



North Davis Preparatory Academy
BOARD RETREAT MINUTES

Wednesday, August 8, 2012

Location: K-4 Library, 1765 W. Hill Field Rd., Layton, UT 84041

In Attendance: Kristin Elinkowski, Linda Larsen, Jennifer Bazzano, Brad Taylor (AW), Ryan Arrington (AW), Trent Brown (AW), Dawn Kawaguchi (AW), Kathy Thornburg, Debby Gomberg (Principal) and Deanna Billings

VISION:

North Davis Preparatory Academy students develop a love of learning, experience high academic achievement, and enjoy high bi-literate proficiency.

PURPOSE:

To instill in our students a love of learning through enjoyable learning experiences, a progressive educational program in core subjects and a bi-literate curriculum, all in a environment of respect, parental involvement, and a strong sense of community.

Board Retreat Minutes

Welcome by Kristin Elinkowski

7:00 PM – Kathy Thornburg made a motion to go into a closed session to discuss the character, professional competence or physical or mental health of an individual(s). The votes were as follows:

**Linda Larsen – Aye
Jennifer Bazzano – Aye
Deanna Billings – Aye
Kathy Thornburg – Aye
Kristin Elinkowski – Aye**

Motion passed unanimously.

7:11 PM – Kathy Thornburg made a motion to come out of closed session. The votes were as follows:

**Kathy Thornburg – Aye
Deanna Billings – Aye
Linda Larsen – Aye
Jennifer Bazzano – Aye
Kristin Elinkowski – Aye**

Motion passed unanimously

Discuss Board Priorities – Kristin would like to have our own board training that is vision of the board. Academica West has a good general board training. We want to have our own governing language that would stay stable as we change board members. There was discussion on having a separate vision, guidelines and procedures of the board. The board would like to name it the Board Constitution. The

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board went through the each of the proposed statements and whittled it down to more concise statements. There was a discussion on the history of the charter. They decided on five points of the board constitution. There was discussion on whether or not it should be voted on. The board would like this in the board packet and read at every board meeting. They decided to vote on it and adopt it as their constitution. Dawn will put it on the next month's agenda for approval. She will also update it and send it out to the board.

Discuss Last Year's Goals – Debby led a discussion on the 2011-2012 goals.

- ❖ **NDPA will place in 1st place or higher at the Spanish language fair in Provo** – We thought that this was a slam dunk. Spanish teachers said that we can do better. There is a game that you have to play. We didn't enter enough categories to even win. There was a discussion on whether or not this should be a goal for next year. We don't know if this is a true mark of language instruction. It would be better if we talked about how they placed on the proficiency test for Spanish.
- ❖ **90% of all students in grades 1-4, who have been in the immersion program for two years, will score at the novice medium level on all five areas of the "I Can" schedule of the LinguaFolio** – The board knows that our students can hear and understand Spanish. The Spaniards have said that we have to improve in the speaking area. Our best data is from the older kids. The board wants to know how we can measure improvement in the speaking ability. The LinguaFolio turned out not to be a good measure. We want improvement in Spanish to be our first goal.
- ❖ **The average score on the Direct Writing Assessment will be 23** – We blew this out of the water with an average score of 25. This will be our most consistent measure. The board would like to see an improvement next year.
- ❖ **90% of the students (and 90% of all sub groups) will pass the language arts End of Level test** – Debby knew that this goal was going to be hard. We were in the 80's. This goal caused the teachers the most stress. The test is going to stay the same this year but we are going to teach the common core. Debby doesn't think that we will make 90% next year either.
- ❖ **80% of the students will pass the math End of Level test** – We should improve this year with the training that we are doing. Debby explained that with the new common core math starting this next year, we don't know what to expect. The board would like to see an improvement in math scores hoping that we can find something measureable.
- ❖ **90% of all students will master the non-negotiables and the other 10% will master 75% of the non-negotiables at every grade level** – The board doesn't really understand this goal so we can take it out. We will have to do the non-negotiables differently because of the common core.
- ❖ **70% of all students in grades K-2 will score at benchmark on DIBELS and no students will score "at risk"** – We had some students "at risk" and we probably always will. The board would like to see improvement and Mariam can work on a measure.

Discuss and Set Goals for 2012-2013 School Year – The discussion was done together with the review of last year's goals. Here are the ideas of the goals for next year. Debby is going to find measures for the goals .

1. We would like to have an improvement in the oral language ability of our students
2. We would like to see an improvement in the Direct Writing Assessment
3. We would like to see an improvement in the Language Arts scores
4. We would like to see an improvement in our Math scores
5. DIBELS will improve

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Review Administration – Kristin asked Debby to tell the board how she felt she did this last year. Debby gave a brief summary of last year. This coming year Debby wants the school to improve and the people to have more trust in the school. She will not have an agenda. Eight brand new teachers were a lot. She felt as a whole that the school didn't lose a lot of families. We didn't make a lot of progress as a school but we learned a lot. Debby explained her weekly "Joy evaluations". We have got to be better. We should be able to measure the value of the school – do people want their kids in our school. Scores are important because they will be the result of our work not necessarily the focus of our work. Debby will not be discussing the goals with her teachers. She is going to do things differently this year. Debby is going to tap into their passion. Kristin stated that although Debby did not accomplish every goal that was set this year, she still did some amazing things that we not on there and the board noticed.

There was a brief discussion on new accreditation process in which the board will have to evaluate the principal. We will be accredited by a different agency. Kristin has been talking with Kim Dohrer (AW) and has seen some of the information.

Review Management Company – Kristin stated that since both Debby and Academica West report to the board, she felt like there needs to be some kind of review process. We don't really know or understand what our management company is doing but yet we are ultimately responsible for what they are doing. We have a review process in place for Debby but not for Academica West. At one time there was but it was a long process and Kristin didn't feel like it accomplished what we wanted it to accomplish. We have talked about doing a mid-year review and an end of the year review. There was a discussion on how we can review Academica. Jennifer suggested that she would like to know what AW does before we can really review them. Kathy said that the contract spells out what their services are but Dawn and Brad stated that not all of what we do is in the contract. Debby stated that AW is always evolving. Most of the work is done behind the scenes. Debby also suggested taking a tour of AW. Kristin suggested that we have a mid-year review and an end of year review but until we understand what they do we won't be able to evaluate AW. Kristin also suggested that AW needs to do a report at board meetings. The board tentatively scheduled a Board visit on September 10th at 1:00 p.m. This will be step one of how we are going to evaluate AW – (get an understanding of what they do). After we meet with AW, we will discuss the next steps either by email or in our next board meeting.

8:36 PM – Kristin Elinkowski made a motion to Adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.