

Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes

Date: May 17, 2022 (12:00 to 2:00 p.m.)

Location: In person at the DPP office and online via Zoom

Members in attendance (In Person): Mr. Michael Baker (Chair), Dr. Lydia Prado (Vice-Chair), Mr. Zach Hochstadt, Ms. Anne Rowe and Ms. Susan Steele

Members in attendance (via Zoom): Ms. Amber Münck (Secretary)

Members not in attendance: Mr. Chris Daues (Treasurer), Ms. Erin Brown, Ms. Anna Jo Haynes (Board Emeritus), Ms. Samantha Jacobson, Councilwoman Amanda Sandoval and Ms. Janice Sinden

Staff in attendance (In Person): Ms. Nayely Avila, Ms. Ellen Braun, Dr. Cristal Cisneros, Ms. Elsa Holguín, Mr. Chris Miller and Ms. Carley Noerr

Guests (In Person): Ms. Gerri Gomez-Howard, Ms. Christine Sakoulas and Mr. Rhett Gutierrez

Guests (via Zoom): Ms. Priscilla Hopkins, Ms. Sarah Hubbard and Ms. Kara Penn

Agenda Topic	Discussion	Action/Follow-Up/Decision
Call to Order and Welcome	<u>Call to Order and Welcome</u>	
Consent Agenda (For Approval)	<p><u>Consent Agenda</u> (For Approval)</p> <p>Mr. Baker presented the Consent Agenda, highlighting the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 11, 2022 Strategic Planning Committee Minutes • April 13, 2022 Finance & Governance Committee Minutes • April 19, 2022 Board Minutes • March 2022, Financial Statements 	The Board did not meet quorum to vote. All items intended for this consent agenda will move to the next Board of Directors meeting that meets quorum.
Communications Presentation	<p><u>Communications Presentation</u></p> <p>Ms. Braun introduced DPP's team of Communications contractors and presented a brief overview of their work.</p> <p><u>Communications Overview</u></p> <p>Ms. Hubbard of Good and Partners, presented the Communications Overview, highlighting the following:</p> <p>Ms. Hubbard shared with the Board the many Communications-based successes and learnings gained over the past year, and how they will relate to the new set of goals established for the next year.</p>	

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	<p><u>2022 Communications Plan</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grounding Ideas: Embrace dual roles, make messaging matter, educate and excite low-hanging fruit, build capacity, integrate Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) insights. • Goal 1: Continue to Increase Knowledge About Preschool and DPP • Goal 2: Continue to Build Foundational Infrastructure • Goal 3: Cultivate and Inspire DPP Champions • Goal 4: Build Communications Capacity • Goal 5: Inspire Deeper Systems Change <p><u>High Priority Audiences</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Parents/Guardians whom are unaware of DPP but could be committed advocates (culturally diverse population) 2. Community-Based and Family Childcare Home Providers (non-DPS) 3. DPS Providers 4. Policy Powerbrokers (i.e. city council, mayor) <p><u>DPP Board of Directors Talking Points Guides</u></p> <p>Ms. Hubbard presented the new Talking Points Guides that were created to assist conversations for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families • Impact • Partners • Policy Makers & Legislators <p>Community Outreach</p> <p>Ms. Gomez-Howard and Ms. Sakoulas, of the Gomez Howard Group, presented the Community Outreach presentation, highlighting the following:</p> <p><u>Partner Outreach</u></p> <p>Connecting with communities in 2021 led to new partnerships with organizations including Mercy Housing, Hope Communities, La Pinata del Aprendizaje, African Leadership Group and DHS SNAP.</p> <p><u>Grassroots Outreach</u></p> <p>Ms. Gomez-Howard noted the issues that the Community Outreach efforts faced due to the COVID-19 pandemic, including the many pivots that were necessary to continue connecting with families during this challenging time.</p>	

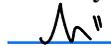
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	<p>With fewer events taking place due to COVID-19, new grassroots efforts were organized to connect with families. Such efforts included connecting with food distribution sites, diaper distribution sites, COVID testing and vaccination sites, places of worship, and job fairs.</p> <p>Ms. Gomez-Howard emphasized the need for additional preschool centers, specifically in areas of preschool deserts. She continued, noting the importance of directly communicating with these communities to understand their unique needs.</p> <p>The Board and guests discussed strategies and ideas inspired by these Communications and Community Outreach findings.</p>	
<p>2022-2023 Quality Improvement Framework Preparation</p>	<p>2022-2023 Quality Improvement Framework Preparation Mr. Miller presented the 2022-2023 Quality Improvement Framework Preparation, highlighting the following:</p> <p>2021-2022 QI Framework Recommendations For the 2021-2022 school year, DPP’s Quality Initiative Committee recommended the following priorities for the QI Framework that were approved by the Board of Directors in June 2021:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued suspension of required CLASS® observations in favor of ongoing coaching and professional development support due to the positive feedback to this process and that positive teacher-child interactions is still a primary focus of coaching/training sessions • Continuing the more efficient grant model for providers’ flexible/choice QI resources to reduce contractor staffing costs, and continuing to allow sites increased flexibility to use grant funds for items such as workforce stipends, consumable/cleaning supplies and rent/utilities • DPP should at least maintain coaching and professional development offerings, while potentially increasing them based on budget capacity • DPP needs to think creatively on supporting the workforce through scholarships, trainings/coaching, financial incentives and working conditions • DPP achievement awards are important and a nice incentive for educators, and DPP should increase the number of trainings that qualify for awards <p>Quality Improvement Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Investing in programs:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Leadership, Management and Administration Supports ○ Quality Improvement Grants (classroom materials, curricula and child assessment tools, professional development, rent/utilities, staff wages/bonuses, etc.) ○ Program Achievement Awards 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Quality Rating and Improvement System Technical Assistance ● <u>Investing in teachers and directors:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Coaching and Professional Development Opportunities (early childhood education and business topics; professional learning communities and training series) ○ Child Development Associate™ Scholarship ○ Teacher and Director Achievement Awards ○ Educator Stipends ● <u>Trends in Colorado Shines Quality ratings</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ DPP preschools with initially lower Colorado Shines ratings showed substantial increases in their ratings during their participation in DPP ○ Highly rated DPP preschools sustained their quality ratings ● <u>Coaches' Perceptions</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Coach-Teacher Alliance building takes time and involves being responsive to teacher needs. ○ Staffing challenges have increased during the pandemic, creating difficulties in maintaining and building on coaching gains at the site level. ○ Community sites in particular struggle to keep staff and deal with an increase in children's challenging behaviors. ○ The ratings process has been chaotic this year and coaches reported a concern that site ratings will go down as a result, possibly resulting in a loss of funding. ○ Teachers have reportedly expressed a renewed interest in using CLASS® as a learning tool for their own skill building. ○ Both teachers and coaches have expressed interest in continuing a hybrid model of in-person and virtual coaching next year. <p>Programmatic Recommendations from The Butler Institute</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Focus on equity (incorporate a more explicit equity lens in QI resource allocation, similar to DPP's approach for the DPP Strengthening Grants) ● Enhance QI data tracking (implement a teacher ID; ensure systematic tracking of DPP site information and track type/intensity of QI supports to meet provider need) <p>Ms. Steele noted the importance of accountability.</p> <p>The Board and DPP staff discussed the process, importance of, and new solutions for the preschool rating system and training support.</p>	

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Strategic Plan Update	<p>Strategic Plan Update Ms. Rowe presented the Strategic Plan Update, highlighting the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DPP Staff is working with Ms. Penn and Ms. Lewis to create an action plan for DPP’s established Equity commitments. • The Strategic Planning Committee received an update from Ms. Penn on stakeholder engagement. 	
President’s Update	<p>President’s Update Ms. Holguín presented the President’s Update, highlighting the following:</p> <p>Universal Preschool The Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Universal Preschool (UPK), Local Coordinating Organization (LCO) application was released on Wednesday, May 11, 2022. The application is due on June 10, 2022. DPP has consultants preparing DPP’s response to the RFP.</p> <p>Ms. Holguín noted the expected timeline for the implementation of UPK will include the following: Year one will be focused on Universal Preschool implementation. Starting in year two, it will be shifting to an infant to 5-year-old program.</p> <p>DPP staff will be returning to the Board for approval of community assessment consultants.</p> <p>Reauthorization DPP will be meeting with an attorney to discuss next steps with reauthorization, including legal obligations as a 501c3.</p> <p>DPP is still considering when to go back to voters to seek reauthorization. Regardless of when DPP will return to the ballot, polling will be a crucial tool in which DPP will gain insight on voter’s opinions.</p> <p>DPP will be building a Reauthorization Committee to guide the process.</p> <p>Ms. Braun clarified that DPP will be focusing on awareness work ahead of reauthorization.</p>	
Community Updates	<p>Community Updates Mr. Baker opened the room for Community Updates.</p> <p>Mr. Gutierrez, the new Education Policy Director or the Office of Children’s Affairs, introduced himself and highlighted the following:</p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OCA is working to expand the pioneering work being done with Family, Friend and Neighbor Care. • OCA is working to expand connections from the ECE space to secondary education organizations. <p>The Board and staff discussed the many changes currently taking place at Denver Public Schools.</p>	
Adjourn	<u>Adjourn</u>	Mr. Hochstadt motioned to adjourn the meeting; Dr. Prado seconded. All in favor; motion approved.

I certify that the above minutes are correct and approved by the Board of Directors.


[Amber Münck \(Jul 8, 2022 09:57 MDT\)](#)

Münck, Amber, Secretary

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Final Audit Report

2022-07-08

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