.
179 Stanton Christiana Rd., Newark, DE 19702

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: 6:38 pm

Attendees: Board Members: Paul Miller, (Chair), Rebecca Girten, Joseph LoPorto, Mary Diamond, Aileen Murray, Michael Rogers. Staff: Mr. Mock, Dr. Alvarez, Dr. Rayala.

Old Business

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the February 27, 2017 meeting were tabled, as they were not circulated in time for the board to thoroughly review them.

New Business

Public Comment

Four parents spoke to the board about concerns about bullying, especially in light of the incident that was covered in the News Journal. One parent also voiced concerns about athletics not being given a large enough budget.

Financials

Michelle Lambert of Michelle Lambert, LLC presented the February 2017 financial report. Fund balance is about \$1.1 million dollars. Mr. LoPorto motioned to approve the monthly financial report. Mr. Miller seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

A draft of the annual budget was slated to be presented and voted on. However, no invoice was received for the modular units, and that was accidentally left out of the budget draft. Ms. Girten motioned to table the budget draft. Ms. Murray seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Principal's Report

An admissions update was given, noting that 135 students have been invited and 54 have accepted. Forty-one applications are pending and 40 declined. We are at 333 students and hope for 380 students. We have ad spots running on REACH Radio for free. An event to promote recruitment and retention was held at Sky Zone and it was very well received by existing students and a great turnout of prospective students. Additional events are being planned for April 9th and 23rd, May 7th and 21st. Additionally, on April 22nd, the staff are serving breakfast at Applebee's on Churchman Rd to raise money.

Principal Mock also presented an in-depth report on the inaccuracies in the News Journal's report that the State Police were called to the school 10 times. They have only reported to the school twice since Jan 1, 2017. The school's School Resource Officer—who covers 19 schools that he covers—has come to pick up

paperwork six times over the last month, but not in response to any incidents. TNJ's request for comment was referred to XQ because we are bound by the winners' agreement and cannot directly respond to press requests.

XQ Super School Team Report

Dr. Rayala presented on the XQ Progress. Students are doing projects that incorporate design thinking, and teachers will present some of these projects at future board meetings. Dr. Alvarez also reviewed the ideation and brainstorming of experts hired to assist in the XQ redesign of schools. One such expert visited and reviewed with teachers the seven essential elements that we will be working on to build a super school: culture, place-based learning, internships, dual enrollment, exhibitions, making, and service learning. She reviewed internships to clarify how they will progress through their Design-Lab career. There are 10 deliverables for inclusion in an initial report due April 13th. XQ will also send Dr. Jeff McClellan to visit and observe April 28th and 29th. He will meet with the board on Friday, and parents and interested community partners on Saturday. We will have the opportunity to work with a renowned visual storyteller, who has worked on Elena of Avalor and theme parks. A redesign of the HR process to include as many stakeholders as possible in the hiring process is also underway.

Dr. Alvarez gave an overview of the conference that the LLC attended last week, including a handout of "XQ Learner Goals". The conference covered how to recruit staff for a super school with the philosophical approach needed for the XQ school, which is an intense five-year commitment. XQ leadership were present to share how to conceptualize and design data systems to support documentation and communication.

Policy Committee Report

Tabled for time.

Facilities Report

We have been holding meetings with the landlord, but there is nothing concrete to report.

Executive Session

The board entered executive session at 8:13 pm. Sensitive items related to contract negotiation were discussed.

At 9:02 pm, Mr. Miller motioned to exit executive session and adjourn the meeting. Ms. Girten seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Mary Diamond
Secretary