



DUAL IMMERSION ACADEMY

DIA Board Meeting, March 8, 2018

Meeting started at 6:04 p.m.

In attendance: Gabriela Benitez, Carmen Finn, Jesse Soriano, Rich Stowell, Brian Lowe, Mac Newbold, Ray Betancourt

Absent:

Staff: Angela Fanjul, DIA Director

Others in attendance: Rocio Gonzalez, board secretary,

Called to order by Gabriela Benitez, Board President.

Financial Report:

Budget is on target and expenses are at 6.6 percent through the year. Revenue is well 6.1 operating margin with good cash on hand. Enrollment is maintained at 481 and 86 % of revenue has been received. Still waiting to hear from federal funds which will be coming in soon.

State audit letter was received and director shared a copy with the board. Based on the review there were no material weaknesses nor significant findings.

Early literacy bill was passed and we will see some money from that bill.

Administrative Report:

*Turn-Around Team Report

Johanna Mayra & Innovations Ed

- DIA moved from an F to a C increase in school grade.
- Met exit criteria for Title I priority status.
- Reached 68% growth from 2015 school grade points (from 152 to 256/600).
- 2nd highest growth of all Turnaround Schools.
- The schools in the state report are not bilingual schools.

The grades need to be maintained. Discussion about steady yearly gains that can potentially bring DIA to a grade B. There are incentives for teachers in those schools.

Discussion about the amount of work that has been done by staff and teachers. Goals accomplished, growth and proficiency. It is anticipated to see continued growth.

Challenges faced:

1. Needing to hire 2 new middle school teachers for math and science for 2017-2018.
2. Assessment changes

Teachers worked with students with productive struggle. We have strong writing scores.

Steps to overcome challenges:

1. Coaching has brought consistent improvement.
2. Strategies: Create ownership, sense of urgency, and shared vision amongst all stakeholders.
3. Implement school wide systems of behavior support; increasing effectiveness of tier 1 and tier 2 interventions in language arts and math.
3. And increase accountability for academic progress.

Discussion about growth and proficiency in different grades, 4th and 5th grade. Every year an SGP is done with students.

It is important to explain to parents how well the children are doing and they should have something to compare to. Teachers met with students, shared their report and compared it to the previous so they could see growth.

There is more communication between teachers and students. There is accountability from students and they are driven to reach the next high score. Overall it has been positive and successful.

One of the keys to our growth are our RTIs. They fill in gaps students have. Every two weeks parents are getting reports on how their child is doing. DIAs goal is to grow every student.

DATA Report -
Assessments done.

Janette Fiagle, DIA Assessment & RTI Director

Illuminate and Spanish Language arts. There was great progress in math, however, Spanish language went down. Second grade showed great growth. Report on kinder garden and first grade showed great progress. Third grade did not show much progress. One RTI was hired and he is working on it with the groups. It was noticed that many students do not read the instructions. We noticed problems with math when subtracting from zero.

Discussion about some low results. Teachers mentioned that middle scholars are tired of testing and there are only 20 questions on the test. Angela believes teachers' accountability is less in the upper grades. There is also more pressure for them and more challenging, especially 6th grades.

SAGE bench marks were better and there was proficiency.

Through I Tutor Program, 3 kids can work on it at once and once a week. Is working well 6-8 English and language arts tutors will work on test strategies and objectives, and pre-test to see where they are deficient and build from that. Parents are being involved.

There are 482 for next year already enrolled with 42 students in waiting list. Kindergarteners and first graders still needed. There are 13 kindergarteners and 29 more are needed.

Comcast Care Day

The event is April 21st. There is a link to register as a volunteer and board was reminded to bring 5 volunteers. Volunteers can register by calling the main school line, going on Facebook or by sending us an e-mail. March 31st is the deadline to register.

School Climate Surveys - MSW Intern Project

Our current developed surveys for teachers, students and community stake holders/ partners. Surveys were sent to the board to provide feedback/suggestions. Surveys will go out next Thursday Friday. This is her project and we will conduct focus groups. Intern can present at to the board at the April board meeting.

Development follow up

There is a project in progress to develop a Newsletter targeting our donors. More discussion will follow at next meeting.

News

Mark our grant writer got an outdoor water fountain donated to DIA. Also, we wrote a grant for Kindergarten funds. The grant is for \$87,000 to help us run summer for kinder and 3 paraprofessionals; for incoming and outgoing kinder children and free to participating families.

Approval of minutes: February 8, 2018 with correction that we had No Closed Meeting in February

Motion by: Rich Stowell

Second by: Mac Newbold.

Motion passed unanimously

Meeting closed at 7:38 p.m.

Next meeting: 6:00pm Thursday, April 12, 2018