

DULUTH PUBLIC SCHOOLS ACADEMY

Meeting of Members

DATE/LOCATION: April 17, 2018 at DECS North Star Academy

PRESENT: Hilary Hodgman, Chair; Stephen Sydow, Vice-Chair; Andrew Richey, Treasurer; Katie Cronin-Anderson, Secretary; Lon Hanson, Nikki Jensen, Mike St. John, Glenda LaTour, Ryan Welch and Tim Golden

ABSENT: Neil Byce- excused

CALLED TO ORDER: 6:33 pm

Approval of Agenda

- Motion made (Hodgman), second (St. John) to approve the agenda as presented. Motion unanimously approved.

READING OF MISSION STATEMENT:

- Duluth Edison Charter Schools is dedicated to the achievement of academic and personal excellence for every student.

Approval of Minutes

- Motion made (Cronin-Anderson), second (Richey) to approve the meeting minutes for March 20, 2018 as corrected. Motion unanimously approved.

Correspondence/Communication:

- None

Public Comment:

- None

****Conflict of Interest Reminder on Voting****

BOARD LEARNING TOPIC

School Revenues - conducted by Crystal Palmer

REPORTS:

Treasurer's Report

Andrew Richey presented the treasurer's report. Supporting materials provided.

Donations Received:

\$2,500 Health EZ - May 19th Celebration

\$500 Redpath - May 19th Celebration

\$1,000 Wheeler & Associates - May 19th Celebration

\$100 Bridget and Jonathan Shore - Robotics Donation

\$4,100.00 Total Donations Received

Head of School's Report

Bonnie Jorgenson presented the Head of School's Report. Supporting materials provided.

- Motion made (Sydow), second (Richey) to approve the staffing changes as of April 16, 2018. Motion unanimously approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Executive Committee

Did not meet.

Finance Committee

Andrew Richey presented the Finance Committee minutes from April 16, 2018. Supporting materials provided.

- Motion made (Richey), second (St. John) to approve updated and amended board policy 300-2 Procurement Policy. Motion unanimously approved.
- Motion made (Richey), second (St. John) to approve revised board policy 300-3 DPSA Capital Asset Policy as presented. Motion unanimously approved.
- Motion made (Richey), second (St. John) to approve revised board policy 600-7 Co-Curricular Activities Participation Fees. Motion unanimously approved.
- Motion made (Richey), second (Welch) to approve the contract for Special Education Director. Motion unanimously approved.

Board Development/Personnel Committee

Mike St. John presented the committee minutes from April 12, 2018. Supporting materials provided.

Third Decade Celebration Task Force

Katie Cronin-Anderson presented the committee updates from April 17, 2018.

2018-2019 Calendar Task Force

Mike St. John presented the updated calendar for 2018-19.

- Motion made (St. John), second (Richey) to approve the 2018-2019 as presented. Motion unanimously approved.

DECS Hall of Fame Selection Committee

Stephen Sydow presented the committee update.

MARK MYLES

Be it resolved that Mark Myles be inducted into the Duluth Edison Charter Schools Hall of Fame for Distinguished Service to Duluth Edison Charter Schools and Distinguished Professional Achievement.

Professionally Mark spent thirty years in Minnesota Public Schools as a teacher, principal and superintendent. When he left the Duluth superintendent role in 1998, the district deficit had been eliminated, fund reserve was up, student achievement was up and class sizes were down. In 1997, Governor Arne Carlson called Mark "one of the most dynamic educational leaders in Minnesota."

At no time was Mark's leadership more tested, than in his tireless efforts to bring a charter school to Duluth during his tenure as superintendent. After working with the Duluth School Board to solicit proposals for a charter school, in December 1996 the Board voted to bring the Edison Project to Duluth to open a K-8 school to help enhance student achievement in Duluth. This resulted in the doors of our school opening in August 1997.

Prior to his resignation as superintendent in 1998, Mark worked with the Board to help secure DECS future -- ensuring the state board approved DECS charter, extending leases of buildings DECS rented from the school district to 2003, battling three different lawsuits from the Duluth teachers union to attempt to stop the school, and expanding the DECS charter to a K-12 option.

The DECS School Board recognizes that without Mark's tireless efforts our school would not exist. Since his retirement Mark has continued his involvement with our school acting as an informal advisor and mentor to our head of school and board members, serving on our high school task force and school board, and as a financial contributor.

The DECS Board and community are forever grateful to Mark Myles for his commitment to our school and his outstanding professional achievement and celebrate his placement in the DECS Hall of Fame.

DAWN SILVESTRINI

Be it resolved that Dawn Silvestrini be inducted into the Duluth Edison Charter Schools Hall of Fame for Distinguished Service to Duluth Edison Charter Schools.

As a parent of students and the parent coordinator at Duluth's Birchwood School in 1995, Dawn became involved in the movement to bring a charter school to Duluth as another public school choice for students. In April 1997 she was named the president of the newly formed nonprofit corporation that would oversee the development of the new Edison Charter School. Accused in a newspaper article at that time of being a "puppet" board, Dawn made it clear from the start this was not the case.

She worked with other board members to negotiate the first contract with the Edison Project and hire the school principal. She was deeply involved in not only the governance aspect of preparing for the school opening, but spent hours of her own time helping prepare rooms for the important first days of school and offering support to the new teaching staff by her presence at the school. In November 1997, when the first DECS School Board was formed Dawn continued as president.

Her tenure as DECS Board President include the institution of a uniform dress code for students, expansion of facilities in 1999 that included four portable units at the

Kenwood site, opening of the K-5 Raleigh site, and movement of the Junior Academy to Washburn to create opportunities for green space and sports for our students. Perhaps her most masterful move was negotiating with the ISD 709 School Board in November of 1999 for an early renewal of the contract with Edison, prior to the seating of new anti Edison board members that would have worked to end this contract. This secured the school for three more years and allowed a stronger foundation of school success to occur. In addition to this extraordinary Board leadership, for many of our students during these first years of our school Dawn was the ballroom dancing teacher in our physical education classes with Mr. Lindberg.

Dawn and her husband, Thomas Silvestrini, are historical supporters of our music department contributing volunteer hours and finances to our programs. She is also serving on our DECS Legacy Foundation Board.

The DECS Board and community are forever grateful to Dawn Silvestrini for her commitment to our school and celebrate her placement in the DECS Hall of Fame.

Motion second (Golden). Motion unanimously approved.

Other Business

- Motion made (St. John), second (Welch) to amend the 2018-2019 calendar to reflect the SLC dates. Motion unanimously approved.
- Motion made (Hodgman), second (Cronin-Anderson) to amend the 2017-2018 calendar to reflect a bad weather day on Monday, April 16, 2018. Motion unanimously approved.

Hilary Hodgman adjourned meeting at 7:14 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aundrea Kinziger

Aundrea Kinziger, DPSA Recorder