

**Denver College Success Corporation  
Board of Directors Meeting  
7:30-9:30am  
Syntrinsic Investment Counsel  
3840 York St, Suite 100  
Denver, CO 80205  
December 11, 2019**

**Attendees:** DCSC Board members: Steve Kurtz, Akasha Absher, Angela Cobian, John Kechriotis, Theresa Pena, Mark Goodman. Councilman Herndon

**Others:** Trey Rogers, Counsel to DCSC, Rob McDaniel – Metrix IQ, Consultant to DCSC, Dionne Williams & Charles Dukes – Denver Office of Children’s Affairs; Lorii Rabinowitz, Natasha Garfield, Nate Cadena - Denver Scholarship Foundation

**Call to Order**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:32

**Welcome & Introductions**

**Review/approval of November minutes:**

Angela Cobian moved to approve, Theresa Pena seconded. The motion passed

**Comments from Chair of the Board:**

Chairman Steve Kurtz initiated the conversation about the need to reengage City Council on some technical clean up opportunities.

Chairman Kurtz also shared details about a recent meeting that he and Vice Chair Pena attended as part of the Denver Education Compact. The discussion included a conversation about the challenges of keeping students

in college and the need for further clarification to implement support services. Theresa Pena added that this group also discussed a broad definition of scholarships – including transportation, child care, mental health, etc in addition to tuition.

## **Subcommittee Updates & Action Items:**

### **Data Management & Integration**

“Dry Run” Application process findings summary

Rob McDaniel from Metrix IQ - Rob shared the report from the Dry Run. At the point of this meeting, 10 organizations had called the help line, 4 organizations had submitted and others were still in process.

Rob shared an overview of pain points identified in the dry run tool. There were some common themes: tracking the residency requirements, FAFSA information and tools for validation. Definition of support services as well as whether support services can be reimbursed for activities in high school continues to be a question from SO's. Chairman Kurtz recommended that the BOD spend more time on this in the near future.

### **Communications / Outreach:**

Akasha Absher from the Communications / Outreach committee shared that they are transitioning to a strategy of individualized identification and outreach to bring more awareness to SO's and have them participate in the program.

Akasha also shared that the marketing RFP had yielded 5 responses and that the committee will be interviewing 3 finalists.

### **Legal:**

Trey Rogers, reporting for the legal committee spent a significant part of the discussion focused on the need to work with the City and City Council on

technical fixes to the ordinance. The primary issue identified during the dry run was the specificity of the term “tuition” vs. “scholarships”. The board discussed the various technical fixes needed and encouraged Mr. Rogers to continue talking with the City Attorney’s office and OCA. Councilman Herndon also discussed outreach and process for City Council.

### **Finance:**

Mark Goodman, reporting from the Finance Committee led a discussion regarding past and upcoming monthly financials. The Finance Committee will meet in advance of the January DCSC Board meeting to finalize and recommend those statements for the board. The office of OCA also highlighted the need for DCSC to do an annual report in 2020 and encouraged the DCSC to talk with OCA about next steps and timing – preferably to align with the long bill/budget process for the city. A pending legal bill from Lewis Roca was also supported by the BOD for payment.

The Board approved contract extensions for Metrix IQ and Taloma Partners.

No executive session was called.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 am.

**Next Meetings:**                      Board meeting & Retreat    January 8, 2020  
7:30am-3:30pm

Board meeting    February 12, 2020 7:30-9:30 AM

Denver College Success Corporation  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
January 8, 2020  
Gates Family Foundation  
1390 Lawrence St. Suite 400  
Denver, Colorado

Attendees: Board members: Angela Cobian, Mark Goodman, Akasha Asher, John Kechriotis, Theresa Pena; Advisors: Trey Rogers, Lori Fox, Maren Stewart, Rob McDaniel; Guests: Natasha Garfield – DSF, Charles Dukes – OCA, Dionne Williams – OCA, Jim Chavez – LAEF, Ana Soler – Gates Family Foundation, TeRay Esquibel – Gates Family Foundation

1. Call to Order: Steve called the meeting to order at 7:32. A quorum was present.
1. Approval of December Minutes: Theresa moved; Mark seconded. Passed unanimously.
1. Proposed Ordinance Changes: Trey reviewed draft changes and explained that OCA and the City Attorney have reviewed and given preliminary approval for DCSC to move forward. Mark expressed concern over changing the residency verification, thus significantly changing the original intent of the ordinance that would potentially allow non-Denver students. Angela stated that transiency is a real issue for DPS students and therefore residency verification is a challenge. Mark requested a briefing document that outlines rationale and arguments to support proposed ordinance changes to be used in meetings with city council. OCA offered to facilitate contacts with city council, alert mayor's office and begin process to introduce ordinance for city council consideration. Finance committee would review first and desire is to move ahead as quickly as possible. The process for city council outreach is yet to be determined.

Theresa moved and Angela seconded. All but one board member voted in favor. There was one abstention (Mark Goodman) for needing more information to defend/back up/brief. Theresa asked that board revisit question regarding institutional scholarships after the first distribution.

1. SO Cover Letter, Contract and Eligibility Application: Trey reviewed draft contract between DCSC and SOs. Rob reviewed draft cover letter to SOs and eligibility application. Theresa moved and Akasha seconded. Approved unanimously.

1. Board Policies: Trey explained that the ordinance gives the board discretion on a number of matters. Trey reviewed the proposed policies. Theresa moved and John seconded. Approved unanimously.
1. ACM as Auditors: Mark explained that auditors will conduct two separate audits – a compliance audit and a financial audit, per requirements in the ordinance. Trey noted that both letters need to include language regarding city vendors. Theresa moved approval with addition of language Trey recommended. Akasha seconded. Approved unanimously.
1. Guest comments: Dionne alerted us that City Auditor will be conducting audits of new organizations – focused on governance, policy and how organization is set up. Doing it for Caring for Denver now – likely will do one for DCSC.
1. Theresa stated that the ED search will be resurrected with the intent to select the search firm by the February board meeting.
1. Meeting adjourned at 9:17. Theresa moved; Angela seconded.