

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
THE LUMINARY LEARNING NETWORK BOARD OF DIRECTORS
HELD SEPTEMBER 28, 2016

Pursuant to due notice, a regular meeting of the board of directors of the Luminary Learning Network was held at 1390 Lawrence St, Denver, Colorado.

The meeting was called to order by Mary Seawell, president of the board of directors of the Luminary Learning Network, at 12:30 p.m.

Present were:

LLN board:

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

Janet Lopez, Senior Program Officer at Rose Community Foundation, Community Representative

Jen Walmer, Executive Director at Education Reform Now Colorado, Community Representative and Vice President

Savinay Chandrasekhar, Executive Director of Minds Matter Denver, Community Representative and Secretary

Frank Coyne, Denver Green School Leader, School Representative

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

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

Mike Johnson, DPS Board of Education Member, Board Designee

Others present:

Jessica Roberts, Chief Operating Officer

Zachary Rahn, School Leader of Ashley Elementary

Julia Shepherd, School Leader of Creativity Challenge Community

Abigail Schaller, Special Projects Manager at Gates Family Foundation

Brett Alessi, Managing Partner at Empower Schools ,

Andrew Sullivan, Colorado State Director at Empower Schools

Alan Gottlieb, Owner and Principal at Write. Edit. Think.

Absent was Terrance Carroll, Associate General Counsel at Butler Snow and Community Representative.

Board members discussed their reason for joining the board and identified an opportunity and a challenge for the Luminary Learning Network. Common themes emerged, including:

- The opportunity presented by the LLN to allow school leaders and teachers to make decisions autonomously that most benefit students
- The belief that innovation and doing things differently will be critical to accelerating student learning, and that this structure may afford schools the opportunity to innovate to better serve students

- The importance of sharing relevant information with all parties involved, including DPS as the key partner in this work
- The importance of establishing an effective way of working together with many stakeholders
- The central importance of doing what is best for students
- The importance of sustaining school leaders and teachers and the urgency of establishing succession plans for LLN schools

The board reviewed the LLN's mission and vision. Janet Lopez highlighted the need for the board to continue to return to these pillars as guides to drive decision-making. Several board members brought up the tension between granting more autonomy and supporting schools to achieve their goals. The board members agreed that their role is to ensure sufficient flexibility and autonomy, but to also ensure accountability. Schools and school staffs remain accountable to Denver Public Schools (DPS) and associated evaluative systems, as well as state evaluation. The LLN board will work with school leaders to develop a supplementary evaluation that captures additional measures of school success, as defined by school leaders. The board will also work to determine a means of capturing information on what decisions are being made differently by school leaders as a result of joining the LLN, and what impact these decisions have had on students. The final deliverable on this topic may be narrative in form, but there may also be a need for more formalized tracking of decision-making and effect on outcomes. Jessica Roberts, LLN COO, will determine how best to track, capture, and synthesize this information across LLN schools. **Roberts will bring a draft to the LLN board for review of the proposed content and schedule of reports to the DPS Board of Education.**

The LLN school leaders decided that there was value in developing brief, targeted plans that identify three key priorities for the coming school year. **The school leaders determined that this plan will be most useful developed with school staffs as a reflection tool in May of every school year.** LLN school leaders will also collaborate to workshop these school plans. The board will continue to discuss their role in supporting school leaders to generate plans and evaluating school plans.

Each LLN school leader presented an abbreviated report on their schools and key priorities for the coming year. LLN school leaders also spoke about any decisions made regarding how to allocate funds received through the School Based Budget + (SBB+) funding model at their individual schools. **The board will discuss the DPS SPF results at the October LLN board meeting.**

The board discussed the possibility of expanding the LLN to include additional schools. The board members reached consensus that the LLN may grow, but have yet to determine the appropriate scale of growth and the right timeline for schools to enter. **The LLN board supports an informational session for school leaders.** School leaders have reached out to the LLN for additional information, and the board is committed to transparency. **The informational session will be a joint meeting with both DPS and LLN representation.** The LLN is part of DPS at large, and a joint meeting reflects this important relationship. **Following the meeting, the LLN board will work jointly with the district to determine an appropriate application process and timeline.**

The board spoke about the unique roles of LLN board members, and discussed whether board members should have specific roles communicating information. Some members of the group thought that

communication would be most effective if board members acted as liaisons to specific stakeholders, while other board members thought that the LLN staff member (Jessica Roberts) should act as liaison to various stakeholders. The board will continue to discuss how best to effectively engage various parties, particularly colleagues at DPS supporting the LLN in various capacities. The group also discussed the possibility of the COO generating briefings for key stakeholders following each board meeting and disseminating those briefings.

The LLN board agreed to hold a meeting by teleconference to debrief the informational session during the week of October 3-7. The meeting will be open to the public.

The board entered an executive session to discuss the personnel matters including the Executive Director role.