

Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 (12:00 to 2:00 p.m.)

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

Attendance

Members (In Person): Dr. Lydia Prado (Chair), Ms. Erin Brown (Vice-Chair), Mr. Chris Daues (Treasurer), Ms. Anne Rowe (Secretary), Mr. Zach Hochstadt, Ms. Jennifer Rodriguez-Luke, Councilwoman Amanda Sandoval, Ms. Janice Sinden and Ms. Susan Steele

Members (Zoom): Mr. Michael Baker and Ms. Amber Münck

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

Guests (In Person): Ms. Cody Belzley, Mr. Rhett Gutierrez, Ms. Lynea Hansen, Ms. Priscilla Hopkins, Ms. Kat Jarvis, Ms. Kara Penn and Mr. Trey Rogers

Guests (Zoom): Mr. Alex Dunn, Ms. Alison Gold, Ms. Sarah Hubbard, Ms. Lindsey Mears and Ms. Chris Watney

Agenda Topic	Discussion	Action/Follow-Up/Decision
Call to Order and Welcome	<u>Call to Order and Welcome</u> Dr. Prado initiated a round of introductions to welcome DPP's new Board Member, Ms. Jennifer Rodriguez-Luke.	
Executive Session – Contracts	<u>Executive Session – Contracts</u> Dr. Prado presented the Executive Session on Contracts. All guests, both in person and on Zoom, were asked to exit the meeting. Guests were invited to rejoin the meeting once the Executive Session was completed.	Ms. Sinden motioned to move the Board into Executive Session; Ms. Brown seconded. All in favor; motion approved. Councilwoman Sandoval motioned to move the Board out of Executive Session; Ms. Sinden seconded. All in favor; motion approved.
Consent Agenda (For Approval)	<u>Consent Agenda (For Approval)</u> Dr. Prado presented the Consent Agenda for approval, highlighting the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November 15, 2022 Board of Directors Minutes • December 12, 2022 Strategic Planning Committee Minutes • December 16, 2022 Board of Directors Email Vote Minutes • January 11, 2023 Strategic Planning Committee Email Vote Minutes • October 2022, Financial Statements • November 2022, Financial Statements 	Ms. Brown motioned to approve the consent agenda; Ms. Sinden seconded. All in favor; motion approved.

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<p>Strategic Plan (For Approval)</p>	<p>Strategic Plan (For Approval) Ms. Rowe presented the Strategic Plan, for approval, highlighting the following:</p> <p>Denver Preschool Program (DPP) is pleased to share its 2023-2025 Strategic Plan, which represents an extensive planning effort by the board, staff, providers, partners, and community members to center in equity and best to serve Denver’s youngest learners and their families. Our previous plan guided our work from 2017 through 2022, with strategic adjustments along the way to navigate through the COVID-19 pandemic and the shifting landscape as Colorado implements universal preschool.</p> <p>DPP is guided by our vision that every Denver child has equitable access to a strong foundation to thrive in kindergarten and beyond. We work towards this vision through our mission to transform the futures of young children and their families by strengthening and funding the early childhood experience. In service of creating a more equitable early childhood landscape and a more just world, we commit to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Grow our knowledge and awareness of inequities and their root cause. 2. Drive access, choice, and quality in early childhood education. 3. Advocate for systems-level policy changes that address harm. 4. Lead in action and words with courage, tenacity, and accountability. <p>DPP is entering an unprecedented period of change and growth. As such, our strategic orientation over the next three years is one of growth in funding, programming, and infrastructure to serve Denver’s families and young children better. We seek to grow in ways that create equity, are sustainable, and model the way forward for early childhood supports that transform the lives of families. DPP commits to bold action to help eliminate differences in educational, well-being, and health outcomes as a result of systemic racism, generational poverty, and discrimination through our role in early childhood education.</p> <p><u>Through our planning process, we identified and committed to five strategic goals:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase Enrollment For 3- and 4-Year-Olds in Denver, Prioritizing Around Need. 2. Enhance the Early Childhood Workforce. 3. Activate Early Childhood Policies, Programs, and Models Outside of Licensed Care. 4. Address Unmet Needs in the Early Childhood System. 5. Ensure DPP has the Infrastructure, Staffing, and Governance to Thrive. <p>To implement each of those goals, DPP is employing the following cross-cutting strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equity and Inclusion: DPP is a universal program available to all of Denver’s four-year-old children. We uphold the principles of equity and inclusion through targeted approaches to ensure we provide equitable access to support through our tuition credit scale, scholarship approach, and other means. We promote equity and inclusion in operating, communicating, and engaging with the community we serve. We lead with a culture of equity and inclusiveness and create a sense of belonging among all people and organizations working on behalf of DPP. • Operations and Infrastructure: Significant change is underway in the early childhood landscape, including the addition of state universal preschool funding. DPP will proactively ensure that the organization operates with the appropriate 	

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	<p>staffing, policies, procedures, and supportive culture to be effective stewards of funding and the equitable distribution of funds to meet our mission.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Communications: DPP assesses our brand, identifies how DPP is perceived and understood by the community, and develops and operates from an annual strategic communications plan that considers our own biases and stereotypes. We identify strategies that help us engage families, increase accessibility through materials in diverse languages, communicate our impact to the public, and align with our partners. • Intentional Impact: DPP uses both process and outcomes evaluation to continually improve the effectiveness of our work. We intentionally seek and design evaluation tools and processes that address inherent biases present in many methods and tools, to ensure we are achieving results for Denver’s children that prepare them for success. • Advocacy and Community Engagement: DPP cares deeply about the community we serve, and the views of families and early childhood education providers are essential to the effectiveness of our programs and services. We listen to what they think is important and their ideas, so we can advocate for those approaches, policies, and procedures that will serve them best. • Visionary Leadership and Governance: DPP is a leader locally, state-wide, and nationally in funding and promoting early childhood education. Our Board and the strength of our governance practices reflect that leadership and being a role model for others just getting started in this space. DPP serves as a leader and model for other UPK LCOs and guides best practices to providers. • Funding and Financial Management: DPP stewards its resources responsibly and strategically to implement our mission in an equitable and high-impact manner. We continue to pursue avenues that would bring additional funding to strengthen our work. • Quality: We define quality based on family and provider feedback, best practices and achieving equitable child outcomes, and being a trustworthy and accountable partner that serves as an exemplar in supporting and promoting early childhood education. • Iterative Innovation: We begin with evidence-based practice and continually improve our impact by testing new approaches and ideas. We do this through pilots and modeling and assessing results before investing further. This plan has laid out DPP’s priorities for the next three years, beginning with our guiding principles, our unwavering and living commitment to creating a more equitable early childhood system, and to leading in a dynamic state and national early childhood environment. Work is already well underway to fully realize the scope of our new strategic plan –a living, breathing roadmap that we will continue to revisit over the months and years ahead. We look forward to involving those we serve and partner with in this process and working to accomplish our vision, mission, and goals together. <p>Dr. Prado noted the equity focus within the strategic plan. She continued, requesting a slight change in language to one section: “We define inclusion as policies and practices that welcome every child, <i>recognize their strengths</i>, and fulfill their families’ desire to participate</p>	

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	<p>in early childhood education. Understanding the ongoing inequities in access and opportunity and how these create disadvantages for historically marginalized students and families is crucial for DPP's work toward equity.”</p>	<p>Mr. Hochstadt motioned to approve the Strategic Plan; Ms. Brown seconded. All in favor; motion approved.</p>
<p>2021-2022 School Year Review</p>	<p>2021-2022 School Year Review Dr. Cisneros presented the 2021-2022 School Year Review, highlighting the following:</p> <p>2021-2022 Program Year Overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DPP approved 5,078 applications - 92% of all approved applications received funding • DPP delivered over \$18.3 million in tuition credits to Denver families <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DPS received \$9.26 million (51%) - Community sites received 9.0 million (49 %) • There were 4,706 tuition credit beneficiaries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 40% were community students - 60 % were DPS students • \$ 1.6 million in quality improvement support was distributed to Preschools <p>Tier and Participation Level Distribution for All Beneficiaries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The typical DPP student was a Tier 1 full-day student. • 55% of DPP students came from our Tier 1 and Tier 2 families • Length of the day across income tiers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Full-Day 54% - Extended-Day 39% - Part-Day 7% <p>Ms. Sinden asked how UPK would change the lengths of the day across income tiers.</p> <p>Dr. Cisneros responded, stating that DPP is hopeful there will be an increase in full and/or extended days, though due to the uncertainty of the new program DPP has not made an official prediction. Overall, there has been a consistent increase in the extended day over the last few years.</p> <p>Ms. Sinden asked if there were any concerns related to capacity.</p> <p>Ms. Holguín responded, affirming that there were currently capacity concerns across the state as they relate to the new UPK program.</p> <p>Ms. Steele briefed the Board on information from the State of the State address earlier in the day, relating to UPK and the new family portal.</p> <p>In 2021-2022 DPP had 269 Providers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community – center (83) • Community – home (10) • Denver Public Schools (176) 	

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	<p>2021-2022 Program Year Overview for 4-year-olds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DPP approved 4,796 applications - 90% of all approved 4-year-old applications received funding • DPP delivered over \$15.6 million in tuition credits to Denver families with eligible 4-year-olds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DPS received \$9.264 million (60%) - Community sites received 6.3 million (40%) • There were 4,330 4-year-old tuition credit beneficiaries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 35% were community students - 65 % were DPS students • \$ 1.6 million in quality improvement supports were distributed to Preschools <p>Historical 4-year-old Tuition Credit Overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4,330 Tuition Credit Beneficiaries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DPS 2,870 - Community 1,520 • Typical Monthly Tuition Credit - \$788 • Typical Yearly Tuition Credit Payment - \$4,021 <p>Mr. Daues asked if the reduction in tier 1 was due to families moving out of Denver and if we serve a higher percentage of low-income families than what is available to DPP.</p> <p>Dr. Cisneros noted that she would find more information on children in poverty and compare it to the average in Denver. She continued, stating that in general there is a noticeable decrease to the number of children in poverty within the city and county of Denver.</p> <p>2021-2022 Program Year Overview for DPP’s Scholarship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were 339 scholarship recipients • DPP delivered over \$2.3 million in scholarships to Denver families with eligible students • Most scholarship students were from income tier 1 and 2 <p>2021-2022 Program Year Overview for 3-year-olds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were 350 3- year-old tuition credit beneficiaries • DPP delivered over \$2.6 million in tuition credits to Denver families with eligible 3- year-olds • 262- 3-year-olds who received tuition credit were from tier 1 • 93- 3-year-olds who received tuition credit were from tier 2 <p>Ms. Holguín expressed an interest in exploring a targeted model based on these figures.</p> <p>Mr. Hochstadt asked about Tier 6 (opt-outs)</p>	

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	<p>Dr. Cisneros responded, stating that the majority of Tier 6 families live in more affluent areas.</p>	
<p>2023-2024 Tuition Credit Process Overview</p>	<p><u>2023-2024 Tuition Credit Process Overview</u> Ms. Braun presented the 2023-2024 Tuition Credit Process Overview, highlighting the following:</p> <p>Purpose As DPP looks ahead to the 2023-2024 program year the organization must approve several projects within the Tuition Credit System (TCS):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4-year-old Tuition Credit Scale • Preschool for 3s • DPP Scholarship <p>Through the process of approving the 2023-2024 Tuition Credit System, DPP will review the existing options that deliver on the intended impact of the Denver Preschool Program’s (DPP) Tuition Credit System and refine those projects as necessary.</p> <p>The TCS represents the primary mechanism by which we support a child in their ability to attend quality, licensed preschool. Colorado’s Universal Preschool Program will launch for the 2023-2024 program year. The new program brings significant funding for all Denver 4-year-olds and key infrastructure shifts. In addition, DPP continues to see shifts in supply of and demand for licensed slots, and we must consider how we can continue to innovate within our charge to reach Denver’s youngest learners.</p> <p>DPP is asking for Board representatives to provide input on an ad hoc basis.</p>	
<p>President’s Update</p>	<p><u>President’s Update</u> Ms. Holguín presented the President’s Update, highlighting the following:</p> <p>Annual Board Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Conflict of Interest Questionnaire</u> – All Board Members will need to complete the Conflict of Interest Questionnaire. • <u>Annual Survey</u> – Details on the annual Board survey will be available soon. 	
<p>Community Updates</p>	<p><u>Community Updates</u> Dr. Prado opened the floor for updates from community members.</p> <p>Denver Public Schools Ms. Hopkins spoke on the current status of the DPS UPK Parent Enrollment process.</p> <p>Councilwoman Sandoval asked where and how this information is communicated publicly for parents to access it.</p>	

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	<p>Ms. Hopkins noted the communication websites and efforts underway to assist parents, including but not limited to web help, phone lines, and information packets going out to families from their schools.</p> <p>Office of Children’s Affairs (OCA) Ms. Jarvis and Mr. Gutierrez shared updates from the Office of Children’s Affairs, highlighting the following:</p> <p>The OCA received American Rescue Act funding for mental health services and programming focused on school-based health and maternal mental health. Through these services, doulas, specifically of color, are being trained in culturally-competent care to better service expecting parents.</p>	
Adjourn	<u>Adjourn</u>	Ms. Brown motioned to adjourn the meeting; Ms. Rodriguez-Luke seconded. All in favor; motion approved.

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

Anne Rowe
Anne Rowe (Feb 24, 2023 10:54 MST)

Anne Rowe, Secretary







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Final Audit Report

2023-02-24

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