

# Denver Montessori High School / Denver Public Schools

## CSC / ELA PAC Special Meeting Agenda / Minutes

October 16, 2019 / 6 - 7pm at DMHS

### Committee Members

Staff: Katy Myers, Principal / Carol DeLong, Dean of Operations

Parents: Bonnie Whitener, Barb Wood (Co-Chairs), Tunisha Hairston-Brown, Matt Herbert, Matt Vita, Ann Widmer, Jody Thomas, Lauren Rowland, Cajsa Castro, Obdulia Castillo (ELA-PAC rep)

### Mission Statement

*Individual Challenge. Global Citizenship.*

Denver Montessori Junior/Senior High School (DMHS) will combine Montessori best practices with current research on adolescent brain development to provide a learning environment that promotes high achievement for each student while also supporting them socially and emotionally. Graduates, regardless of ethnicity or income status, will be prepared for college or a career as well as demonstrate ingenuity, adaptability, creativity, initiative and excellent communication and problem solving skills.

### Agenda & Minutes

#### Introductions

- Lynn Roberts, 7th
- Amy Karet, 10th
- Lisa McGrath, 9th/7th
- Esther Castillo, 12th
- Sean Calder, 7th
- Bruno & Maida, 8th
- Travit, senior
- Mary & Lisa, 8th/graduate

#### Old Business &/or Ongoing

- SPF Red Rating, explanation
  - Cookie cutter for large schools
  - DMHS push for ELL learners 2018, able to close gaps
  - Math scores counted twice due to unable to count ELL/POC/FRL language growth due to not enough data
    - how to justify counting math twice? - 75% not counted
    - numerator/denominator changes
    - CDE made decision in August to not include 9th grade. Law of N (less than 16 students in population) to protect privacy.
    - Language scores suppressed due to incompatibility of 8th to 9th tests vs math's compatibility of tests
- Targeting hispanic students?
- Precedent for a rating change?
  - unprecedented
- Which schools have same disparity between CDE & DPS?

#### New Business - Solutions

- Board of Education meeting 10/17
  - Esther & Barb to speak about the flawed and inequitable system

- *Chalkbeat to pick up story?*
- *letter writing campaign?*
- *CDE representative to go to board meeting?*
- *Damage control through feeder schools*
- *Petition/Change.org*
- *Suggest having a number to replace it with for better response*
- *go up the same chain of command that Katy did*
- *Parents need to take it on and make a stand*
- *Go to meet-make the point that it was unfair and not equitable*
- *News -problem solvers on Fox*
- *Make public*
- *Students are scared/feeling bad - especially Gilpin students -brings back memories of closing*
- *Ask alumni to speak*
- *Remind people to join at the board wear blue or DMHS logo things*
- *Write letters to different people in DPS to show impact*
- *Tell board/finance people if they change rating they don't have to pay so much \$*
- *Bring the community in*
- *Make a flyer to have out at conferences at feeder schools*
- *Damage control at feeder schools-Katy is coming to all feeder schools*
  - *Amy Karet -Denison voice*
  - *Ester Castillo, Ann Widner-Sandoval*
  - *Make flyer explaining rating*

### **Topics for Next Meeting**

- *November 5, 2019 at 6p*
  - *Bylaws review?*
  - *Formalize election of officers*
    - *School Governance Training?*
  - *CMAS scores*
  - *SPF rating status*
  - *Innovation Plan & Zone*
- *January 7, 2020 at 6p*