

DRAFT
DCI Board of Trustees
Open Board Meeting
August 19th, 2021

1. Recording started at 4:33
2. Attendees: (Need 7) Andrea Lachenmayr, Elani Lawrence, Anna Zawislanski, Sarah Snyder, Shalini Shybut, Alexandra Pardo, Leroy Clay, David Carl, Yuanxia Ding, Deanna Troust
3. Also Attending: Mary Shaffner, Lauren Games, DCI; Lizzie Banks, EdForward DC
4. Introduction to the DCI Board - Andrea Lachenmayr, Board Chair
 - a. Individual Trustee and DCI staff intros
 - b. Meeting process
5. Comments from the Community
6. Determination of Quorum:
 - a. Votes (To be conducted by roll call): Opening Policies (to be discussed below, Staff vaccination policy, student testing policy, cessation of school sponsored travel)
 - b. Approve Previous Minutes: Approved
7. Opening Committee - Anna Zawislanski, Committee Chair
 - a. Anna Zawislanski presented on the following topics:
 - i. Overview of function of the committee:
 1. The committee meets every two weeks and serves in an advisory function to DCI leadership.
 - ii. Updates and context:
 1. The Opening Committee has been meeting since May to discuss reopening plans and policies.
 2. DCI hosted a Town Hall meeting last week with families that laid out COVID plans for reopening, including testing and safety precautions.
 3. Ninety percent of DCI staff are vaccinated!
 4. Most sixth graders will not yet be eligible to be vaccinated.
 5. Nearly 500 student vaccination cards have been turned in with more expected to come in as school starts.
 - iii. Considering Staff Vax Mandate: Follow DCPS and Federal Government
 1. We would like to strongly encourage and incentivize vaccination but not mandate it. Given that the school has gotten to 90% vaccination, a full mandate seems unnecessary.
 2. We will follow DCPS and the federal government to mandate vaccinations or weekly tests and new staff will be required to be vaccinated.
 3. Additional layers of protection include testing all staff and students, facilities updates, mandatory masking, cohorting, social

distancing to the extent possible, separation of 6th graders, and daily screening of all students.

4. DCI will be handling testing with an outside provider and will not be participating in the OSSE saliva testing.
 5. All staff were tested on Monday morning upon return and all were negative.
- iv. Questions/Comments:
1. Is this fixed? No, this could be revisited if the situation changes.
 2. Clarification - folks who are not vaccinated will be tested and new hires will be vaccinated? Yes, that is correct. All will be tested for now but we may loosen restrictions for vaccinated;
 3. Weekly testing will include PCR and rapid tests, plus a screening app.
 4. What is the process for those who are absent on the testing date? On the day after testing, District Urgent Care will test all who were absent on the day of school testing. We are trying to get our Health and Safety Coordinator trained to give tests and will also identify nearby testing sites. We will revise and revisit plans as needed.
 5. Students will not be allowed in the building if they do not have a negative test result? That's correct. And the screener will keep students with symptoms from entering.
- v. Vote for Opt Out Consent: Approved
1. The letter will be sent out tomorrow and testing will begin next Thursday.
 2. The legal team is helping us be deliberate about the consent form so that families are informed about our testing procedures. There is a formal place to opt out and inaction is taken as consent. Any tests from outside providers must not be self tests, but given in a clinical setting.
 3. We would like to vote to work with a vendor to test all students who walk through the door unless they opt out of testing.
- vi. Vote for Moratorium of DCI Travel / Trips Outside of the DMV Through the End of the Fall 2021 Semester: Approved
1. We would like a vote for the school to restrict school-sponsored travel outside of the DMV until the end of the semester out of liability and safety.
 2. Discussion of philosophy to mitigate risk.
 3. Questions/Comments:
 - a. Would this include athletics and field trips? Yes, it is a restriction of the geographic boundary not the nature of the trip.
 - b. This makes sense because that is in line with the Mayor's quarantine guidelines.

- c. Is there a criteria for re-evaluation? We have not discussed this - could be when case rates reduce or when DC quarantine restrictions change
 - d. American University has had a ban on international travel since the beginning of the pandemic and they usually plan by semester, which is helpful. Yes, the semester is helpful.
 - vii. Other critical changes:
 - 1. Grade Cohorts
 - a. Some students may mix in 9th-12th in the computer sciences programming. This does not change much as universal masking will be used. As long as you are masking with fidelity, there should not be close contacts.
 - b. There is a question from a parent about what will happen when there is an exposure to someone Covid positive? We will do contact tracing and submit it to the Department of Health. The school will start the contact tracing process. With mandatory masking, ventilation, and social distancing, we are not expecting a positive test to impact large numbers of students. If you are symptomatic, regardless of vaccination status, you will be sent home to quarantine. If you are a close contact and unvaccinated, you will be sent home to quarantine, regardless of whether you are symptomatic. If you are a close contact, vaccinated, and not symptomatic, you will not be required to quarantine. Classes will go into a hybrid if some students are sent home due to COVID.
 - 2. Vaccination will be required for at risk ACE activities.
 - a. Activities that are high risk include choir, theater, and cooking/baking clubs. Sports include soccer and flag football.
 - b. The 6th grade will have some special approaches which will be outlined in the ACE registration information.
 - 3. Questions/comments:
 - a. As long as you are masking with fidelity, there should not be close contacts
 - b. How will we be communicating the state of COVID at school with families? Next up will be the consent forms and information on how entry to the school will work. We have not thought about how to communicate positive cases to those who are not impacted and need to discuss it at the opening committee.
 - c. How often will the HVAC filtration systems be changed? We can find out.
- 8. Public Affairs Committee Report - Deanna Troust, Committee Chair

- a. Deanna Troust reported on the following topics:
 - i. Opening Information
 - ii. Enrollment
 - 1. We are at or above our enrollment targets. We may extend more offers in 6th grade.
- 9. Education Committee Report - Shalini Shybut, Committee Chair
 - a. Shalini Shybut reported on the following topics:
 - i. The Education Committee has created goals and would like to boost interaction with the whole board.
 - ii. Four goals:
 - 1. Increase communication between the Ed Committee and the full board.
 - 2. Establish a calendar of topics for the committee and full board.
 - 3. Monitor the school's progress through a school level dashboard.
 - 4. Foster informed full board conversations around distribution of resources and goals.
 - iii. Questions/comments:
 - 1. Impressed by work the ed committee is doing internally with goal setting and planning, thank you for modeling that work.
- 10. Finance Report - Leroy Clay III, Committee Chair
 - a. Leroy Clay reported on the following topics:
 - i. We received another \$4m COVID grant
 - ii. Audits: Retirement plan audit is due October 1st. The financial statement audit will begin in early October and will be completed by December 1st.
 - iii. Budget: Budget is performing well as per pupil funding was more than expected and our enrollment numbers are above target. There have also been some savings in student expenses.
 - iv. Preliminary results of the SY20-21 budget: We finished with a net income of \$4.46 million and 214 days of cash on hand.
 - v. No questions/comments.
- 11. Governance Report - David Carl, Vice Chair
 - a. David Carl reported on the following topics:
 - i. Trustees:
 - 1. One board member left when term ended.
 - 2. Those who would like to shift their positions or will not be able to continue participation should notify David or the Governance Committee.
 - ii. Those who are interested in joining the board should also contact the Governance Committee.
 - iii. Everything else discussed was covered above.
 - iv. No questions/comments.
- 12. Management Report - Mary Shaffner
 - a. Mary Shaffner reported on the following topics:
 - i. DCI celebrated amazing things that happened over the summer:

1. SYEP
 2. Credit Recovery
 3. Virtual Language and Coding Summer Camps
 4. Tutoring for middle school students
- ii. Welcomed back all teachers on Monday for Professional Development on the IB, trauma informed teaching, teaching English Language Learners, and more!
 - iii. There has been lots of schedule shifting as some staff decided not to return.
 - iv. Orientation will be held on the 26th and 27th. After that we will be fully open for the 1st time in 18 months starting August 30th!
 - v. No Questions/Comments
13. New Business: None
14. Next Meeting - September 16th at 4:30pm
15. Adjourn Public Session
- a. Approved
 - b. Public session ended at 5:50pm
16. CLOSED SESSION
- a. **OMA Exemption (10):** To discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, performance evaluation, compensation, discipline, demotion, removal, or resignation of government appointees, employees, or officials, or of public charter school personnel, where the public body is the board of trustees of a public charter school;