

Meeting Minutes for Desert Heights Charter Schools

Governing Board Meeting

October 27, 2015

5:00 P.M.

Desert Heights Preparatory Academy

3540 W Union Hills Drive

Glendale, Arizona

Gym Conference Room

Call To Order @ 5:30 p.m.

Tony Elliott—present

Manuel Robles—present

Judie Kupillas—present

1. Public Comment

No public comment

2. Consent Agenda

a) Approval of meeting minutes 09/15/2015 Regular Meeting (approved)

b) Approval of meeting minutes 10/07/2015 Regular Meeting (approved)

3. Operational Update Reports

a) Current enrollment & attendance rate

b) Review of most recent financial reports

c) Facilities update & condition report

DHCS: maintenance of grass, painting parking lot stripes

DHPA: warranty items have been addressed with contractors; roof leak is supposed to be repaired on Friday, 10/30.

d) Marketing report:

Mailers and bus magnets are in the works

e) President's / Chairman report:

f) Bond Investor campus visit went very well today. He had questions about our ADM vs. actual enrollment.

Present enrollment: 876 (both campuses); currently stable

4. Agenda Items:

- a. Discussion, consideration, and possible action regarding transitioning DHCS 401k broker to Mr. Clark Seccombe.

a. On the phone, Clark Seccombe from Fi401k discussed possible new investment opportunities for the employee 401(k) that has stronger, growth funds with less risk and cheaper cost. He is a fiduciary adviser to PayChex.

Tabled until a future time

- b. Discussion, consideration, and possible action regarding transitioning DHCS 401k from Empower to Fi401k/Paychex.

Tabled until a future time

- c. Discussion, consideration, and possible action regarding the modification of 301 allocations for the 2014-2015 Special Education and Title I teachers to be measured based on a curved score removing the proficiency component of academic achievement from the Effectiveness Rubric.

Approval of the modification of 301 allocations for the 2014-2015 Special Education and Title I teachers to be measured based on a curved score, which removes the proficiency component of academic achievement form the Effectiveness Rubric (Tony/Judie)

- d. Discussion, consideration, and possible action regarding changes and amendments to the Credit Based on Mastery Policy.

The revision to the current policy would allow juniors and seniors to retake any mastery exam to help raise their GPA for a previous course in which they may not have done so well. The previous course and grade remain on their transcript but is not counted toward their GPA. The following is the language revised:

Junior or Senior students can qualify to retake any mastery exam within the allowable amount, for a specific course, from previous years, to help raise their GPA or to qualify for University academic scholarships. To qualify, the student must have shown growth and high academic standards in other courses. Additionally, students will need to have two (2) references and complete a project given by the Guidance Counselor. Once qualified, the course study guide will be provided and the student

will need to arrange scheduled time to complete the mastery exam with the appropriate teacher.

Approval of Credit Mastery Policy (Tony/Judie)

- e. Discussion, consideration, and possible action regarding Advanced Placement (AP) Class Credit Policy.

Students who take AP Courses must take the AP Test in order to receive AP credit. have a GPA calculate on a 5.0 scale; otherwise, the grade they receive will be recorded on a 4.0 scale.

Approval of Advanced Placement (AP) Class Credit Policy (Judie/Tony)

- f. Discussion, consideration, and possible action regarding GPA Scale for all course categories:

- a. Advanced Placement (AP)

Students who take AP Courses must take the AP Test in order to have a GPA calculate on a 5.0 scale; otherwise, the grade they receive will be recorded on a 4.0 scale.

- b. DHPA Courses (Non-AP/Honors)

Students who receive a “D” in any course will receive no points on their GPA and no credit for the course

- c. State/Transfer/IEP Courses (Non-AP/Honors)

A “D” from DHPA does not receive any points for GPA, with the exception of transfer students and special education/504 IEP students. Two different transcripts are given to students: DHPA and State Transcripts. They receive a 1 for “D,” or they can retake courses mastery.

Approval of GPA scale for AP courses, non-AP/Honors courses, and State/Transfer/IEP courser (Tony/Judie)

- g. Discussion, consideration, and possible action regarding changes and amendments to the DHPA Handbook.

Approval of changes regarding attendance and tardiness, and changes to elective science option, and special education or 504 students, and dress code changes to pants that are gathered at the bottoms, chronic unpreparedness (Tony/Judie)

- h. Discussion, consideration, and possible action regarding amending Volunteer background check requirements.

**Approval of amendment to Volunteer background check requirements
(Tony/Judie)**

- i. Discussion, consideration, and possible action regarding the Coyote Referral rewards program. The change is that the referring student must attend for an entire semester in order for a referring family to receive \$75.

Approval of change to the Coyote Referral Rewards Program (Tony/Judie)

- j. Discussion, consideration, and possible action regarding approval of tax credit fees for the current school year.

No action taken

Board Meeting Adjournment: **Motion to adjourn @ 7:41 p.m. (Tony/Judie)**