

The Soulard School  
Board of Directors Meeting  
3/16/23, 4:00 held via Zoom

Board members present: Jay DeLong, Jamie Boyer, Steve Groves, Pam Retzlaff, Ron Kampwerth, Anne Kraus

Board members absent:

Administors/presenters: Sarah Christman, Shenika Bishop, Eleanor White, Samantha Fisher

Guests: Tad Hartmann (UMSL)

Notes: Eleanor

1. Roll Call (4:00)
2. Welcome & Opening Comments - Sarah, Jay
3. Review Consent Agenda - Jay, Jamie
  - a. Approved unanimously
4. School Related Items - Sarah, Eleanor
  - a. 2022-23 Enrollment
    - i. 128 enrolled (lost 1)
    - ii. 92% attendance holding steady
  - b. 2023-24 Enrollment
    - i. Held lottery yesterday
    - ii. 33 applicants placed, 45 applicants on the waiting list
    - iii. Letters went out in mail today - will hear back by 4/1/23
    - iv. Will continue accepting applications and considering enrollment through early November 2024
    - v. If we maintain these numbers, we will have 143 students at start of school year
      1. Would be highest number ever
      2. Will this cause any space/staffing issues? We have the space, but it will be
  - c. Covid Reopening Plan Update
    - i. Review required every 6 months
    - ii. Provided to families, staff, and students (4/5th grade)
    - iii. Will make any needed revisions, then finalize for after spring break
  - d. LEA Updates
    - i. Debbie Hilliard, Sped Coordinator, left in mid-February
    - ii. Hired Melissa (Missy) Sandbothe to replace
      1. Retired sped admin from Kirkwood w/ experience in federal programs oversight
      2. Came recommended by UMSL sped supervisor
    - iii. As we work to get Missy up-to-speed, we want to officially make Shenika the LEA Supervisor through end of school year
      1. Will vote again in July/August to update/confirm roles for 2023-24
      2. Approved unanimously
  - e. Review/approve 2023-24 School Calendar
    - i. Changes - adding 2 days for parent conferences to allow more space for meeting times
    - ii. State requires 1044 hours. We will offer 1079 hours.
    - iii. Approved unanimously
5. Finance Committee - Jamie, Sarah

- a. Salary Scale project
  - b. Have been working on this for 1 year
  - c. 6% standard raise for all teachers, plus half of difference of that raise and where they fall on the salary scale
  - d. Will implement fully for 2024-25
  - e. Salary scale takes into account years at TSS, how long they've been in the field, education level, certification status
  - f. This year's budget for \$1,064, 4444 -
    - i. Next year's salary budget would be \$1,242,000 for next year, or 13.5% higher, or approx \$175,000 in additional to fund salary increases
  - g. Opinion of the finance committee that this partial implementation is a good balance of demonstrating commitment to staff while keeping our budget manageable based on state payment rates and fundraising
  - h. Approved unanimously
  - i. Will give contracts out tomorrow, and ask for them to be returned by 3/31
6. Assessment Data & Academic Landscape Update - Shenika
- a. Academic landscape
    - i. Accomplishments
      - 1. Purchased math and phonics/phonemic awareness curriculum
      - 2. Built out sped staffing/expertise
    - ii. In the works
      - 1. LETRS training - science of reading training for teachers
      - 2. Scope & sequence build out - working w/ Tad from UMSL
    - iii. Next
      - 1. UMSL working on grant for teaching fellows in ELA/Math who can help lead teacher PD/coaching
        - a. Focus on math & effective co-teaching
      - 2. More focus on utilizing assessment data (STAR)
        - a. Working w/ Bruce for closer look at data
          - i. Will present at staff PD day in April
      - 3. Extra planning time for classroom teachers thanks to Kristen the counselor doing weekly SEL lessons to classes and Sarah Kate doing more Culinary Arts
  - b. MAP data for 2020-21 and 2021-22
    - i. 2022-23 test will be given in April and we'll get scores in fall
    - ii. ELA we are at about 50% proficient/advanced for both years
      - 1. State average was 45% (2021), 43% (2022)
      - 2. SLPS was 18%
      - 3. Soulard was 48% (2021), 49% (2022)
    - iii. Math we are at around 30% proficient/advanced
      - 1. Is area of focus and growth for us
      - 2. Implementation of Investigations Math and additional PD should help address
      - 3. State average was 35% (2021), 39% (2022)
      - 4. TSS 28% (2021), 32% (2022)
    - iv. Science - 50-58% proficient/advanced
- c. STAR
  - i. Have tested twice this year
  - ii. Most grade levels are seeing growth in both math and reading
  - iii. Focus on students identified as "urgent intervention" or "intervention"
- d. Tiered intervention
  - i. Tier 1 - whole class instruction

- ii. Tier 2 - kids who need small group remediation a few times a week
  - iii. Tier 3 - receive daily extra assistance
  - iv. Review examples
- e. Student Risk Screening Scale (SRSS)
  - i. Completed by teachers for each student (completed by both teachers in a co-teaching classroom)
  - ii. To identify students with internalizing/externalizing behaviors
  - iii. Not to label or exclude students, but to help assess risk
- f. Q&A
  - i. Are we satisfied w/ data?
    - 1. We are doing well overall, and showing improvement in many areas
    - 2. Want to focus on co-teaching next year to maximize this tool for our academics
    - 3. Still growing in how to use data to affect instruction and learning
  - ii. Do we disadvantage ourselves in math with our curriculum?
    - 1. Tad: Hard to say - making assumptions from MAP is tricky because it's just one test. Could be affected by order that we teach - does the test ask something of 3rd graders that we don't teach until 4th?
  - iii. APR was released
    - 1. We are in top 25% for state
- 7. Governance
  - a. Vote to approve updating articles of incorporation to match by-laws. Needed to change the section about what the school closure process will be now that we are a public charter.
    - i. Approved unanimously
- 8. Other Business
  - a. Making good progress on our priorities
    - i. Facilities is another big area to tackle
  - b. Adding new board members and committee members needed too!
  - c. Next meeting in-person, location TBD
- 9. Adjournment (5:15 p.m.)

The Soulard School Board Meeting public participation provides each speaker no more than 3 minutes and each topic is limited to no more than 20 minutes except with the concurrence of the majority of the Board of Directors.