



Tamra Taylor <ttaylor@dcsdk12.org>

Fwd: Memo on Resolution Number

1 message

Erin Kane <Erin.Kane@dcsdk12.org>
To: Tamra Taylor <tamra.taylor@dcsdk12.org>

Fri, May 4, 2018 at 4:21 PM

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From: <tslechtaapex@gmail.com>

Date: Fri, May 4, 2018 at 2:53 PM

Subject: Memo on Resolution Number

To: Erin Kane <Erin.Kane@dcsdk12.org>, ted.knight@dcsdk12.org

Cc: thmcmillen@dcsdk12.org, Mark Welle <MWelleApex@gmail.com>, sssmith2@dcsdk12.org, kedgar@celaw.com, Barry Arrington <barry@arringtonpc.com>

Superintendent Kane and Assistant Superintendent Knight,

In preparation for the upcoming Board of Education meeting on May 8, 2018, the leadership of Apex Community School was encouraged to provide a memo outlining how the current resolution number of 225 came about and, more importantly how it addresses the concerns articulated to us by DCSD staff and Board of Education Directors.

At the April 17, 2018 Board of Education meeting the statement was made that "...some of the enrollment numbers had been changed..." and that there "...was a request by Apex to lower those thresholds..." Interim Superintendent Kane was correct when she clarified that "...there was a discussion about allowing Apex to open on their original schedule in 2018 with lower numbers and that was, indeed, rejected by the board." The discussion of lower numbers was part of several ideas being considered at the December 30, 2017 meeting to collectively determine if there was a way for Apex to open on schedule in August of 2018. In other words, the question of lower enrollment numbers emerged as part of that discussion.

The culmination of the December 30, 2017 Board of Education meeting was a motion that "...Apex 'will' postpone, as opposed to 'may.'; and that [the Board of Education] also add the language that the condition is based on satisfactory approval of a *revised resolution* that outlines future milestones for their opening in 2019" [emphasis mine]. A friendly amendment was added that language be included that there be "...discussion to collaborate with the school district to look at possibilities of joint use of that facility." This motion was then voted upon and passed with four in favor and three opposed.

Following the December 30, 2017 meeting, Apex leadership immediately reached out to DCSD staff and inquired as to next steps. From those conversations, it was the consensus understanding that DCSD staff was charged with working with Apex leadership to obtain an enrollment number that met both fiscal and educational integrity. Over the course of January 2018, Apex leaders had

multiple conversations with DCSD staff as well as with some Board of Education Directors, seeking collective insight and wisdom. What became clear was:

- (1) The DCSD growth projections for the Meadows had changed from when Apex began the application process two and half years earlier,
- (2) It would be healthier for not only Apex, but future charter applicants, to set their early enrollment requirement as the minimum needed to achieve fiscal and educational integrity and thus allow the Board of Education to have this information by the end of the Open Enrollment Window each year and,
- (3) The opening of Apex not disproportionately impact nearby neighborhood schools, instead setting Apex on a growth trajectory that is incremental and complimentary to all schools in the area.

It was in that collaborative spirit and drawing from this collective wisdom that all parties arrived at the number of 225 FTEs. We feel this satisfies all three of the elements to which we are collectively aspiring as well as the Board of Education's expressed concerns behind them. It bears noting that the budget based on this number has been vetted for viability by both the DSCD financial office and an independent financial analyst that specializes in charter schools, G&G Consulting.

Community. Inclusion. Academics. We are bringing an educational model that is unique, proven effective, and complimentary to the offerings in the DCSD. We are Douglas County families. By choice we are not part of a national or state network, have had a school built and funded by local companies, and we have consistently demonstrated and articulated our desire for a collaborative partnership. We feel this resolution is another example of that commitment.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Apex Community School Board of Directors.

Todd

Todd Slechta

Board Director



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Erin Kane
Interim Superintendent
Douglas County School District
e: Erin.Kane@dcsdk12.org
o: 303-387-0123