

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
THE LUMINARY LEARNING NETWORK BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
HELD JUNE 21, 2016

Pursuant to due notice, a regular meeting of the board of directors of the Luminary Learning Network was held at 1914 Syracuse St, Denver, Colorado.

The meeting was called to order by Mary Seawell, founding president of the board of directors of the Luminary Learning Network, at 5:30 p.m.

Present were:

LLN founding board:

Mary Seawell, Senior Vice President for Education at Gates Family Foundation, Founding Community Representative

Brett Alessi, Managing Partner at Empower Schools, Founding Community Representative

Terrance Carroll, Associate General Counsel at SLC Health, Founding Community Representative

Frank Coyne, Denver Green School Leader, Founding School Representative

Jennifer Jackson, Cole Arts and Sciences Academy School Leader, Founding School Representative

Debbie Hearty, Chief Human Resources Officer at DPS and Superintendent's Designee

Mike Johnson, DPS Board of Education Member and Board Designee

Jen Walmer, Executive Director at Education Reform Now Colorado and Prospective Community Representative (by phone)

Others present:

Zachary Rahn, Prospective Executive Director

Abigail Schaller, Special Projects Manager at Gates Family Foundation

Julia Shepherd, Principal of Creativity Challenge Community

Jen Holladay, Director of School Development and Support at DPS

Absent was Savinay Chandrasekhar, Executive Director of Minds Matter Denver and Prospective Community Representative and Janet Lopez, Senior Program Officer at Rose Community Foundation and Prospective Community Representative.

Mary Seawell welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Zachary Rahn, Prospective Executive Director of the Luminary Learning Network and School Leader of Ashley Elementary School. Zachary Rahn spoke about his excitement for the work ahead on the Luminary Learning Network, and invited LLN school leaders to speak about the opportunities presented by the zone. Jennifer Jackson, Julia Shepherd, and Frank Coyne spoke about the ability to further leverage autonomies under a zone structure to propel their schools from good to great, and the excitement and engagement of their teacher and broader school communities.

All other founding board members and other individuals present identify a key opportunity of the zone.

Mary Seawell reviewed the mission and vision of the Luminary Learning Network.

Mary Seawell reviewed the proposed composition of the Luminary Learning Network governing board of directors, and the roles, responsibilities, and expectations of LLN board members. **Debbie Hearty suggested that language about sharing best practices with DPS be added to the description of board activities. The group agreed to this addition.** Seawell spoke about four officer roles: president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer.

Motion: Appointment of prospective board members, Mary Seawell

Mary Seawell, Community Representative

Brett Alessi, Community Representative

Terrance Carroll, Community Representative

Frank Coyne, School Representative

Jennifer Jackson, School Representative

Debbie Hearty, Superintendent's Designee and DPS Representative

Mike Johnson, DPS Board Designee and DPS Representative

Jen Walmer, Community Representative

Savinay Chandrasekhar, Community Representative

Janet Lopez, Community Representative

Second: Brett Alessi

Vote: Unanimous Approval

Motion: Removal of Brett Alessi as Community Representative, Mary Seawell

Second: Terrance Carroll

Vote: Unanimous Approval

Motion: Approval of Mary Seawell as Board President, Terrance Carroll

Second: Mike Johnson

Vote: Unanimous Approval

Mary Seawell asked the group if they would like to move to appoint the vice president, secretary, and treasurer. **The board decided to suspend appointments of these board officers to the next scheduled board meeting in August of 2016.**

Zachary Rahn briefed the group on the Executive Director and Chief Operations and Systems Design roles for the LLN administration. **The board decided to hold an executive session to discuss the appointment of Zachary Rahn as ED and a prospective candidate for the COSD role.**

Zachary Rahn introduced the MOU between the LLN and Empower Schools to provide zone support in the 16-17 school year. Mary Seawell spoke about Empower's role as a strategic advisor to the LLN, and the many resources Empower has developed for the Springfield Empowerment Zone Partnership. Seawell and Rahn spoke about the value of access to these resources and strategic advice from Alessi and other Empower Schools staff.

Mike Johnson voiced a concern that the MOU was not detailed enough, and expressed a preference for a more detailed contract between the LLN and Empower Schools including compensation. Jen Walmer suggested including explicit language on Empower Schools' work for the LLN. **The board agreed that they would move forward with the approval of the MOU in concept, with a more detailed contract to follow.** The more detailed contract will go to the board for approval.

Motion: Approval of the LLN and Empower Schools MOU, Frank Coyne

Second: Mike Johnson

Vote: Unanimous Approval

Zachary Rahn introduced the LLN's organizational success framework, RISE. The framework addresses Relations, Internal Operations, Support to Schools, and Expansion, and the key objectives in each area. The Board discussed near-term priorities in all areas. Under Support to Schools, the board agreed that each school would generate a school performance plan. Schools would identify levers to improve student achievement in these plans. The board decided that School Performance Plans could reasonably be completed by the yet to be scheduled September board meeting. Zachary Rahn will distribute a school plan template in the end of July to school leaders. The board discussed the LLN's expansion planning and associated activities. Jen Holladay highlighted the importance of identifying and tracking early indicators of the LLN's readiness to support additional schools. The LLN's organizational health will be evaluated during DPS' authorization process.

Mary Seawell led a conversation on the development of an accountability framework the LLN board would use to assess and evaluate schools. Julia Shepherd brought up the need for the LLN accountability framework to interlock with DPS' LEAD and LEAP evaluations. The board will discuss the accountability framework further at the August board meeting.

Julia Shepherd presented to the board of the Teacher and Family Councils' progress to date. Shepherd will work to further develop and define the roles and activities of the Councils this summer. Mary Seawell will share contacts interested in community engagement with Julia Shepherd.

Abigail Schaller presented the LLN's organizational budget. Mike Johnson and Jen Walmer expressed a concern that the organizational budget includes information on the SBB+ (the financial model for the zone in the 16-17 school year) opt out funds retained by the LLN, but does not include information on SBB+ opt out funds going directly to schools. **The board agreed that the budget be amended to include the SBB+ budget for all LLN schools, with the funds retained by LLN and funds directly to school leaders clearly delineated.** The board also discussed the need to define the extent to which the LLN board will oversee spending of SBB+ funds flowing directly to schools.

Motion: Approval of LLN's organizational budget, Terrance Carroll

Second: Mike Johnson

Vote: Unanimous Approval

The board entered an executive session to discuss personnel matters including the Executive Director and Chief of Operations and Systems Design roles and appointments.